

Stones, Bones and Iron Thrones

Our Learning - LKS2 Autumn 1

A simple guide to what your child will learn this half term and ways you can help at home

OUR BIG QUESTION

How did life change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

English & Maths

English

Reading: Year 3 will be introduced to VIPERS, our way of teaching reading comprehension, while Year 4 will keep building these skills. This half term we will focus on understanding new words, finding information and evidence in a text, and summarising the main points. Our reading will link to hunter-gatherers, prehistory and rocks.



Writing, grammar & punctuation: This half term we will spend extra time strengthening grammar and punctuation. Children will practise organising ideas into paragraphs, joining ideas with words such as when, before, after and because, adding detail to descriptions, keeping the same tense and beginning to punctuate speech. They will use these skills in short pieces such as diary entries, reports and survival guides.

Spelling: We will use Spelling with Grammarsaurus, adapted for our mixed Year 3/4 class. Children will explore how words are built, spot spelling patterns and practise important words for their year group.

Maths

Place value - children will be working towards being able to:

- read, write and make numbers in different ways - Year 3 to 1,000 and Year 4 to 10,000;
- explain what each digit is worth and split numbers into place-value parts (hundreds, tens and ones; thousands in Year 4);
- find 10 or 100 more or less (and 1,000 more or less in Year 4);
- compare and order numbers and place them accurately on number lines;
- in Year 4, round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000 and read Roman numerals to 100.

We will then begin addition and subtraction:

- use mental and written methods, estimate answers, check subtraction with addition (and addition with subtraction), and solve problems. Year 3 will mainly use numbers up to three digits; Year 4 will extend this to four-digit numbers.

How you can help at home

Read every day

If possible, encourage your child to read every day. Re-reading familiar books builds fluency and expression. Talk about new words, ask "Where did you find that answer?" and ask your child to tell you the main idea of what they have read.

Optional maths practice at home

Use prices, house numbers, scores or car number plates. Ask what a digit is worth, find 10/100 more or less, order a few numbers, make the largest or smallest number from chosen digits, or estimate a shopping total before working it out.

Our Topic

History

Children will find out how life in Britain changed from hunter-gatherers to early farmers and then through the Bronze and Iron Ages. They will use timelines, artefacts and other clues left behind to learn about homes, tools, technology, beliefs and everyday life.



Geography

Children will explore why people choose certain places to live. They will think about the importance of water, land and resources, see how settlements change over time and use maps to find and compare different settlements.



Science

Children will look closely at different rocks, compare their features and sort them into groups. They will learn how fossils form, what soil is made from and discover the work of fossil hunter Mary Anning.

Design & Technology

Children will design and make a prehistoric survival pouch. They will make a simple pattern, measure and mark fabric, cut and join pieces, add finishing touches and think about what worked well and what they would improve next time.



How you can help at home

Talk about our topic

Ask your child what they have discovered about prehistoric Britain, settlements, rocks and fossils. Encourage them to explain a new fact, teach you a new word or tell you what evidence helped them work something out.

Complete a Home Learning challenge together

Your child will bring home an optional Home Learning Grid linked to this half term. If you wish, choose an activity together, share ideas and help them create something they are proud to bring in for our Home Learning Gallery.

Computing



Children will learn what digital devices do and how they can connect to each other. We will look at what information goes into a device, what it does with it, what comes out and how information can be shared across a simple computer network.

Music

Children will play percussion instruments together, adding different layers to songs. They will practise keeping their own part while listening carefully to the rest of the group.



Spanish

Children will learn greetings, names and ages, numbers to 20, colours and simple classroom phrases. The focus will be on listening, joining in and growing in confidence when responding in Spanish.



PE

Basketball: ball control, passing, moving into space, teamwork and simple attacking and defending.
Gymnastics: balance, strength, control and linking movements together into sequences.

PSHE - Feelings & Wellbeing

Our question is "How can I manage my emotions?" Children will learn words to describe feelings, notice how emotions can affect them, practise ways to manage strong feelings and know when to ask for help.

RE DAY - Beliefs & Values

Children will have a dedicated RE Day. We will explore what people's actions, traditions and community life can tell us about what they believe and value, using examples from Christianity, Islam and non-religious worldviews.