

Normanby Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 1

Memorable Experience – Winchester Science Museum (STEM)

We begin the year with a visit to Winchester Science Museum, where pupils will enjoy hands-on exploration of science, technology and engineering. This exciting day will inspire curiosity and set the tone for our learning in science and beyond.

English – *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce

Our core text this half-term is *Cosmic*, a humorous and imaginative novel by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. The story follows Liam, a boy who ends up on a space adventure that blends family drama with big scientific ideas. Children will use the book to inspire a wide range of writing including diary entries, persuasive letters, and extended narratives. Alongside this, we will develop grammar skills such as ambitious sentence structures and accurate punctuation, while spelling lessons will focus on statutory Year 5/6 words and key patterns.

Oracy – Harvest Prayers and Poems

Linked to our Harvest celebrations, pupils will compose and perform their own prayers and poems. They will practise public speaking skills such as projection, expression and clarity, and will learn to listen carefully to each other, offering constructive feedback.

Mathematics – Place Value and the Four Operations

In maths, we begin by consolidating children's understanding of place value in large numbers and decimals. They will learn to read, write, compare and order numbers confidently, and to round numbers in real-life contexts. The focus then shifts to the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Pupils will practise both mental and written strategies, applying them to problem-solving and reasoning challenges.

Science – Space

Our science topic this half-term is *Space*. Children will explore the planets of the solar system, the movement of the Earth and Moon, and the causes of day, night and the seasons. They will also investigate the phases of the Moon and learn about space exploration, from the first astronauts to modern missions. Hands-on activities and models will help bring these concepts to life.

History – N/A

History will not be taught as a separate unit this half-term, though historical links will be drawn through other subjects where appropriate.

Geography – Sea Defence and Our Planet

In geography we will study coastlines and sea defences, looking at how natural processes and human intervention shape the landscape. Pupils will also consider the broader theme of "Our Planet," learning about seasonal change and the importance of protecting our environment. Map work and fieldwork skills will be built into this unit to develop geographical enquiry.

Design Technology – N/A this half-term

DT will return later in the year with larger projects.

Art – Brave Colour

Our art topic is *Brave Colour*, inspired by artists Olafur Eliasson, Yinka Ilori, Morag Myerscough and Liz West. Pupils will study how these artists use bold and vibrant colour to transform spaces and

create emotional impact. They will experiment with colour theory, pattern and design, creating their own striking compositions.

Computing – Quizzing & Online Safety

In computing, children will complete the Purple Mash unit on Quizzing, learning how to design and evaluate interactive quizzes. This develops logical thinking and digital literacy. Online safety will also be taught throughout the year using the 2BeSafe programme and National College resources, helping children to understand digital footprints and safe online communication.

Music – Singing and Playing in Different Styles

In music, pupils will explore a range of musical styles through both singing and playing. They will experiment with rhythm, melody and harmony, while developing confidence in performing individually and as part of an ensemble.

PSHE – Being Me in My World

Through the Jigsaw unit *Being Me in My World*, pupils will reflect on their personal identity, talents and ambitions. They will consider how their choices affect others and how they can contribute positively to the classroom and wider community.

RE – What Does the Qur'an Say? (Revelation)

In RE we will study the Qur'an and explore the concept of revelation. Pupils will learn how Muslims believe the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, and how it continues to guide faith and daily life today.

MFL – All About Me

In Spanish, pupils will learn vocabulary to describe themselves, their families and their hobbies. They will practise speaking and writing simple sentences, and will use songs and games to reinforce new language in an enjoyable way.

PE – Rugby and Football

This half-term in PE, pupils will focus on invasion games. In rugby, they will develop passing, tackling and teamwork skills, while in football they will practise dribbling, defending and shooting. The emphasis will be on collaboration, resilience and fair play.