

Blencathra Newsletter

Dear Blencathra Parents and Carers,

Here is a summary of the Curriculum for Blencathra class for the Autumn Term 2023

Our topic this term is
Romans and Rivers



English

Fiction—We will be reading "Leon and the Place Between" which is a story based on a mystery journey. Our work will involve us inferring information from the text, predicting what the story might be about and what might happen next. Through drama activities, we will be exploring the characters, including what they will be thinking and feeling which will lead to writing opportunities. Once we have developed a secure understanding of the story, we will then be planning, writing and editing our own adventure story. Later in the term, we will use our history topic on the Romans to inspire diary writing in a historical setting.

Poetry — We will be using several picture poem books, including "The River: An epic journey to the sea" to inspire some free verse and visual poetry of our own. We will look at techniques the poets use to make their poems engaging such as rhyme, alliteration and noun phrases.

Grammar and Punctuation—We will be focusing on perfecting simple punctuation while looking at using apostrophes for contraction and possession.. We will be looking at identifying and using different word classes and how we can use resources in the classroom to help with this.

Spelling— All children will have 3 spelling sessions a week in an appropriate group. They will have a spelling test on a Friday. We encourage the children to practise their spellings on Spelling Shed both in school and at home.

RE

Christianity: Incarnation— This half term, we will be developing an understanding of how Christians show their beliefs about God the Trinity in worship. Children will learn to retell Bible stories about baptism and Trinity and discuss what they mean to some Christians today. We will explore the question "Could Jesus heal people?" and investigate whether or not we think Jesus really did perform miracles.

Later in the term, our RE learning will be focused on the question "Has Christmas lost its true meaning?". We will be learning to find out what the true meaning of Christmas is to Christians and compare this with what Christmas means to us.



Maths

Place Value - We begin the year by securing children's understanding of counting, partitioning, ordering and comparing numbers up to 1000 for Y3 and 10,000 for Y4. We also learn how to find 1, 10, 100 or 1000 (Y4) more or less than any number. Children in Y4 will also learn how to round numbers and begin to know about negative numbers.

Add and Subtract—Children will learn to add numbers with no exchange before moving onto exploring exchange by using concrete and pictorial representations. Y3 will focus on adding and subtraction 3-digit numbers, while Y4 focus on 4-digit numbers. We also learn how to estimate and check answers as well as finding the most efficient methods.

Multiply and Divide—We will be focusing on Times Tables, by completing our Learn Its, singing songs and playing games. This is to support the Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check in June, where we will be able to recall all multiplication facts up to 12×12 . Children in Y3 will focus on securing 3, 4 and 8 x this term. We will also look at how place value is affected when by multiply and divide by multiples of 10.

Science

We will be continuing to develop our working Scientifically skills. We will be thinking about which enquiry method we are using, once we are more familiar with these, we will be beginning to think about our own lines of enquiry to answer questions.



Light —During the first half of the term, our focus will on light. We will be exploring, investigating and recognizing that we need light in order to see things, and that dark is the absence of light. Through a range of activities, we will notice that light is reflected from surfaces. We will be looking at shadows and investigating how shadows are formed, and how shadows change with different opaque, transparent and translucent materials. Using the sun, we will be finding patterns in the way that the size of the shadows change. When looking at shadows, we will be discussing that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes.

Living things and their habitats— This will be our focus for the second half of the term and we will be looking to use the environment around us as much as possible. We will be recognising that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. Through the use of classification keys, we will be grouping, identifying and naming a variety of living things in our local and wider environment. We will also be recognising that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things, this will link in with our rivers unit in Geography.

Art and D&T

D&T—Electric Systems: Torches—During this unit, we will be identifying electrical products and we will be able to explain why they are useful. We will be looking at switches and how we can make our own working switches. We will be identifying the features of a torch, how they work and what makes a torch successful. After looking at a range of torches, we will then be designing our own torches following a design brief. Finally, we will be making our own torches with a working switch following our designs. Once complete, we will evaluate our torches to see how successful we have been.

Art—Sculptures and 3D: Mega Materials— We will be using familiar shapes to create simple 3D drawings and describe the shapes they are using. While drawing a simple design, we will be considering how its shape could be cut from soap before transferring our drawings to a soap carving, to do this, we will need to make informed choices about the tools we use. We will then look at different materials, including wire where we will successfully bend the wire to follow a simple template, adding details for stability and aesthetics. To consolidate and revisit last term's Science, we will be creating a shadow sculpture using block lettering in the style of Artist Sokari Douglas Camp. We will show we are considering alternative ways to display our sculptures when photographing them. We will also be explore different ways to join materials to create a 3D outcome, making considered choices about the placement of materials. Finally, we will describe how our work has been influenced by the work of Artist El Anatsui.



PE

Our term will begin by looking at playtime games. We will be introducing and playing a range of different games, looking at the rules, in order for us to then use them at playtimes. This will ensure we have a bank of activities we can use and to make sure we are all playing by the same rules and fairly. We will run regularly to develop fitness and stamina, as well as learning the importance of maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle. Our PE lessons will then focus on developing fundamental movement skills such as rolling, catching, throwing, kicking and dribbling. We will do this by developing our skills across a range of target and tag games such as including golf, boccia and bowls. We will also develop these skills by learning striking and fielding games.

After half term, we will focus on developing our fundamental movements of jumping, hopping, galloping and balancing through learning dances. We will learn traditional folk dances.

Humanities (History and Geography)

Romans – During this topic, children will develop an understanding of what the term 'empire' means and apply it to the Romans to understand how Britain became part of the Roman Empire. Children will be able to put the Roman Empire into a European and British context, understanding how far the Roman Empire spread and investigate how they managed to control a vast range of countries for over 1,200 years.

Within this topic, children will focus on important historical personalities such as Julius Caesar, Claudius and Boudica, who all played important roles in British history and are still referenced in today's society. They will also investigate and understand how the Romans changed life in Britain by considering how the Romans lived after the invasion. This will be supported by a study into the fort of Vindolanda.



Rivers – In this unit, our children will learn that rivers and river systems, are dynamic; changing the landscape in visible and at times dramatic ways. Rivers play a big role in the water cycle by transporting water from source to sea; from land drainage to ecosystems. Children will learn about rivers based on real places and study both local rivers and nationally important rivers, improving their locational and place knowledge.

Children will follow the journey of a river through its upper, middle and lower course; from its source in the mountains, through the meanders of flatter land, to the estuary and its mouth.

Using a case study of a recent flood events in the UK that are of local importance (Storm Desmond, 2015), children will see the causes and consequences of flooding in real life and how flooding affects both people and places. Children will also make links between human geography and rivers, understanding how people rely and use rivers for industry, power, transport and leisure activities.

Our children will gain first-hand experience of a river through conducting fieldwork at a local river, the River Lowther.



Music

Writing Music Down—In the first half term, we will learn how long and short (rhythm) and high and low (pitch) sounds can be represented by musical symbols. These symbols can be written on a staff and named with special musical names. This helps us to remember what we are going to sing and play. In this unit, we also consider, 'How Does Music Bring Us Closer Together?', encouraging children to be responsible and kind citizens of the world.



Playing in a Band—During the second half term, we discover how playing together in a band is fun and exciting! We explore how the steady beat is organised by time signatures which tell us how many beats there are in each bar. When people sing or use instruments to play two or more different pitches that sound at the same time, we can hear harmony in music. In this unit, we also ask, 'What Stories Does Music Tell Us About the Past?'.

French

We will be using the Salut resources to teach French in Blencathra. During Term 1, we will be focusing on an introductory unit. This unit will be focusing on naming body parts, where we will also learn to sing head, shoulders, knees and toes in French. We will then be recapping numbers up to 20, before introducing numbers 21 to 31. Finally, we will be naming items of clothing and months of the year. To do this, we will be looking at the correct pronunciation and will be completing lots of games and practical activities.

For the second half of the term, we will be moving on to animals. We will be looking to name different animals on the farm and describe them. We will be looking to tell others where on the farm the animals might be.



Computing

Computing Systems and Networks—The Internet—

We will be applying our knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. We will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, and will be given opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for ourselves in order to learn about who owns content and what we can access, add, and create. Finally, we will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.



Computer Science—Programming – Repetition in Shapes— This unit will be our first of two programming units this year. We will be looking at and looks at repetition and loops within programming. We will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. We will use Logo, a text-based programming language.

PSHE

Vision and Values—Over the first half term, we will be refreshing and developing our understanding of our School Vision and Values. We begin the year by focusing on the first of our values; Friendship. We will work together to create a class charter.



Phunky Foods and Fitness—After half term, our PSHE learning will focus on developing our understanding of how to keep our bodies healthy. We will learn that this requires a balanced diet as well as using energy up by exercising. We will practise some DT skills when we learn to chop, grate and prepare a range of delicious recipes to support our understanding of the importance of having a balanced diet. We will learn all the food groups and why we need them to keep our bodies healthy.

Uniform

Please come to school wearing the correct school uniform and have the correct PE kit in school everyday. It is also important the children have their hair tied back everyday. This is outlined on our school website: [Uniform Information | Shap Endowed CE Primary School](#)

Homework

Homework encourages independence, self-organisation and is an opportunity to chat about learning at home. No homework should take longer than 30 minutes unless your child would like to do more.

Homework will be set using Microsoft TEAMS, this will be set on a Friday and is to be handed in via TEAMS the following Thursday (if you are unsure of your child's log in details, please get in touch as soon as possible and we can get these to you).

Children will receive times tables, spelling and reading homework each week along with a mini topic project per term. This project is to be completed over a number of weeks. It will be on TEAMS and also on our class page on the website.

Worship

This half term, the themes of our Worship time will be: New Beginnings, Harvest and Friendship.

Our Christian Value, will be: Friendship, linked to the 'children' element within our Christian Vision.

Teams

Please remember to check Teams regularly as this is where the weekly homework will be set and a lot of reminders for the children will be given.

Correspondence

If you would like to speak to either of us, please message us through Teams or email (vcapstick@shap.cumbria.sch.uk or sheron@shap.cumbria.sch.uk) and we will get back to you.

What do I need to bring to school?

Everyday:

- Your reading pack
- A waterproof coat
- A water bottle
- A packed lunch (unless you are on school dinners)
- A healthy, gluten free snack
- A full PE kit (Please see the following link for a full list [Uniform Information | Shap Endowed CE Primary School](#))