

General Reminders

- If your child is absent from school for any reason, please telephone us (01442 252972) on the first day of absence. If you do not notify us the absence will be unauthorised.
- Please make sure that you advise the School Office promptly of any changes of address, telephone numbers, emergency contacts etc.
- Please ensure your child is on the playground at 8.40 a.m. to ensure a prompt start to the school day. KS2 parents are asked to leave the playground at this time.
- If you need to speak to me, or see one of the Office staff, **please use the main entrance**, not the fire door at the end of the corridor outside our classroom. I will be on the playground at the end of each day if you want a quick word. Mrs Jakeman will be teaching the class on Thursday afternoons. Thank you.
- Pupils should not be absent from school for any reason other than illness. If, however, you need to take your child out of school due to EXCEPTIONAL circumstances, a request form must be completed. These are available from the School Office. Mrs Washford Mower will consider requests on an individual basis on behalf of the Governing Body.
- All children should bring water bottles to school with them each day.
- Remember to check our website for latest news, photographs and other information.
www.nashmills.herts.sch.uk

Nash Mills C of E Primary School



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

Teacher: Mrs Ofosu

Anglo Saxons Invade!

Our first topic will be based around the Anglo Saxons. In History we will be focusing on Anglo Saxon invasion.

We will explore maps of Great Britain and Europe and use these to annotate where the Anglo Saxon invaders came from.

We will link this to our English topic on Legends, exploring some myths that the Anglo Saxons believed in and using that information to write legends of our own.

Raging Rivers!

After half-term we will be looking at rivers.

The children will find out more about why rivers are so important to the towns and villages that have developed on their banks. By looking at the features of rivers, and the natural and human ways that rivers change over time, we will explore the life stories of rivers. The children will learn the names and locations of the major rivers of the UK and the world.

English

Reading

Reading is a vital part of the curriculum. Pupils read in small groups with an adult at least once a week. In addition, they may read to a parent volunteer. Please read with your child for ten – fifteen minutes every evening and record this in their Reading Record. They can choose a library book and will be able to change these at lunchtimes. Please discuss illustrations and discuss the plot, as these skills will help your child to write their own stories. Please speak to me if you would like any further advice.

Writing

Our foci this term are legends, reports, poetry: vocabulary building and riddles.

Spelling

We will be following the 'No Nonsense Spelling' programme. The focus will shift from the traditional weekly spelling test to daily teaching and child-orientated activities with the aim of teaching spelling, rather than just assessing it. Children will be tested on a random selection of words that fit the previous spelling rules on a regular but not weekly basis. The best way to support your child will be to help them to learn the words they have been exploring in class, using them in context.

Homework

Homework will be set on Wednesday and due in the following Monday. Please support your child with their homework and ensure a high standard of presentation is achieved.

Maths

Maths concepts and skills are introduced and revised throughout the year. This term we are focusing on several aspects of maths as follows:

Number

Place value, ordering and rounding
Properties of number and number sequences
Fractions, decimals and percentages

Calculation

Rapid recall of addition and subtraction facts
Understanding addition and subtraction
Rapid recall of multiplication and division facts
Mental strategies and paper procedures for recording answers
Check results of calculations

Solving Problems

Reason and generalise about numbers and shapes
Make decisions (choose and use appropriate operations to solve problems)

Measure, shape and space

Measure	know and use the relationships between familiar units of length, mass and capacity
Shape	know all regular and irregular shape names and their properties – faces, edges, vertices, symmetry
Space	co – ordinates and directions

Handling Data

Present and interpret data in tables, charts and simple graphs

Homework

Please continue to practise times tables everyday with your child including division facts, as these are vital for all areas of mathematical development. Written tests will be done on Fridays.

Helping your child at home

Talk! Discuss the day and future plans. Encourage your child to express an opinion and to give reasons for it as this will help them to voice their ideas confidently and benefit them when they need to write persuasively; discussing the purpose of homework or school uniform and appropriate bedtimes will definitely result in some animated discussion!

Encourage your child to keep a diary, writing about key events or their thoughts, sticking in tickets or photographs.

If you have a road atlas in the car, why not teach your child how to read a map? Once they can do that, perhaps they could work out a route between two places. Help them to locate major cities.

When you are shopping, let your child pay for something and see if they can calculate the change before they are given it.

Cook together; let your child weigh ingredients and use a clock to calculate the time a cake needs to bake. Ask questions such as 'If we were going to make a cake for Grandma as well as ourselves, how much flour would we need then?'

If you measure your child's height at home, can they make a graph from their measurements, working out a sensible scale to use? Can they convert it from metres to centimetres and millimetres?

Play a times tables CD in the car and practise constantly!

History

This term the children will be learning about the invasion and settlement of the Anglo-Saxons and how it impacted on Britain. They will be improving their map and atlas reading skills.

Religious Education

Children will explore different pilgrimages and their rites, and develop an understanding of how these stem from religious beliefs and teachings. They will investigate the significance of pilgrimage for local, national and global communities.

Physical Education

The class will be taught the game of Tag Rugby on Wednesdays and netball on Fridays. Please ensure your child has suitable kit as we play in all weathers, and it may be very cold and muddy later this term. The focus after half term will be gymnastics.

Personal, Social and Health Education+

We will be following the 'Jigsaw' scheme of work this year which is designed to include Emotional Literacy, Social Skills and Spiritual Development. Children will have the opportunity to create individual dreams and goals, and to understand the importance of having a positive attitude. We will be discussing healthy friendships and peer pressure, as well as influences on healthy lifestyles.

French

This term the children will develop and build on their existing knowledge of the French language, particularly in terms of oracy. They will develop their confidence in speaking French, as well as their understanding of languages and how they work. Our focus will be on our family and months of the year.

Key vocabulary

You can help your child by discussing core vocabulary which will be encountered each term to help build confidence and familiarity.

English

homophone
irregular verb
past tense
present tense
suffix
prefix
noun
noun phrase
expanded noun phrase
simile
verb
adjective
adverb
fronted adverbial

Maths

multiple
sequence
predict
regroup
pattern
relationship
positive
negative
rule
sum
total
estimate
alternate
round

Science

cell	volume
buzzer	vibrate
conductor	air
switch	pitch
open	loud
closed	ear
bulb	hear
appliances	medium
circuit	faint
electricity	wire
insulator	
danger	
safety	

Other

invade
Celts
Picts
settlement
defend
rule
Saxons (Germany)
Angles (Holland)
Jutes (Denmark)
troops
Germanic tribes

Science

In the first half of the term, the children will learn how sounds are produced by vibrations and that these vibrations travel from the source through a variety of materials. Musical instruments will be used to illustrate how pitch and loudness can be altered; data-loggers will allow us how to investigate levels and patterns of sound in our school surroundings.

After half term, the children will be looking at electricity. They will be taught to identify common appliances that run on electricity, construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers, identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery, recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit.

Design and Technology/Art

The theme of our art work will be the seaside to link with our rivers topic. We will be using Pointillism in the style of Georges Seurat to paint. Pupils will be taught to use small, distinct dots of colour applied in patterns to form an image.

In DT, the children will apply their knowledge of using hinges and sliders for moving pictures to create pop-up storybooks. They will also be taught different joining and cutting techniques with paper and card.

Computing

Computing is taught directly through the Herts scheme of work in termly units.

This term, the children will be using the 'Scratch' programme. Our focus will be on designing, writing and debugging programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems and solving problems by decomposing them into smaller parts.

During our lessons pupils will also be using the computers and i-Pads as tools to support and develop their learning.

Useful Website

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Music

The children will be following the 'Charanga' scheme of work throughout the term.

