

Class One Curriculum Newsletter: Pirates and Explorers



Our current topic in Class One is "Pirates and Explorers". The main curriculum foci for this topic are Science, History and Geography.

English

In our English lessons we will be looking at the features of fiction and non-fiction texts. We will be making links with our history topic by writing an information text on Christopher Columbus. We will use a range of sources to find out about his life and we will use role play to explore what life was like on board his ships. Our narrative unit this half term is centred around writing stories set in familiar settings. We will focus on writing entertaining stories where words have been chosen to create pictures in the mind of the reader. Our poetry unit focusses on songs and repetitive poems about the sea and pirates. The children will learn to appreciate rhymes and poems and learn some by heart.

Our grammar focus will be on writing sentences accurately, using finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. Year Two will also be looking at selecting adjectives to create specific effects.

We will be reading a range of fictional and poetic texts about pirates, as well as information and fictional texts based on the life of Christopher Columbus and Sir Francis Chichester.

Maths

In our maths lessons we will be following the National Curriculum and focussing on Number and Place Value. This will include counting and number sequences to and across 100, forward and backwards. The children will also be learning how to identify 1 more and 1 less than a number and to read and write numbers from 1 to 20 in numerals and words.

We will be using a range of resources to identify and represent numbers using objects and pictorial representations including the number line, and use the language of: equal to, more than, less than (fewer), most, least. The children will also be learning to count in steps of 2, 3, and 5 from 0, and in 10s from any number, forward and backward. They will move on to work on place value and learn to recognise the place value of each digit in a two-digit number (10s, 1s).

Through the use of a range of problem solving activities and mental work the children will identify, represent and estimate numbers using different representations, including the number line. The children will also compare and order numbers from 0 up to 100 and use the $<$, $>$ and $=$ signs in a range of contexts.

Understanding the World (Science, History, Geography and Computing)

Using maps, atlases and globes, we will learn the names and locations of the world's seven continents and five oceans as part of our geographical studies. In addition, we will use basic compass directions and devise simple maps.

Our scientific enquiries will cover comparisons between life in the New Forest and under the sea. We will consider how the habitats are different and how the animals that live there have adapted to their environments.

In History, we will find out about Christopher Columbus. We will sequence events from his life and find out about his journeys before we compare his life to that of Sir Francis Chichester.

Our computing focus for this topic is on internet safety and taking photographs. We will be finding out about personal information and how we can keep this information safe. We will also look at how to take a good photograph. We will then insert these into paint programs and explore how we can edit them to create different effects. Our new skills will then be used throughout the year to capture our learning at school.

Expressive Art and Design (Art, Music)

In Art, we will be looking at the work of Vincent Van Gogh. We will learn about his life and work before using 'The Starry Night' as inspiration for our own paintings. We will create sea pictures with starry skies.

Music lessons are taught by Mr Dalziell: Inspired by the class theme of 'Pirates', we shall be singing a variety of sea shanties, exploring how untuned percussion can create a 'pirate mood' and listening to a selection of sea-inspired music. We will also be working on songs and hymns for our Harvest Festival. Year 2 will commence learning to play the recorder.

In addition to these lessons, Class One will be learning a range of counting and number rhymes and beginning to practise part singing.

Religious Education

Our RE focus for this topic is Harvest, with a particular focus on celebration. We will think about when and why people celebrate. We will also think about how Christians celebrate at harvest time and whether celebrating at harvest time is important.

Physical Development (PE and Handwriting)

In PE we will be working on our co-ordination and balance. We will be practising moving in different ways and combining movements. We will also practise changing direction using pivot points. We will investigate different static balances and holding these for increasing periods of time. We will also practise using a range of equipment and playing mini-games. In the hall we will practise using apparatus to explore balancing and rolling. Through all of our PE lessons we will be focusing on developing the personal skills of listening and awareness.

Handwriting is taught to small groups depending on their needs. We will be ensuring children are using a correct pencil grip and that they form the individual letters correctly. Once children can do this they will move on to learning how to join their letters correctly following the Nelson Handwriting Scheme.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

We will be thinking about "New Beginnings". We will talk about how we feel at the start of a new year and the things we are looking forward to, as well as the things we are worried about. The class will work together to decide on our class rules and on the type of behaviours that we want to see whilst we are learning and relaxing. We will focus on identifying examples of our learning behaviours within the school day and on developing the skills of speaking, listening and group work.

Trailblazers

Trailblazers is a Hampshire County Council initiative that encourages children to learn outside the classroom. The number of hours children spend in the outdoors at school is marked by different certificates. We will be taking our English and Maths lessons outside wherever possible. We will also be exploring the plants and animals found within our local area. Please make sure that your child has a pair of outdoor shoes and a warm coat available in school, as well as a sunhat if we have a warm September.

Ideas for supporting your child at home:

- * Read a range of story books, talking about the characters and settings. Identify events, characters and settings that you like. Try and find stories that link together (for example, stories set in forests, stories with animals as characters, stories where something gets lost).
- * Find out about other significant explorers. Where did they go? What was their life like?
- * Look at a collection of paintings featuring boats or water – which one is your favourite? Why? Have a go at doing your own picture – how does your picture change if you use different media (pencils, chalk, felt tip, collage, natural materials...)
- * Play board games. Practise calculating in your head where you will land before counting the squares.
- * Play dice games. What is the largest total you can make with two or three dice? Who can be the first to make all the totals between two and twelve?
- * Practise pairs of numbers to ten, twenty and one hundred. These are the basis of many mathematical skills and so quick recall is essential.

Websites to use at home

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com> – you will need to create an account for your child for this free game that will help them practise their phonic skills.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> – phonics games to reinforce phonic skills. This website has a free section and a section that you need to subscribe to – the children have used the free section at school.

<http://www.ictgames.com/lcwc.html> – an online version of the “Look, say, cover, write, check” approach to learning spellings

<http://www.booktime.org.uk/have-some-fun/#/d/booktime/have-some-fun/> – games, animated stories and creative activities related to well-known children’s stories.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=loopcardsv6> – develop mental maths skills with a range of different number facts. The game is played like dominoes.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> – mental maths practise against the clock

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/caterpillar-ordering> – practise ordering numbers

http://mrcrammond.com/games/understanding_number/Understanding_number.swf?sid=3683 – a game to practise number recognition for 1 to 10.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/5_6/science_5_6.shtml – interactive activities related to different areas of science.