



Reading –

In our reading lessons this half term, we will be focusing on the book Skellig by David Almond. It is about a boy named Michael who moves into a new house and finds a mysterious, winged creature in his basement. Meanwhile, Michael’s family are going through some challenging times together. The book explores themes of love, life and transformation.

During our daily reading lessons, we will be practicing and refining a range of different reading skills. The skills include: retrieval, inference, prediction, summarising, clarifying, questioning and improving vocabulary (often by using a dictionary or Thesaurus). All of these skills help the children to become fluent readers with a good understanding of the texts they are reading. We aim to make connections to our books across the curriculum and the children will take part in a range of thoughtful, effective activities.

Skellig – David Almond

Wider Curriculum –

Science – The focus for Science is Changes in Materials. The children will consider which materials are soluble and investigate how to separate solids from liquids. They will also consider reversible and irreversible changes to materials.

Geography – The focus of our Geography lessons this half term is ‘Where does our food come from?’ We will begin by exploring the impact of our food choices on the environment before looking at what it means to trade responsibly, understanding ‘fair trade’. We will then look at what is meant by ‘food mileage’, with a specific focus on where our chocolate comes from. We will then end our Geography topic by considering whether our school dinners are sourced locally and whether it is best to buy local or imported food.

DT – Our DT topic for this half term is textiles. We will be considering a range of factors in a design criteria and use this to create a waistcoat design. We aim to use a template to mark and cut out a design, use a running stitch to join fabric to make a functional waistcoat, attach a secure fastening, as well as decorative objects and finally evaluate our final product.

French – In French this half term, we will be looking at the topic ‘Je me présente’, in which we will be revising basic greetings and then learning how to say some different things about ourselves.

Writing –

This half term, we will use our class reading book as inspiration for several pieces of writing. Our focus text for this half term will be Skellig by David Almond. We will use the text as inspiration for a diary entry written from the perspective of a character, as well as a dialogue.

Throughout our writing lessons, children will use a range of devices including: formal language, factual language, rhetorical questions, paragraphs, expanded noun phrases, conjunctions, adverbs, parenthesis and relative clauses. We will also have regular spelling and grammar practise, in which children will have the opportunity to learn spelling rules and grammatical theories.

Diary entry and dialogue

Spring term 2

School Value - Forgiveness

Year 5/6 → Zephaniah and Rosen

PSHE –

Our PSHE topic for this half term is Healthy Me. During these lessons, we will complete a range of activities and discussions, as well as regular mindfulness activities.

Y5 – The content of these lessons include: understanding the risks of smoking and alcohol and how it can affect the body, knowing and putting basic emergency aid into practice, understanding the impact of media and celebrity culture on body image and understanding the importance of accepting and respecting myself for who I am, understanding different relationships with food and knowing what a healthy lifestyle looks like.

Y6 – The content of these lessons include: knowing the impact of food on the body, knowing about different types of drugs and their uses and effects, evaluating when alcohol is being used responsibly or misused, knowing and putting basic emergency aid into practice, understanding what it means to be mentally well and explore different attitudes towards mental health, to recognize when I feel stress and the causes and effects of this.

Maths –

In all of our maths lessons, we aim to develop a depth of understanding using concrete, pictorial and abstract representations. There are lots of opportunities for mathematical discussion and we encourage children to apply their understanding to real-life contexts.

Year 5 → in year 5, we will continue our topic of calculating with decimal fractions in Spring 2. We will continue to apply new learning to different styles of problem-solving and reasoning questions and continue to use a range of concrete manipulatives. We will then be moving on to factors, multiples and primes, in which we will be applying learning to volume and other contexts.

Year 6 → in year 6, we will be continuing to learn about fractions as we go into the new half term. We will continue learning how to multiply and divide fractions as well as applying all of the knowledge we have already acquired to word problems and reasoning questions. After this, we’ll move on to percentages, where we will apply our knowledge of fractions and decimals to find percentages of amounts and reason with them.

Fact fluency

Arithmetic skills.

Religious Education –

Our Religious Education unit this half term is from Global Christianity. During Spring 2, the children will be working on the learning question, “What does it mean to be in communion with others?”. Throughout this unit, children in Year 5 and 6 will learn gain a deeper understanding of Christianity and the communities within this religion. We will also endeavour to make links with other worldviews including Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism and Humanism. By the end of the unit, the children should be able to explain what ‘communion’ means in Christian belief, discuss a range of Bible stories, explain religious symbols, compare the beliefs and practises of different religious communities and offer personal reflections on what they have learnt. During our Religious Education lessons, the children will also have opportunities to discuss and compare their own thoughts through a range of thought-provoking activities and discussions.