

Year 5/6: Autumn 1

Writing

This half-term, pupils will begin by taking part in the BBC 500 Words competition, where they will plan and write their own original short stories. Following this, our writing will be inspired by Greek mythology, with a focus on *The Odyssey*. Pupils will produce a variety of written outcomes, including a soliloquy, diary entry, proclamation, dialogue, narrative, and a missing scene. Throughout the term, we will also focus on strengthening key writing skills such as grammar, punctuation, vocabulary, and sentence structure.

Science

In Autumn 1, our science topic is Light. Pupils will explore how light travels, how it is reflected, and how shadows are formed and change. They will also investigate how different materials interact with light, including transparent, translucent, and opaque objects. Children will develop their working scientifically skills by planning and carrying out investigations, making predictions, observing carefully, recording results, and drawing conclusions based on evidence.

PSHE

To start our year, our PSHE lessons will focus on consent, using the NSPCC's PANTS resources to help children understand personal boundaries and staying safe. Pupils will also learn about their roles and responsibilities in creating a respectful and positive classroom environment, as well as how to keep healthy and stay safe online. These lessons aim to support pupils' wellbeing, confidence, and safety both in and out of school.

Computing

This half-term, pupils will continue to focus on online safety, learning how to stay safe, responsible, and respectful when using the internet. They will also begin a creative programming unit, using Scratch to compose and program music, developing their coding, sequencing, and problem-solving skills.

Maths

To begin, both Year 5 and Year 6 will be focusing on place value, developing a strong understanding of larger numbers and how they are structured. This will include reading, writing, representing, partitioning, comparing, and rounding numbers. We will then move on to addition and subtraction, using a range of strategies to solve problems and apply methods in different contexts. Later in the term, Year 6 pupils will progress to multiplication and division, including formal written methods and problem solving. Year 5 will begin these topics in the next half-term. In addition, pupils will take part in weekly arithmetic sessions to build fluency and confidence with the four operations, strengthen their times table knowledge, and learn test techniques to support their mathematical reasoning and accuracy.

History

This half-term, our history focus is on The Tudors. Pupils will explore key aspects of Tudor life, including a timeline of major events, Tudor monarchs, and the differences between the lives of the rich and poor. They will also investigate Tudor houses, leisure activities, and the wider impact of the Tudor period on British history. This topic will encourage historical enquiry and help pupils develop their understanding of change, continuity, and cause and effect over time.

PE

In Dance this half term, pupils will be learning dances from around the world, exploring a range of styles and developing coordination, rhythm, and creativity. In Netball, they will focus on throwing, catching, movement, and teamwork, building both their individual skills and understanding of team play.