

## Normanby Curriculum Newsletter – Spring 2

### **Memorable Experience – Arundel Wetland Trust / Pulborough Brooks**

To enrich our science learning, pupils will visit either Arundel Wetland Trust or Pulborough Brooks. This hands-on experience will help them explore the habitats and life cycles of different species, providing real-world links to our classroom studies and inspiring curiosity about nature and conservation.

### **English – *Twitch* by M.G. Leonard**

Our core text this half-term is *Twitch*, a contemporary novel by M.G. Leonard. This exciting story follows a young birdwatcher whose passion for wildlife leads him into an unexpected adventure. Through this text, pupils will produce a variety of writing including setting descriptions, narrative recounts, persuasive arguments, and character analysis. Grammar lessons will focus on developing cohesion and sentence variety, while spelling will continue to consolidate statutory word lists. Guided reading discussions will help pupils explore themes such as friendship, justice, and environmental awareness.

### **Oracy – The Great Debate**

Building on their English work, pupils will take part in *The Great Debate*. They will learn how to structure arguments, use persuasive language, and present points clearly. The emphasis will be on respectful listening, building on the ideas of others, and speaking with confidence in front of an audience.

### **Mathematics – Measurement: Area and Perimeter**

In maths, our focus will be on measurement. Pupils will calculate the perimeter and area of a range of 2D shapes, including compound and irregular forms. They will learn to use formulae efficiently and apply these skills to real-world contexts such as architecture and design. Reasoning and problem-solving will remain central, encouraging pupils to explain their methods and apply knowledge flexibly.

### **Science – Life Cycles**

In science, pupils will study the life cycles of plants, insects, amphibians, birds, and mammals. They will compare similarities and differences across species, exploring how reproduction and growth vary between groups. Practical activities will include observing local habitats, carrying out scientific drawings, and discussing how human activity affects ecosystems.

### **History – The Mayans**

Our history topic this half-term is the Mayan civilisation. Pupils will explore the achievements of this fascinating culture, including writing, mathematics, and architecture. They will also consider religious beliefs and daily life, comparing Mayan society with other ancient civilisations. A special session with “Paul History Man” will help bring the period to life, providing artefacts, storytelling, and interactive activities.

### **Geography – N/A**

There is no discrete geography unit this half-term, though geographical skills will be drawn upon in our history and science work.

### **Design Technology – Frame Structures: Birdboxes and Feeders**

In DT, pupils will design and build birdboxes and feeders using frame structures. They will learn to

measure, cut, and join materials accurately, considering strength, stability, and suitability for outdoor use. This project will link directly to our science learning on life cycles and habitats, as well as our memorable experience.

### **Art – Fashion Design (Mayans)**

Our art unit is focused on fashion design, inspired by the Mayan civilisation. Pupils will study the work of artists and designers such as Alice Fox, Rahul Mishra, Pyer Moss, Tatyana Antoun, and Narielwalla, exploring how clothing and headwear can express identity and culture. They will experiment with pattern, texture, and materials to create their own imaginative designs.

### **Computing – Coding**

In computing, pupils will complete a coding unit. They will design and debug their own programs, using sequencing, repetition, and selection. This will involve building games or simulations, testing their work, and refining it to ensure it runs effectively. These lessons strengthen problem-solving and logical thinking skills.

### **Music – Enjoying Musical Styles**

In music, pupils will explore a range of musical styles, listening to and responding to contrasting genres. They will continue to build performance skills through singing and instrumental work, focusing on rhythm, pitch, and expression.

### **PSHE – Mental Health**

Through the Jigsaw unit *Mental Health*, pupils will learn strategies to look after their wellbeing. They will explore topics such as resilience, managing emotions, and supporting others. Activities will encourage reflection, empathy, and positive coping strategies.

### **RE – Freedom and Justice? (People of God)**

In RE, pupils will explore Christian beliefs about freedom and justice. They will reflect on biblical texts and stories, and consider how these values influence Christian action in the world today. Pupils will be encouraged to discuss big questions about fairness, responsibility, and morality.

### **MFL – My World**

In Spanish, pupils will study the topic *My World*. They will learn vocabulary to describe their surroundings, such as places in town and features of their environment. Activities will include map work, dialogues, and role-play, encouraging pupils to apply language to real-life contexts.

### **PE – Dance and Cycling**

In PE, pupils will develop creativity and coordination through dance, learning to combine movement, rhythm, and expression into short choreographed routines. They will also focus on cycling, building stamina, balance, and road awareness. These activities will develop both fitness and confidence.