

# ORTON WISTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

## CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

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Academic Year: 2022/23

Term: Spring

Year Group: 4

Topic Title: Ancient Maya

Subject	Learning
<b>English - Reading</b>	<p>Our reading lessons will focus on two texts this term, <i>The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> by CS Lewis, and <i>The Witches</i> by Roald Dahl. We have selected these texts as an example of an archaic text (<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>), and because of the complexity of the narrator (<i>The Witches</i>).</p> <p>In our English lessons, we will also be reading <i>The Great Kapok Tree</i>, by Lynne Cherry, and <i>The Wild Robot</i>, by Peter Brown.</p>
<b>English - Writing</b>	<p>Whilst studying our Power of Reading text 'The Great Kapok Tree' we will explore the language associated with the rainforest, create poetry and perform drama, take part in debates and discussion about deforestation and write persuasively. We will finish off the unit by writing a persuasive letter.</p> <p>In Spring 2, whilst studying our Power of Reading text 'The Wild Robot' we will explore and describe the remote island and the attitudes of the inhabitants towards the robot. We will analyse the features of newspaper reports, and build up text and sentence level skills to use when writing a newspaper report.</p>
<b>English – Phonics/Spelling</b>	<p>This term, we are focusing on learning the Year 3/ 4 Common Exception Words. These are the statutory spellings, that children are expected to spell correctly in their work by the end of the year. We will use Sir Linkalot and other spelling activities to support children in learning these words.</p>

Subject	Learning
Mathematics	<p>In the first part of the Spring term, the focus will be Multiplication and Division. Children will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To find and use factor pairs for a number.</li> <li>● To multiply and divide by 10 and 100, and explain the effects of this.</li> <li>● To use written methods for multiplication and division.</li> </ul> <p>Spring 1 will also include a unit in length and perimeter. Children will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To use units of length- metres and kilometres</li> <li>● To find the area of polygons and rectilinear shapes.</li> </ul> <p>In Spring 2, Maths will focus on Fractions and Decimals. Children will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understand fractions as an equal part of a shape or number.</li> <li>● Use fractions and mixed numbers.</li> <li>● Understand improper fractions.</li> <li>● Add and subtract fractions.</li> <li>● Understand tenths and hundredths as decimals.</li> <li>● Divide 1 and 2 digit numbers by 10, giving the answer as a decimal.</li> </ul>
Science	<p>Throughout the Spring term we will be focusing on 'States of matter' and 'Animals including humans.'</p> <p>We will cover:</p> <p><b><u>Animals Including humans</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Digestive system parts</li> <li>● Digestive system functions</li> <li>● Types and functions of teeth</li> <li>● Tooth decay part 1</li> <li>● Tooth decay part 2</li> <li>● Food chains</li> </ul> <p><b><u>States of matter</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Solids liquid or gas</li> <li>● Investigating gases</li> <li>● Heating and Cooling</li> <li>● Wonderful water</li> <li>● Evaporation Investigation</li> </ul>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Computing</b></p>	<p>In Information Technology, we will focus on spreadsheets. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using number formatting tools</li> <li>● Adding a formula to a cell</li> <li>● Use data to create a line graph</li> <li>● Make practical use of a spreadsheet to help plan actions.</li> </ul> <p>In Computing we will use 2Code on Purple Mash to make timers and counting machines. Using these skills to then design and create a simulation.</p> <p>We will also use search engines to find out specific information and discuss the reliability of sources available on the internet.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>History</b></p>	<p>Our topic for this term is 'Ancient Maya'. This mysterious civilisation will be explored through six main questions. As the term progresses the children will broaden their understanding of this topic by focusing on these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why do you think we study the Mayan empire in school?</li> <li>● When the area they lived in was mainly jungle how on earth were the Maya able to grow so strong?</li> <li>● What was life like at the height of the Mayan civilisation?</li> <li>● How can we possibly know what it was like there 1,000 years ago?</li> <li>● If the Maya were so civilised why did they believe in human sacrifice?</li> <li>● How can we solve the riddle of why the Mayan empire ended so quickly?</li> </ul> <p>As well as these important questions we will also be covering, food and drink, Mayan music, Mayan Language and Gods and religious beliefs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Geography</b></p>	<p>In Geography this term will be exploring the world of 'water', we will be covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Changing state</li> <li>● The Water cycle</li> <li>● Making clouds and rain</li> <li>● Treating water</li> <li>● Flooding</li> <li>● Water pollution</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Art &amp; Design</b></p>	<p>In Art we are going to explore: Textiles- Mayan weaving.</p> <p>The children will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exploring the significance of weaving to the Mayans.</li> <li>● Looking at the colours involved and the meaning behind these.</li> <li>● Use natural materials such as red cabbage to dye and set material for their own weaving.</li> <li>● Design their own Mayan inspired weaving using traditional colours and symbols.</li> </ul> <p>They will then use a cardboard loom to start their own weaving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore Artist Gunta Stozl.</li> </ul>

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Music	<p>Our Music learning will focus around one song 'Stop', a Grime song around the theme of bullying. We will learn about the musical genre through games, singing and composing. The children will be working in groups to compose their own verses for the song.</p>
Design Technology	<p>In DT this term, the focus will be on food. Children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand where food comes from and be able to discuss the cycle of food production.</li> <li>• Understand which foods are grown and which are produced.</li> <li>• Investigate how food products have been created.</li> <li>• Learn how to cut, peel or grate ingredients safely and hygienically.</li> <li>• Assemble or cook healthy ingredients.</li> <li>• Create designs and evaluate finish products against design criteria.</li> </ul> <p>We will be designing and making quesadillas at our 2CanLearn session- we look forward to this and hope as many parents/ carers as possible will be able to join us.</p>
PE	<p>This term in PE we will be covering: Swimming, Football, Dance, Netball and Gymnastics.</p>
RE	<p>During the Spring Term we will be exploring Judaism, this will be broken down into six sessions, all looking at a different question about the religion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is the Torah important to Jews and how does it influence them?</li> <li>2. What are the key features of a synagogue?</li> <li>3. What symbols are there in Judaism and what do they represent?</li> <li>4. Why do Jewish people build booths at the festival of Sukkot?</li> <li>5. Who was Abraham and why is he important?</li> <li>6. How do celebrations of Shabbat affect Jewish people's lives?</li> </ol>
MFL	<p>Our theme in French for this term is 'Le Carnaval des Animaux' (Carnival of the Animals). We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in French.</li> <li>• Broaden vocabulary and develop ability to understand new words.</li> <li>• Describe animals and tell the time orally and in writing.</li> <li>• Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases.</li> <li>• Present ideas and information orally.</li> </ul>

Subject	Learning
PSHE	<p><b><u>Spring 1- Keeping Safe</u></b></p> <p>Children will learn to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify trusted adults and approach them for support.</li> <li>• Assess the school and local environment from a personal safety perspective.</li> <li>• Understand safety rules and who and when to tell.</li> <li>• Identify and name body parts including the genital area.</li> <li>• Identify and distinguish between 'yes' and 'no' touches.</li> <li>• Distinguish between 'good' and 'bad' secrets.</li> <li>• Assess problems and risks to keep safer.</li> <li>• Use assertive voice and body language.</li> <li>• Recognise what makes a good listener and when it is the best time to tell.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Spring One - RSE My Relationships</u></b></p> <p>Pupils are able to judge what kind of physical behaviours and contact are acceptable and unacceptable, and ways to respond.</p> <p><b><u>Spring 2- Economic Wellbeing</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are different ways to gain money, keep it safe, and pay for things.</li> <li>• To understand that individuals and families may choose to manage their money in different ways.</li> <li>• To understand different feelings about money.</li> <li>• To understand why charities exist and how they might help.</li> <li>• To make informed choices about how money is spent and keep track of spending.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Spring Two - My Beliefs</u></b></p> <p>Pupils recognise differences and similarities between people arise from a number of factors including family and personal identity.</p>
Online-Safety	<p>E-Safety will continue into the Spring term, we will have two afternoons to cover different topics:</p> <p>Our Online Tracks – We will explore digital footprints, and how these are changed by the choices people make when online. We will consider how to change their own and others digital footprints.</p> <p>Keeping Games Fun and Friendly - Children will appreciate that some online games can be played by lots of people together at the same time. Pupils will understand that there are positives and negatives of social interaction in online games. We will investigate the responsibilities we have to make good choices if interacting with people online.</p>

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Learning Outside the Classroom	We will hopefully be organising an external provider to visit us in school in the Spring Term to run a drama and role play workshop based around Ancient Maya.

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