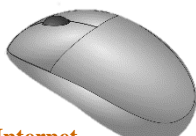


Computing

This term our computing topic is Systems and Networks. This unit explores the World Wide Web focussing on:

- How systems are linked through the Internet
- What the Internet is made of
- How to safely share information
- What a website is
- Who owns the Internet?
- Learning what to believe and what not to believe on the Internet



We will also continue to develop our touch-typing skills using the BBC Dancemat program, focussing on the bottom row keys.

Design Technology

We have learned how to create a range of exciting mechanisms such as levers, V-folds, baubles, steps and multi-steps which we will now use to create our very own pop-up books designed for younger children!



Science

We will complete unit on 'Changing State'. In this unit we will explore the concept and meaning of the three main states: solids, liquids and gases. We will learn about the properties of each and explore complex examples such as solids that behave like liquids. Later in the topic we conduct experiments to separate solids from each other and solids from liquids. We will also explore what happens when solids and liquids are heated and cooled.

English

After completing our unit on writing to inform, we will start a Narrative unit based on the novel 'Leon and the Space Between' by Angela McAllister and Graham Baker-Smith. This unit will focus on the features of storytelling and allow children to develop their skills with using dialogue, prepositions, adverbs and expanded noun phrases. Later in the term we will complete a poetry unit based on the book 'Every Kind of Poem You will Ever Need at School' edited by Paul Cookson'. This unit will allow the children to practice language skills such as onomatopoeia and to work with rhythm and rhyme.

Welcome back everyone! This half term promises to be a very busy but very exciting one in Year Four!

Art

We are currently exploring portraiture and the unique work of artist Frida Kahlo. We will use her work to explore realistic techniques for drawing faces, eyes, noses, mouths and hair as well as exploring how we can project identity through portraiture. Later, we will use the work of other artists such as Giuseppe Arcimboldo and Picasso to explore more abstract ideas.



Maths

The main unit for this half term is fractions. The unit will focus on exploring what fractions are, finding fractions of shapes and amounts as well as learning about equivalence. Later in the half term we will start another longer unit on Decimals where the children will explore decimals up to 2 decimal places and link this knowledge to their previous unit on fractions.



Humanities (History, Geography & Religion)

We will continue our current History topic on The Anglo Saxons until the Easter break. The children will explore the importance of the findings at Sutton Hoo and will consider whether this period in History should really be considered a 'Dark Age'. We will complete our Geography unit on Spectacular Spain by exploring food, festivals and bullfighting!

In Religion we will continue to compare beliefs and practices in Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism, focussing particularly on important customs around birth. We will also explore the Christian Easter Story and some traditions.

Year 4 will have PE on Thursday afternoons where we will be starting a unit in Dance. This is an indoor session. Our remaining hall time will be devoted to learning dances for our upcoming pantomime 'Hoodwinked' which the children will be sharing in March.

There will be a heavier focus on Times Tables in our Maths Fluency sessions this half term. The children have been rehearsing facts for the 2/3/4/5/6/7 and 10 times tables. This half term we will concentrate on the 8, 9 and 12 times table. It is vitally important that children continue to practice these at home to become quicker and more accurate in preparation for the Y4 national times table test in June.

Spanish
Children will learn how to express likes and dislikes. All four areas of language learning – speaking, listening, reading and writing will form the basis of each lesson. The children will also learn Spanish vocabulary linked to places, food and festivals through our Geography work this term.

Reading

Year Four are doing well with remembering to read regularly and to present a signed reading record on Monday mornings. I have been impressed with the range of texts that the children are reading at home and the supportive feedback you have given in their reading record. Please continue to support your child at home with reading this half term to maintain their good progress.

The children will continue to be set homework – they will have weekly spelling words and are expected to read at least three times each week. They should also continue to practice times tables and other essential number skills. There may occasionally be additional tasks that could be any subject e.g. a history task/science investigation or research into a geography topic set on the Google Classroom.

We will be continuing to read The Butterfly Lion by Micheal Morpurgo as our class novel. The children are enjoying this book very much!

Reminders

The music for our pantomime 'Hoodwinked' has been uploaded to the Google Classroom and the children can also access a copy of the words for each song there too. Please encourage your child to practice these songs regularly so that they become less dependent on the words. We will be doing this in school too as it is important that the children are confident when they go on stage in front of an audience.

Please ensure that your child has an indoor PE kit in school and that all items are labelled. It is also helpful if children's uniform is clearly labelled to make any lost property easy to reunite with its owner!

Should you have any queries or concerns, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to contact me at school via Admin or through my own email: gail.burt@panshanger.herts.sch.uk I will endeavour to respond as quickly as I can. If you prefer to chat face to face, I am available for teacher surgery on Wednesdays.