

Year 6 - Areas of Study Autumn 2 - 2024

Topic Title: North vs South
Key Question: How does the land and life change in North America?
English (Reading and Writing)
Reading Skellig From this unit of work, the children will be immersing themselves with Skellig. The book is based on a move to a new house which coincides with the main characters sister feeling unwell. The main character, Michael, seems lonely but soon stumbles across a friend called Mina. Michael tells Mina everything, including a strange creature in his new garage. Michael attempts to help the creature survive.
Running Wild The story, Running Wild is written by Michael Morpurgo, is set in Asia. It is about a boy who gets swept in a tsunami with only an elephant to help him survive. As he searches for help and other survivors, he meets several interesting characters along the way.
Writing Comparative Essay of Death Valley and the Florida Everglades The pupils in year 6 will be using their comparative essay skills such as: advance vocabulary, complex sentences as well as making deliberate comparisons whilst remaining neutral and allowing the reader to make up their own mind.
Setting of a Haunted House The pupils in year 6 will be using all their suspenseful writing skills to create tension to describe the setting of a haunted house. They will continue to develop their 5 senses as well as using adjectives, to create a fantastic setting description. This will link well with the description of the new house in Skellig.
Maths Mathematics will be taught discretely throughout this topic, following the White Rose scheme of work. Children will continue to develop their understanding of calculation techniques and strategies involved in multiplying and dividing. These skills are hugely transferable into fractions, looking at the role of the numerator and denominator, simplifying, ordering and calculating with a wide range of fractions as well as working with mixed numbers and improper fractions too.
Science Throughout this unit, the children will investigate a variety of animals and the conditions in which survive and, hopefully, thrive. We will investigate what creatures live where and how they use that habitat to support them. We will also look at what happens when habitats change or are destroyed by humans and the knock-on effect that this has to the wildlife that lives there.
History Not delivered this half term.
Geography Comparison study of Weather across North America

Mountains and Earthquakes

Two separate units although there is a good amount of crossover as the featured mountains for our study will be the Rockies with some comparison work to the Appalachians as well as comparing the climate that exists at the two separate mountain ranges. The children will investigate just how much the weather changes across the North American land mass from places like Death Valley in Arizona to the blizzard conditions seen in states like Minnesota or the Everglades in Florida. The study of earthquakes will investigate where they happen and the effects that they have on the landscape around them. We will look at “famous” earthquakes over time and their role in determining the land masses. Our mountains work will extend from USA to look at other major mountain ranges in the world and the climate issues surrounding them as well as the way in which they were formed.

Art

Year 6 children learn about the Day of the Dead festival during their art sessions. We will look at the famous work on this topic, particularly by José Guadalupe Posada and then encourage children to use their sketchbooks to research the vibrant imagery connected to the festival. They will explore different art media and document their further develop their findings via annotations on their sketchbook pages. They will also create images in paint and collage to further develop their artistic skills throughout this topic. At this point in Year 6, our children will be firmly developing their own style of working and their sketchbook pages will be looking very different from their younger peers. They will be learning to be independent artists, while still being greatly inspired by others.

The pieces that they will create will be in the form of masks representing the topic as well as displaying their ongoing drawings, paintings and collages on a weekly basis to show progress throughout the unit. This display will be in the form of a whole class ofrenda altar.

Design Technology (DT)

Not delivered this half term.

Music

This listening unit is based around the piece *Shadows* by Lindsey Stirling – an American violinist and dancer. As an artist, she creates music that is a fusion of country, electronic dance music (EDM), and rock. There are lots of video examples to watch with focused questions to guide listening and base discussions around.

Tokyo Myers is also included in this unit as an artist who found fame on the TV programme *Britain's Got Talent*. He studied classical piano at the Royal College of Music and uses his talents to create music that fuses many different genres. The unit ends with a creative response to music using shadows.

Religious Education (RE)

How can music and arts help express and communicate religious beliefs?

Music is a key part of all religions from the Psalms of the Jewish tradition to the Ragas of the Hindu tradition. For most children there will be songs in their own tradition, religious or secular, which are of importance in their lives and so the use of both listening to and composing songs can be a very powerful way of engaging learners.

Physical Education (PE)

Throughout this unit, children will work on ball skills indoors. How to make and receive passes accurately, to find space within an invasion game and how to be a

positive team member in a range of sports such as seated volleyball, scorpion handball and shuffle bottom rugby.

As well as this, with our specialist PE coach, children will be taught football outdoors.

Computing

The children will learn how coding works and build up their skills from evaluating a program, to understanding how to “talk” to a program, to playing a game and then, finally, designing their own game for them and others to play.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

During this PSHE unit of work, children will get to fully understand what is meant by the term “role model”, but, more importantly, describe who they look up to as a positive role model and why. Do role models have to be famous people? What are the key attributes of a role model? Who inspires you? Why? Who might be a good role model for a particular person? Why do you think that?

Children will be encouraged to present who their role models are in a way of their choice.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

À l'école

During this unit, children will study French terms for the things that they see around themselves in school as well as learning the names of the various subjects that they study.

We will have some French maths in one lesson to cement their knowledge of numbers as well as a chance to grasp the language of calculation too.

**If you require additional information relating to our school curriculum, please ask at the school office or the class teacher.*