

Beech Tree Class Curriculum Statement



Autumn 2018

Our whole school topic for this term is set around the question **"I Wonder if Humans Are Greedy"** incorporating the Christian values of compassion and love. The children will be brainstorming the question to consider what it actually means to them and what they would like to discover.

As mathematicians, the children in year 6 will continue to work in as practical and investigative ways as possible. During the first half of this term our lessons will focus on place value, rounding and negative numbers. We will also revisit the four main operations revising the formal methods so that the children can all decide which method works best for them. During the second half of term the children will continue to improve their knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages and will also discover how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. Throughout the year the children will continue to develop their fluency, problem solving and reasoning skills as this is where much of the emphasis is placed within the SATS maths exams.

As Language Specialists we will link our Literacy lessons with 'Crime and Punishment' and our whole school topic for the term. We shall be using the following texts: "Holes" by Louis Sachar, "Wolf Brother" by Michelle Paver and "Treason" by Berlie Doherty. In addition we shall be listening to a selection of music from "Carnival of the Animals" by Saint-Saens. We shall explore how different authors develop character, suspense, ambience etc. and discuss what effect the differing styles of presentation has on the reader. The children will be encouraged to develop their writing skills across the whole curriculum.

As Scientists we will be looking at how living things and their classification into broad groups based on similarities and differences. We shall be looking at the human circulatory system describing the functions and importance of the heart, blood vessels and blood. We shall consider how lifestyle affects the human body and how we can make the right choices to maintain good health.

As Geographers we will be comparing and contrasting an area in Scandinavia to an area in South America, including climate, culture, terrain, population and economy. In addition to this, we will name and locate countries, counties and cities of the United Kingdom, identifying the geographical regions and their human and physical characteristics.

As Historians we will be studying social history using the topic "Crime and Punishment through the ages", discussing the difference between corporal and capital punishment, and whether the children think that either is justified in any way and considering how the "punishment fits the crime". We will be using the school punishment book to compare and contrast treatment of children in the past and now, and discuss which was/is more effective. We hope to arrange a trip to Norwich Castle to explore this topic further.

Across the Curriculum

As Theologians we will be asking the question "Does Religion bring peace or conflict?" We will consider how religions and beliefs are expressed across different cultures. We will be exploring Christianity and the child centered Baha'i concepts of one world, world peace and unity.

As Environmentalists in Outdoor Learning we shall be continuing our Peat Journey with the LOHP (Little Ouse Headwaters Project) when Mr Langston will return to school to carry out experiments with the now 'dried out peat' that the children dug last year from Broomscott Common to compare and contrast the efficiency of peat as fuel. In addition to this Mr Langston will be visiting again to bring in owl pellets for the children to dissect, and classify the bones and other waste contained within them. We shall discuss how plants prepare for winter and how they ensure the next generation and to combine with this we shall be picking blackberries and other fruits, nuts and seeds, and using some to enhance other aspects of the curriculum such as mathematics, cookery and health benefits.

As Musicians we will learn to appreciate and have an understanding of a wide range of live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and composers, using, for example The Proms and iconic composers such as Elgar. We will continue learning to play the recorder with Mr V who always manages to come up with some way to teach new pieces of music connected with our whole school topic! In addition to this we will continue with our hymn practice with Mrs Feakes on Wednesday mornings and of course with our school choir.

As Athletes we will be continuing with our Rugby with Dave Hall on a Wednesday morning and regular cross - country training. Mrs Raven will be taking the whole class for structured PE lessons that will include dance, hockey, gymnastics and competitive sports too.

As Design Technologists we will, using a variety of techniques to design a courtroom suitable for a murder trial and following class discussion about the merits of each design, the whole class will build a model of the agreed courtroom for display in the classroom.

As Computer Scientists we shall be continuing with our Coding to design and create algorithms for a specific function using the Purple Mash computer resources. We will consider the benefit of individual search engines and evaluate how they rank the information provided.

As Artists we will focus on Scandinavian and South American art using Frida Carlo as an example. Crime and Punishment will be considered through the work of Priscilla Coleman, who has illustrated famous trials in the courtrooms for the media. The children will learn how to sketch and paint in the style of these artists, evaluating how effective their work is.

PHSE continues to be a very important part of our learning and often focuses upon thoughtful, friendly and respectful behaviour to each other at the start of the school year. We will be considering why society requires rules and regulations and how the children view the current rules enforced in our school? We will explore how democracy works in our community and country incorporating the work of MPs, Parliament, and Councils. We will then consider the implications of our monetary system, exploring whether the system allows for fair distribution of wealth throughout the population?

As Members of our Community we will continue to be very keen for the children to be a central focus in the village with our community cohesion curriculum. Following on from the visit by Breckland District Council and using the equipment they provided, we will do another litter pick around the village, and the Village Hall. As this year commemorates the centenary of the end of the First World War, we shall be working with the community to care for our War Memorial which will include making poppies for a church display. As previously, we will be holding a Macmillan Tea Party, with the help of the children, to raise funds for this very worthwhile charity. The children will sing Christmas Carols to the elderly and housebound residents of the village and give gifts made by the children.

As Philosophers we will consider the key question: *"I wonder if humans are greedy?"* using the statement by Mahatma Gandhi *"The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but NOT every man's greed"*. In addition to this we will explore the questions: *"Are the best things in life free?"* and *"What is love?"*.

I'm sure you will agree that the children will be experiencing a wide and varied curriculum throughout this term. If you have any queries please feel welcome to come and discuss them with a member of staff in Beech Tree class.

Alison Nightingale