



Curriculum Newsletter

Year 5

Summer 1 - Ancient Maya Civilisation

Welcome Back!

We hope that you all had a restful holiday and are ready for Summer 1! Our World Learning topic this term is Ancient Maya civilisation and our Science topic is Forces. In Literacy, we will be reading 'Middleworld' by J&P Voelkel, a mysteriously thrilling story about a fourteen year old city boy who has to embark on an adventure to rescue his parents from the Maya underworld.



Goldilocks words:

The Goldilocks words are the key vocabulary the children will learn, understand and be able to use by the end of the topic. They are called Goldilocks words as they are not too easy, not too hard, but just right!

Civilisation	Glyph
Agriculture	Hierarchy
Astronomy	Maize
City state	Sacrifice
Code	Temple

Ideas for home learning:

- Draw a Maya map
- Create a head dress for a King or Queen using recycled materials
- Research the history of the Mayans and make a presentation about your findings
- Sketch ancient Maya costumes
- Research the food the Ancient Mayans liked to eat and try and find them in the supermarket
- Practise safely, some of the ball games from Ancient Mayan.

Key messages:

Jade PE—Monday and Fridays

Turquoise PE— Monday and Wednesday

Please remember that children are to come to school in appropriate PE kit on those days. This should be white t-shirt and black shorts or tracksuit trousers and trainers or plimsolls.

Bags, reading books and reading records, and water bottles should be in school every day please. You should aim to read with and sign your child's reading record every night and discuss their reading with them. Home-work will be issued on a Friday and is to be handed in by Wednesday.

Key dates for Summer 1

- Jade trip to Into University Tuesday 6th May
- Turquoise trip to Into University Wednesday 7th May
- Half term—Friday 23rd May

Summer Term 1 2025

Ancient Maya Civilisation

Maths—geometry, in this step children estimate the sizes of angles based on knowledge of what right angles and angles on a straight line look like and measure in degrees. Children should be able to look at an angle and identify whether it is acute, obtuse or reflex, and then will progress to estimating the size of the angle. At the end they should be able to identify: angles at a point and 1 whole turn (total 360°); angles at a point on a straight line and half a turn (total 180°) Use the properties of rectangles to deduce related facts.

In **English** we will be exploring the text: *Middleworld* by J&P Voelkel. We will be writing in role by making inferences about characters' speech and actions, researching Mayan culture and creating a presentation. Presenting our work formally and clearly and writing and performing a play script.

In **World Learning** we will learn about Ancient Maya. In this History topic, we will:

- Explore the Ancient Mayan creation story of the 'Hero Twins'
- Discover why Mayan temples were significant and discuss the relevance of the Copan Stairway
- Learn about logograms and how the Mayans used codices to communicate
- Understand the Mayan calendar
- Debate possible reasons behind the decline of the Ancient Maya Civilisation

In **Science**, we will be finding out about everyday forces that surround us. We will be exploring the force which keeps us grounded and testing if resisting forces are balanced and unbalanced. We will investigate the effects of air resistance and friction and explore the effects of water resistance.

In **RE** this term pupils are given the opportunity to learn about the beliefs within Judaism, through a focus on celebrations and festivals. They will learn the meaning of the festivals for believers, the way in which the festival are celebrated around the world, and what pupils may learn about their own lives and com-

In **PE** this term we will be doing Football with our Moving Matters coaches. We will be exploring, dribbling, keeping possession, passing and shooting and we will end the unit with mini football matches where we will have the opportunity to showcase all of the skills we have learnt.

In **Computing** we will be:

- developing our drawing skills by exploring and creating vector drawings.

In **PSHE**, our Jigsaw theme is Relationships. We will talk about the importance of self-esteem and ways it can be boosted. We will investigate the positives and negatives of online media and what effects it can have and we will be looking at ways we can reduce screen time.

In **Music**, we will be continuing to develop our music skills with Music Matters Musicianship.