

Blencathra Newsletter



Dear Blencathra Parents

Here is a summary of the Curriculum for Blencathra for
the Autumn Term 2026

Our topics this term are;

Changes in Britain from Stone Age to Iron Age
The United Kingdom



ENGLISH - This term we will be using the book 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' where the children will develop the skills needed to write instructions.

We will also be linking to our Stone Age topic by looking at the features of non-chronological reports where we will spend time gathering and researching information before creating a non-chronological report on a Stone Age animal.

A focus will also be on our spellings, punctuation, grammar and handwriting.

Everyone will have a guided reading sessions once a week with Mrs Turner, where the children develop their reading skills and also their decoding skills.

RE - Using the Understanding Christianity resource we will be discussing the question: What do Christians learn from the creation story? The children will learn that God the Creator cares for the creation, including human beings. They will know that as human beings are part of God's good creation, they do best when they listen to God. We will also learn how Christians believe God made our wonderful world and so we should look after it.

MUSIC - Using Charanga, we will be focusing on basic skills: listening and appraising, singing, playing instruments, improvisation, composition and performing. Our first unit will look at musical sections that repeat or change to help create the structure, or form, of a piece of music or a song. We will look for patterns in the sections of music and songs within this unit. In addition, we will be learning to play the tin whistle.

ART/D&T - We will be focusing on painting and linking this to prehistoric painting. We will be developing the use of simple shapes to build initial sketches before creating large scale copies of our smaller sketches using charcoal. We will be exploring colour mixing and looking at how we can use natural pigments to do this while experimenting with different equipment to create different textures. Additionally, we will be making positive and negative handprints in a range of colours, just like they used to during the prehistoric time.

SCIENCE - Our topic is animals including able to describe the digestive system, identify of teeth in humans functions and be able to interpret a variety. During the second half we will be looking at States of matter where we compare and group according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases, observe how they change state when heated, cooled, and measure temperature at which they change degrees Celsius (°C). We will also learn about evaporation and condensation, the water cycle and how evaporation works.

HISTORY - We will be looking at the Stone Age to Bronze Age on life in Britain. We will learn why early man survived in the Stone Age, why Skara Brae was built, understanding life in the Bronze Age, why copper mining was important in the Bronze Age and why Stonehenge was built. We will also learn about the Iron Age, why hillforts were built, why the Druids were in the Iron Age.

GEOGRAPHY - We will be looking at the United Kingdom and its location, understanding of the United Kingdom's population, land use and climate. At the end of this unit, children will be able to secure locational and descriptive skills of the UK and their regions.

for the first half term human. We will be basic functions of the identify the different types and their simple able to construct and of food chains. of the term we will of Matter. Through this up materials together, they are solids, liquids that some materials they are heated or re or research the ch this happens in identify the part played condensation in the associate the rate of th temperature.

learn about how the Age period impacted will learn about how a harsh environment, was important for the Stone Age, how crucial to the Bronze nge was built. We why Iron Age people and how important Iron Age Britain.

will be learning about and gaining a deeper UK's counties, regions, and settlements. By the ldren should have a l place knowledge of place within it.

MATHS - First we will be looking at place value, and partitioning. Next we will start to look at addition and subtraction, using written methods. Multiplication and division are next, also using written methods, and explaining their reasoning.

At the end of the term we will learn about what area is and how it can be measured.

We are also having a big push on times tables so will be assessing the children regularly on their times tables using the Times Tables Rock Stars. It is important that the children practise these regularly at home.

PE - Our PE lessons will focus on developing fundamental movement skills such as rolling, catching, throwing and dribbling. We will develop our skills across a range of target and tag games including golf, boccia and dodgeball. We will also develop these skills in striking and fielding games. Ben Hoyle, a specialist sports coach, will further support these skills. 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.

PSHE - This term, we will be learning more about our school vision and values. We will think about new beginnings, and how we can be affected by them. We will learn more about healthy eating and food using the Phunky Foods resources.

Computing - We will be learning about programming. We will be looking at the motion, sound and event blocks using Scratch.

In the second half of the term, we will be looking at using Stop Motion animation to create our own animations.

We will also continue learning to stay safe online.

FRENCH - We will use Salut to study greetings, family, days of the week, colours and numbers, learning through games, songs and conversation.

Uniform

Please come to school wearing the correct named school uniform and have the correct named PE kit in school everyday. This is outlined on our school website: shap.cumbria.sch.uk.

Homework

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

Homework will be set on a Wednesday and is to be handed in on Tuesdays.

Weekly homework may include;

- Maths practise sheet
- Reading—at least 3 x per week
- Spelling—online practise
- TTRS—at least 3 x per week

In addition, there will with a mini topic project per term. This project is to be completed over a number of weeks. It is on Teams and also on our class page on the website.



What do I need to bring to school?

Every day:

- Your reading book
- A named waterproof coat
- A school water bottle
- A packed lunch (unless you are on school dinners.)
- A healthy snack for break time

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 all messages and 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 (sparkyn@shap.cumbria.sch.uk or sheron@shap.cumbria.sch.uk) and we will get back to you.