

Our theme for Spring Term 1 is:

Amazing Australia

Our main focuses are:

- To understand the geography of Australia and the surrounding continent
- To discuss the characteristics of Australian animals
- To group animals based on their characteristics

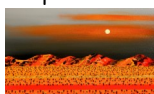
Our theme will last for:

6 weeks.



Art

Pupils in Year Six will be studying the Wentworth Galleries in Sydney, Australia. We will investigate the art style and its features, before attempting our own inspired art!



French

This half-term, pupils will be discussing the weekend in French and we will then be using this to improve our discussion skills in the French language.

No Outsiders in our School:

During our 'No Outsiders in our School' lessons, we will be looking at the story 'Leaf' by Sandra Dieckmann. This story will then be used to discuss difference and how the fear of difference can be overcome.

P.S.H.E. and e-safety:

We will be exploring whether our online self is a true reflection of our real self, as well as how different forms of media choose to present information and the effects this can have on us as consumers of media.

Behaviour and Safety.

We are going to be thinking about what the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships, both in persona and online.

R.E.

We will be looking at Roman Catholicism, looking in more depth at confession and what a Catholic Church looks like. This will include us looking at The Ten Commandments and why this is so important in Catholicism.



P.E.

For this half term, we will be developing our gymnastic skills. Through learning balances and movements, we will hope to create a final piece that we can perform to one and other at the end of the half-term.



P.E. lessons take place on a Wednesday, however if your child could have their P.E. kit in school at all times, this would be useful.

English:

In English, we will be starting our next novel study unit, reading the book 'Trash' by Andy Mulligan. As we read through the book, our work in English will be based around the events and characters in the novel.

- We will be using our knowledge of letter writing so that we can write in the style of multiple characters in the story.
- Also in English, we will be writing an alternate chapter, based on the themes in the book.
- Our new book talks about an amazing festival called "The Day of the Dead," therefore we will be creating information sheets to explain all the wonderful things that happen during this time in the style of a travel brochure.

This term, we will be practising reading papers on a regular basis. It is therefore really important that pupils read on a daily basis. If you would like to help your child, please speak to your child's class teacher about how you can support them at home.



Geography

During our topic, we will be using atlases and maps to find where Australia is situated and also to discover what geographical features are nearby. We will learn about the climate of Australia and recap geographical vocabulary. Furthermore, we will also be:

- Discovering what life is like for people in Australia.
- Comparing Australia to the United Kingdom, in terms of both human and physical geography.
- Re-capping our knowledge of countries and continents.
- Identifying the major urban centres in Australia and investigating how they are important for trade and transportation.
- Analysing the location of settlements in Australia and where they are in relation to rivers and the coastline.



Shared home learning:

Please encourage your child to read for 20 minutes, as a minimum, every day. This should be logged in their reading journal on a daily basis. Our vocabulary and spellings, that we will be practising and looking at over the half-term, will be shared via Seesaw over the coming weeks and these can be discussed, practised and looked at whilst at home. It is always great to ask your child the definitions of the words and see if they can put them into a sentence! Maths and English homework will be set on a weekly basis. The answers for this will accompany the work and raffle tickets and rewards may be given for these by the teachers. A topic project will be set in the coming weeks on Seesaw - for this one you can let your creativity take hold! If your child is having any issues accessing Seesaw, please speak to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. **Spellings will be assessed in class throughout the week, based on the words that come up in English and Topic lessons. There will no longer be a weekly spelling list sent home for the children to learn.**

Important Dates:

9th January—Wonder Day!
16th January—History Day
22nd January—World Religion Day
w/c 29th January—First Aid Week
w/c 5th February—Children's Mental Health Week

6th February—Safer Internet Day
9th February—LGBT History Day
w/c 12th February—Story Telling Week

Mathematics

In this half-term, we will be teaching to the specific needs of our classes. The topics we will be covering are:



- Word problems in real life contexts - you could support your child by discussing with them 'the Maths.' that is all around us and talk about how you would solve these problems.
- Interpreting and analysing pie-charts and line-graphs.
- Measure and converting between different units of measure using graphs, such as millimetres, centimetres, meters and kilometres.
- Using our knowledge of BODMAS to solve multi-operation problems.
- Using our knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages to help solve a variety of reasoning problems.
- Investigating ratio and proportion, as well as the links between them.
- Arithmetic skills will continue to be a key part of our learning this half-term, as will times tables facts. Children should make sure they know all tables as well as associated division facts, as this will help them to achieve highly during our weekly Arithmetic sessions.

Science

We will be using 'Amazing Australia' as inspiration for Science. We will be investigating the features of animals in Australia and looking at their characteristics and habitats. Having done this, we will then be characterising them and grouping them based on these. Do you know the difference between a kangaroo and a wallaby?



Computing

During this half-term, we will be looking at computer networks and how they work. We will be exploring how information is transmitted on local and wider networks. Then we will be using our knowledge of these systems to create our own 'networks' using our exciting 'LittleBits' kit. This is a system of electronic building blocks that snap together to turn ideas into inventions - such as making a mini Mars Rover or creating our own musical instruments!

Music

In our Music sessions, we will be continuing to work on our skills and rhythm whilst practising with the steel pans. Also, we are going to start to rehearse longer pieces of music. Hopefully we can share some of these with you soon.

British Values

Our focus for British Values for this half-term will be 'Individual Liberty.' What do you think this means? Maybe you could share some ideas on Seesaw.