

Birkrigg – Summer 1

Welcome back to a new half term. Our topic this half term is Pirates and later in the half term we will have a Pirates day when the children can come to school dressed as pirates!

Literacy

We will continue to teach Phonics daily. The children are enjoying our 3 short reading practice sessions weekly with the new reading books. We will continue to change home reading books twice a week. The children will bring their new books home on a Tuesday and a Friday, along with a book an adult can read to them from our school library. Please comment in your child's reading journal if you have heard your child read. Rereading a reading book will improve your child's fluency and confidence.

The texts we will use this half term include 'The Pirates Are Coming', 'The Night Pirates', 'The Pirates Next Door' and 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Breakfast'. Lots of opportunities are provided to talk about these stories, making predictions and asking questions. We will describe pirates and create a character profile, describe treasure, write a message in a bottle and a letter among other writing activities. The children are beginning to be able to write sentences and we are working on using a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, a full stop at the end and finger spaces in between words.

Maths

We are going to be building numbers and counting patterns beyond 10. We will also start adding more to a number and taking away. We use different resources so children can physically move objects to understand this number work, such as ten frames and number shapes. We will look again at 2-D shapes and how they can be rotated or combined to make new shapes. We will get out lots of jigsaws to begin with before moving on to tangram activities.

Understanding the World

In our science work we are going to investigate shadows and how they are formed (there are references to shadows in one of our Pirate story books). Hopefully we will get some sunny days so we can explore shadows outside! Linked to pirates we will explore materials by sorting treasure items according to their properties and investigating which materials float, and which sink.

We will find out what pirates are and what they did as well as learning about some famous pirates in history.

In Geography we will talk about what an island is and how pirates might have found their way around the seas and oceans. We will look at world maps and globes to find where the oceans are and name some of them. We will learn the 4 basic compass directions and how a compass is useful to navigate with. We will of course be making our own treasure map!

RE

Our topic this half term is 'Special Places'. We will explore special places that the children like to visit, including places outside. We will think about what makes places special.

We will then look at special places and buildings for Christians around the world and explore examples of special places that other faiths have.

PSE

We are going to think about keeping healthy in terms of eating healthily and how we can look after our teeth. We will find out what pirate food was like and maybe try out a pirate recipe or two!

Music

This half term the unit is called 'Big Bear Funk'.

Expressive Arts and Design

Linked to our Pirates topic, we will draw pirates, listen to sea shanties, create pirate pictures to music, and make our own antique pirate treasure map. We are going to talk about 'The Great Wave' by Hokusai and produce our own 'great wave' using printing.

Computing

There will be new activities on Mini-Mash linked to Pirates. Children will have more opportunities to write using the writing templates.

PE

We continue to have two hall times for PE on Monday and Thursday afternoons although as the weather improves, the games unit will be taught outside on the playground. The children enjoyed last half term's dance unit all about Eggs so we will take part in another dance unit but all about Pirates this time! In games, children will carry on having the opportunity to practice and refine their running skills and practice turning their body to change direction in the mini games that we play. They will continue to practice their throwing and catching skills with beanbags and different sized balls.

As usual when the weather allows, we will use the bikes and scooters on the school playground and visit the field where possible.

If you have any further questions, please ask.

Miss Turner and Mrs Edmondson