

St Mary's C of E Primary School Curriculum Newsletter

Class – Normanby Term – Spring 1, 2024

Welcome to Normanby's Curriculum Newsletter for the start of the spring term. I hope you find the following information useful to understand the areas which we will be covering and how some of that links into our topic for the term: Twitchers.

English

In English we will be focusing on contemporary novel: Twitch. This is the first in a seasonal quartet revolving around a group of young birdwatchers - the Twitchers. In this book we meet Twitch, who prefers the company of birds to people and has an expansive knowledge of and passion for birdwatching. The clever central concept is that the powers of observation, awareness and diligence that come from being a birder lead Twitch into helping track down and outwit a dangerous robber.

Information about British birdlife is naturally embedded throughout the narrative, often imparted by Twitch himself, and avian vocabulary appears in various place names, such as Aves Wood and Plover Lock. It's also a gripping adventure narrative, and delves into the meaning of bravery and friendship, with well-crafted character arcs that span and develop across the rest of the series.

Geography

In Geography, we will be exploring our local environment, including the wildlife that inhabits it. We will be using fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

Science

In Science, will be looking at birds and other wildlife with regards to the differences in their life cycles. We will also be thinking about how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals. We will also identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

DT

In DT we will be researching local birds in our environment and their habitats. We will be looking at different designs of bird boxes and feeders and considering the materials and process for creating these. Pupils will then build their own bird boxes or feeders.

Mathematics

In Maths, we begin to learn about Ratio. Pupils will apply their knowledge about fractions that they developed last term to ratio and make links between the two. They will explore ratio language including scale factors and proportional problems. We will then be moving onto Algebra.

Physical Education

In this half term we will be splitting our PE session between Swimming on a Wednesday and Outdoor Adventurous Activities (such as map work) on a Thursday.

Foundation Learning

In Art, we will working with shape and colour, using our natural world as a stimulus. In RE, we are thinking about Hinduism and the big questions is: What spiritual pathways to Moksha are written about in Hindu scripture? In PSHE, we are focusing on our dreams and goals and celebrating the diversity of opportunities that lay ahead. In Spanish, we are learning vocabulary based on eating out. In Music, we are continuing to learn about composing and chords. In Computing we will be exploring blogging.

Memorable Experiences

This term we will be visiting the Arundel Wetlands Centre and will be going off-site to our local area to observe the wildlife around us.

Home Learning

It is our expectation that you will continue reading for 20 minutes four times a week (minimum) and that you will record this in your reading record book. We shall be continuing with a class reader of the week, the winner of which could be someone who has made good progress or someone who has tried really hard with their reading that week. Maths homework will come home each week also.

Many thanks,

Mr Day, Mrs Black and Mrs Sankey