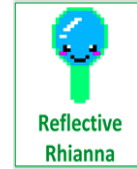




Being safe, being  
respectful, being *our* best



## Earith Primary School: Curriculum Newsletter Class: Gold Class



Term: Spring 1

### English:

Our key text for this half term is titled '*The Explorer*' written by Katherine Rundell. Our writing will be based on the themes from the text and will include: writing to inform (newspaper reports) and writing to entertain. We will continue to have a strong focus on sentence structure (and correct punctuation) to ensure that writing meets the year 5/6 expectations. We will also continue to focus on our planning, editing and re-drafting skills, to ensure that our published work is engaging for the reader.

**Reading** – reading fluency and comprehension will be a key feature of learning.

This will involve whole texts and extracts, which will ensure a deeper level of understanding within a text – looking at inference, authorial intent and focusing on language choices.

### Maths:

During the first part of the term, we will recap on key learning from last term – finding fractions of amounts, addition/subtraction of fractions and multiplication of fractions.

We will then move on to solve more complex mathematical problems, using fractions and percentages. Following this, we will solve problems using our knowledge of area and perimeter. Within every maths lesson, children will recall their knowledge from previous topics to ensure that they are confident with all mathematical processes taught so far. We will also focus on daily retrieval practice of times tables facts to ensure that they can be recited 'off by heart' and are used fluently within mathematical problems.

## **Science**

In science, pupils will look at the life cycles of plants and animals in their local area, working scientifically to observe the life cycle of a local tree and the animals that interact with it. Developing on this knowledge, we will then look at the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds in more detail. Pupils will study the details of these life cycles and will consider the various stages, including metamorphosis.

Specifically, children will study chimpanzees, newts, bumblebees and cuckoos. When studying cuckoos, children will learn how the behaviour of the cuckoo differs from other animals. This unit also covers reproduction of flowering plants. Children will work scientifically to observe and dissect a flower. They will recognise the importance of pollination, which transfers pollen from the anther to a stigma within a flower, allowing fertilisation to take place. They will also recognise the importance of insects such as bees in the pollination process of flowering plants. As well as this, children will find out about the life and work of Sir David Attenborough and Dame Jane Goodall. They will have the opportunity to undertake research into their work and how they studied and communicated their findings about the natural world.

## **History:**

Our topic for this half term is 'The Industrial Revolution'. During this unit, the children will look at the similarities and differences between the impact that the Industrial Revolution had on the lives of the rich and the poor, and how the Industrial Revolution had a transformative effect - not just on Britain, but the whole world. However, we will focus on Britain and key inventions, such as the cotton mill, the steam engine, and the train. The children will learn that through harnessing fossil fuels to power engines, factories and machines, the Industrial Revolution fundamentally changed the way that human beings lived. We will also learn about the treatment of working children at this time, and making comparisons with today.

## **Geography:**

During this unit, children will explore the following geographical issues and their impact on Britain: air pollution, flooding, waste and litter. They will use geographical data, to study regions of the UK affected by these issues. Children will learn that government departments use data on these issues to make policy decisions that can impact upon people and the local environment. Children will also have opportunities to study a local issue to investigate and debate.

## **Religious Education:**

R.E this term will focus on Sikhism. Children will learn about key aspects of Sikhism and how some Sikhs choose to represent their faith. Within this, we will learn about how their faith is practiced by different sections of society and begin to make comparisons between Sikhism and other faiths – focusing on morality.

## **PSHE:**

Our topic for this half term will focus on 'Community and Diversity'. Within this, we will develop the children's sense of identity, and understand how other people can influence their perception of themselves. They will also learn about the ethnic make-up of their community and different groups that live in Britain. Furthermore, they will

learn about the negative effects of stereotyping and prejudice, and the influential role of the media,

### **Art:**

In art, the class will be looking at gothic and classical architecture and will study and draw famous London buildings, including, the *Houses of Parliament*, *St Paul's Cathedral* and *Westminster Abbey*. The children will then study the work of the Victorian pre-Raphaelite artists. They will look in detail at *Ophelia* by *Millais* and *The Annunciation* by *Rossetti* and consider how these artists wanted to reflect reality in their paintings by engaging in careful observation. The class will then practise careful observation themselves, by using watercolours to paint flowers.

### **PE:**

**Indoor PE** will focus on gymnastics. Within this unit, we will practise the different skills within gym work, such as coordination, symmetry and core strength. By learning these key skills, we will work together to choreograph and perform routines. **Outdoor PE** will focus on the game of Tag Rugby. We will continue developing the skills of: marking techniques, ball control, coordination and utilising all of the space on the pitch. We will learn and develop our understanding of the rules of the game, and focus on balance, agility and good sportsmanship.

### **Music:**

In music, the class will be learning about the history of musical theatre. They will be able to explain what musical theatre is and recall some of the features of this kind of music, including categorising songs as action songs or character songs. They will then create, rehearse and perform their own musical theatre scene in groups – ensuring smooth transitions between spoken dialogue, singing and dancing.

### **DT:**

In DT, the children will be making a bag decorated with appliqué or embroidery. They will research and investigate, design, make and, finally, use and evaluate their product. When making, the children will be learning sewing skills such as pinning, threading a needle, tying a knot, performing different stitches and tying off.

### **Computing:**

This unit will focus on 'The Mars Rover'. Within this unit, children will learn about how the Mars Rover transmits data over vast distances, and how we use this data to gain knowledge about Mars and space. Children will also learn about how data is transmitted across radio waves and the importance of the use of binary, within the computing world.

### **Foreign Language:**

Within French, children will continue to develop their oral sentence structure and pronunciation. They will recap on previously taught topics, before moving onto Describing people – including their characteristics and appearance. They will also learn key adjectives to describe personality.

### **Big Questions for the Half Term:**

**History** – How did Britain change during the Industrial Revolution?

**Geography** – Are environmental issues affecting Britain?

**Science** – What are the different stages in the life cycle of plants and animals?

**RE** – How do different communities of Sikhs celebrate their faith?

**Art** – What was art and architecture like in the Victorian times?

**PHSE** – Who lives in our community?

**Computing** – What are the key points about the Mars Rover?

**Music** – What is musical theatre?

**DT** – How can a bag be designed so it is suitable for its purpose?

### **Big Vocabulary for the Half Term:**

**History** – Cotton mill, industrialisation, cottage industry, cotton spinning, mass production

**Geography** – air pollution, climate change, waste, synthetic, litter, World Health Organisation

**RE** – Sikhism, world-view, Guru, five Ks, Gurdwara, Langar, Kheertan.

**Art** – Victorian, classical, neoclassical, gothic, pre-Raphaelite, realism

**PHSE** – diversity, community, self-identify, mental health, prejudice, stereotypes, media.

**Computing** – Mars Rover, binary, radio waves, Mars, space, atmosphere, light years

**Science** – reproduction, mammal, amphibian, metamorphosis, hibernation, incubate, larvae, fertilization, germinate, pollution

**Music** – composer, librettist, lyricist, director, choreographer, designer, score, opera

**DT** – natural, synthetic, seam, hem, fray, backstitch, plait, aesthetics, embroidery, appliqué

### **Other Information:**

Please ensure that children come to school with a water bottle (filled) each day. This is **essential** to keep hydrated!

PE days will continue to be on a Monday and Thursday. Outdoor PE will be on a Monday and indoor PE will be on a Thursday.

Weekly spelling assignments will be uploaded to Spelling Shed, which follow the Year 5/6 programme of study.

Weekly homework task (from GCP) books, are given out on a Thursday and due in the following Wednesday.

All homework tasks (including daily reading, Active Learn & TT Rockstars), support and align with your child's learning within the classroom.

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February.