



Helvellyn Class Spring Term Curriculum Information 2023/24

The Shang Dynasty and China



Maths

This term in maths we will be focusing on: fractions, decimals and percentages; area, perimeter and volume; statistics; ratio; algebra; multiplication and division.

In each lesson we will be concentrating on problem solving and reasoning and expecting children to use the correct vocabulary to explain their thinking and answers.

Below is some of the content we will be covering with both Year 5 and Year 6:

Statistics: Children will learn how to read and interpret line graphs, pie charts, dual bar charts, timetables and two-way tables. They will also learn how to draw accurate graphs such as line, bar and pie charts.

Area and Perimeter: Children will learn how to calculate the perimeter of compound rectilinear shapes, parallelograms and a range of polygons. They will also learn how to find the area of compound shapes, triangles and parallelograms.

Fractions, Decimals and Percentages: Children will find equivalent fractions, percentages and decimals; find percentages of amounts.

Year 6s will be covering:

Ratio: Understanding the ratio symbol, completing scale drawings and using ratio to scale recipes.

Algebra: Children will form expressions, understand simple equations, and solve one and two-step equations.

Children will also continue to complete Flashback 4s - 4 questions that review current and past learning to help them retrieve and remember all aspects of maths covered across the term and from previous years.

English

Fiction

Twisted Traditional Tales - We will look at some 'twisted' traditional tales, including: how the 3 Little Pigs framed the wolf and the wolf's version of what happened to Grandma and Little Red Riding Hood. We will explore how these stories are written from different perspectives and how they have been altered.

Children will write a newspaper article practicing their reporting skills. They will also create a narrative of their own 'twisted' traditional tale. This will give them the opportunity to put all their grammar and authorial skills into use.

The Willow Pattern Story - Allan Drummond

In this story, children will learn about a Chinese fable and the story behind one of the most iconic pieces of art to come from China. We will use the story as a basis to create our own story with a moral and create our own willow pattern style art work to accompany it.

Non-Fiction

Biographies - To tie into our science work, we will create biographies of famous evolutionary scientists such as Mary Anning and Charles Darwin

Poetry

Chinese Poetry - With Mrs Turner in Guided Reading, children will listen to a range of traditional Chinese poetry and use inference to understand the messages hidden within.

Grammar and Punctuation

Grammar, punctuation and spelling techniques are taught within English lessons. This term we will revise and learn about

Spelling

Children will continue to have spelling sessions three times a week with a spelling test on Fridays.

Geography

Over the spring term we will be looking at **China**.

We will begin by exploring, where China is; who lives there; what life is like in China today and how China is changing. We will explore a range of photos to stimulate thought and discussion about China and challenge perceptions of China as well as building background knowledge and understanding of the country.

We will do mapping activities using Digimaps to look at trade and find out who buys Chinese goods. We will look for patterns and think about the consequences of the rapid industrialisation of China. We will learn about the factors driving the rural population out of the villages and into the cities which is linked to trade, tourism and jobs.

We will look at the physical features of China and discover the vastness of the country enables it to sustain a wide variety of different animals.

We will also contrast China to the UK and Australia to look at the similarities and differences between the countries across three different continents.

History

Over the spring term we will be looking at **the Shang Dynasty**.

The Shang Dynasty is one of the earliest Chinese dynasties and made astonishing advances in writing, bronze technology, art and warfare. Some bronze work was the best in the world at that time.

We will learn who the Ancient Shang people were, where and when they lived, using maps and atlases to locate Shang cities.

We will also learn about the role of the king, the religious beliefs and rituals of the Shang people and how oracle bones were used in divination ceremonies.

As the Shang Dynasty is still a relatively recent discovery, we will examine how modern historians have examined and studied a range of Shang artefacts to draw conclusions about what the Shang's life, culture and society was like. We will look at replicas of these artefacts to see if we can deduce what life was like for the Shang.

We will also look at the remarkable discovery of the first intact Shang tomb which belonged to the military general and high priestess Fu Hao. We will use our deduction skills to understand how we know who was buried in the tomb through artefacts and early forms of writing.

Finally, we will compare the Shang civilization with other ancient civilizations to look at the significance of the Shang.

Science

Our science topic for Term 3 is: **Electricity**

We will learn to create and represent circuits using the correct scientific symbols in a diagram. We will learn about two of the most important scientific inventors in the field of electricity—Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. We will also learn how to associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit. Children will also develop their understanding of how to work scientifically, by: systematically identifying the effect of changing one component at a time in a circuit; designing and making a set of traffic lights, a burglar alarm or some other useful circuit.

Our design technology unit will allow the children to put their learning into action as they will need to use electrical circuits to create a game.

Our science topic for Term 4 is: **Evolution and Inheritance**

In this topic we will be exploring the scientific theories of evolution based on the work of Charles Darwin. We will also look at how other scientists have contributed to our understanding of evolution and adaptation. We will consider what evidence scientists use to understand how living things have changed over millions of years. We will identify how animals and plants have adapted to suit their environment and how this leads to evolution, looking particularly at the finches in the Galapagos studied by Darwin.

RE

Our RE topic for Term 3 is: **What kind of king is Jesus? - Kingdom of God**

The Kingdom of God is, in essence, where God rules — not a geographical territory, but in human hearts and minds, lives and communities. We will use Bibles to explore Jesus' key teaching in the first three Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) is that he is beginning a kingdom where God's rule of love, forgiveness and inclusion will grow. We will apply these teachings and explore how Christian charities today are showing the Kingdom of God in action in order to try and make the world a better place.

Our RE topic for Term 4 is: **Creation and Science: conflicting or complimentary? - Creation and Fall**

We will be exploring the book Genesis 1, and understanding that this book has many different interpretations for Christians. We will compare and contrast the Christian creation story with scientific accounts and look at how many Christians believe science and faith can go together. This will link closely with our science work on evolution and adaptation.

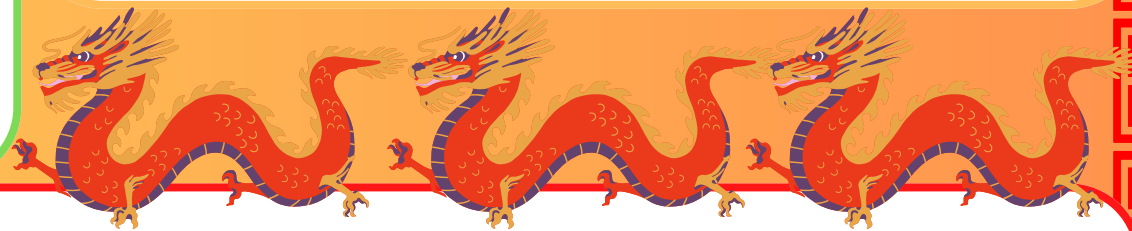
Art and Design Technology

In Term 3 we will complete: **Electrical Systems: Steady Hand Game**

Children will understand what is meant by 'form' (the shape of a product) and 'function' (how a product works). They will learn about skills developed through play and apply this knowledge in a survey of one or more children's toys. They will then go on to identify the components of a steady hand game before designing a steady hand game of their own.

In Term 4 we will complete: **Painting and Mixed Media: Artist Study**

Children will focus on a different artist per week and look at how to find meaning in paintings, identify different painting techniques, and use these to design and create their own mixed media piece to tell a story or convey a meaning.



French

In Term 3 we will be learning about: **Seasons**

We will learn vocabulary about the four seasons, and activities that might be done during these times of year. Children will also learn how to say the date. We will also learn some vocabulary and grammar linked to doing arts and crafts, including reading instructions in French for how to make a lantern for Chinese New Year. This will link to our work on China.

In Term 4 we will learn about: **The Future**

Children will learn how to use the future tense to talk about what they are going to do. They will begin to understand how the future tense is formed using "aller" ("to go"), and how to use it in third person sentences.

PSHE

In Term 3 Helvellyn will work on **KidSafe** with Mrs Kelsall.

KidSafe is a programme that aims to educate children about mental health and emotional wellbeing, and provides them with tools to empower them to speak out to a trusted adult about anything that makes them feel sad, scared or worried.

In Term 4 Helvellyn will work on **Mental Health and Wellbeing** with Miss Jackson. In these sessions, children will learn how to look after their mental health by developing healthy coping strategies, understanding their emotions and how to develop healthy relationships with their friends.

Computing

In computing we will be looking at using different coding software and hardware.

Children will learn to programme and code using MicroBits (mini, pocket-sized computers). They will learn how to connect and program components (including output devices- LEDs and motors) through their existing programming knowledge. We will also introduce conditions as a means of controlling the flow of actions and make use of their knowledge of repetition and conditions when introduced to the concept of selection through the if, then structure.

PE

In PE this term we will be doing **gymnastics** and **dance**.

In gymnastics we will cover rhythmic gymnastics which is made of dance-like rhythmic sequences, using equipment such as clubs, balls, ribbons or hoops. Children will choreograph a sequence to include ten movements, taken from five different gymnastic categories (balance, travelling, rolling, jumping and weight on hands).

We will also look at vaulting; this involves a squat on and jump off a box – which is placed crosswise. The children will learn how to develop an effective short run-up; perform the hurdle step; jump from two feet, stretching hands onto the top of the box; landing in a square position on the top of the box and a jump off the top of the box. The height of the box will increase gradually as competence and confidence increases.

In dance we will be choreographing a 'mystery dance'. Children will select different cards based on elements of dance and use these to complete a full sequence. They will evaluate their own and others dances and adapt and change their dance to improve it.

Helvellyn will have a session every 2 weeks on a Wednesday, with our sports coach, Lucy Potter which will focus on dynamic balances using a partner.

Music

We follow the Charanga music scheme.

In Term 3 we will be looking at **Music in Technology**. Nowadays, music and songs are often created and composed using a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation). We will use the Charanga YuStudio to create our own hip hop tracks. Children will learn skills in music production that will enable them to develop their creativity with music.

In Term 4 we will cover **Enjoying Musical Styles**. There are so many different, wonderful and interesting styles of music. We will listen to a wide range of genres and consider the question: How Does Music Teach Us About a Community? We will also look at the musical term 'texture', which refers to the layers of sound you hear in a piece of music and how different styles of music have different textures. Throughout the unit, children will have opportunities to sing, play instruments and improvise. They will continue to learn some musical theory including key signatures and reading musical notation.

We will also look at traditional Chinese music and instruments to link with our history and geography focus. We will learn a simple Chinese New Year song to perform for a celebration.

In Year 5 children will continue to learn the recorder. We will look at playing technique, learning basic notes and applying these to simple songs. We will perform for the class and the whole school in worship times and learn how to play as part of an ensemble. We will also continue to learn how to read musical notation including notes, tempo and simple key signatures.

Outdoor Education

Helvellyn will continue to work with Emma Daley, our Outdoor Education Specialist. Emma will be leading the class in their outdoor education lessons once every 4 weeks. Over the spring term the children will be working towards the RSPB Wild Challenge Silver Awards.

Helvellyn outdoor sessions will be on:

Wednesday 24 January

Wednesday 6 March

Please ensure that children come to school with appropriate clothing and footwear for these sessions: waterproof trousers, warm, waterproof coats, gloves, wooly hats and waterproof sturdy boots or wellies.

