

Beech Class Spring 2022

Our theme this term is 'Life on the ocean wave' and the majority of our learning will be linked to this.

In English we will be reading and writing for a range of purposes and audiences, and our writing will link to our theme. We are beginning by looking at the books Kensuke's Kingdom and developing our own narrative writing based on this. We will also be writing diaries, poetry and information texts linked to this. We will be researching Morecambe's history as a seaside resort and will produce our own persuasive writing based on this. We will also be doing some writing linked to our science topics of Living things and Evolution and adaptation. We will be developing our vocabulary and use of grammar and punctuation in order to achieve particular effects in our writing through our spelling and SPaG lessons in order to allow us to use a wider variety in our own writing. We will also be focusing on handwriting, on using correct joins and on ensuring that we form letters which are consistently spaced and sized.

In Maths we will be focusing on fractions, decimals and percentages, converting between these and solving problems using all four operations, linked to work on decimal numbers. After half term, we will focus on units of measurement, including time and will be converting between metric and imperial measures and reading tables, charts and timetables. We will move onto algebra, forming expressions, finding rules and forming and solving equations. Our geometry focus will be on areas and perimeter and we will also be learning about ratio and proportion.

Our Geography and History will link to our theme. We will be investigating ways in which our local area have changed over the past 200 years and investigate possible reasons for this. We will consider why changes occurred and how these are linked to other aspects of change—for example, the development of the railways linked to the rise of Morecambe as a holiday destination. We will consider questions such as 'Why was Morecambe a popular location' as well as giving reasons why it declined in more recent years. We will link this to our developing understanding of chronology and will consider ways in which we can find out about the past.

Our Science will focus on classification of plants and animals. We will find out about ways in which plants and animals are grouped, based on observable features and will explore ways in which living things produce offspring of the same kind, but not identical to their parents. We will explore life cycles and reproduction. We will move on to looking at ways in which different animals are adapted to their environments and how these adaptations sometimes lead to evolution.

Our DT/art will link to our theme and we will be using materials to make our own cushions. We will develop our sewing skills and consider the best ways of joining materials.

Our IT will focus on using Word, PPT and spreadsheets as well as finding out about internet safety.

In music, we will continue to learn the clarinet and will be working on developing our reading of notation, our understanding of musical vocabulary and our performance and listening skills. Children have all had a couple of reeds each but could we please request that you purchase any reeds needed for this term as to do this for a whole class, on top of subsidising lessons, is prohibitively expensive. All children have been advised what to buy and have written this in their reading records.

RE this term will begin with a focus on Islam and will consider who makes rules, what rules we follow and what rules are followed as part of the Islamic faith. We will also be finding out about Ramadan. After half term we will be focusing on Christianity and on the Easter Story and its importance for Christians around the world.

Swimming will continue on Wednesday mornings for the whole class until February half term. After half term, Y5 will be swimming with Y4 and Y6 will remain in school to do SATs booster work. Our other PE session will be **gymnastics before half term** and will be on Wednesday afternoons. Mrs Hunter-Dale will continue working with us every other week. Please ensure all children have a school PE kit in school - a school PE t shirt and shorts for indoor PE and a PE t-shirt, shorts or jogging pants and trainers, not pumps for outdoor PE. All jewellery must be removed for PE and swimming and children need to be able to do this themselves.

Homework for Y5/6 is given to provide opportunities for children to develop self-study skills and work on individual targets. Children are expected to read each night and record this in their reading record. They can fill this in independently and sign this themselves, I would ask that parents check this weekly and discuss their child's reading with them.

Maths learning journey targets also need to be worked on each night for 5-10 minutes. Children need to write the date and target in their books so I can see what they are working on and can then work on targets using written or mental methods.

Spellings to learn are recorded in children's yellow books and they need to work on these through the week. Sometimes we will be exploring a letter pattern and sometimes children will be working on their own personal spellings.

Please encourage your children to develop good habits of checking bags for homework each night, completing tasks set and getting things ready for the morning.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come in and see me.
Thank you
Mrs Starr