



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Reading

The reading focus this term will be recognising story structures. The children will learn to identify the categories of content (characters, setting, events, problem, resolution). Children will do this through the use of story maps.

VIPER Character Focus



This term we will be consolidating our knowledge of VIPERS by using a range of character focuses within texts

Summarise, Predict, Questioning, Infer, Retrieve

Class Reader

Michael Morpurgo- Toro Toro

Author Focus

Mary Norton – The Borrowers



How you can support at home?

Please listen to your children read regularly. Discuss the meanings of sophisticated language you come across in the text. Ask children to read around the text to clarify the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Writing

This term, the children will be using their topic 'Viva Espana' as a stimulus for their writing. The children will begin the term by exploring the story of 'Toro Toro' by Michael Morpurgo. From this, they will write a description of a setting using the knowledge of the text to make links with how the character is feeling in the Bull Ring. The children will also write a diary entry from the perspective of a Spanish Matador detailing the day in a life and the emotions experienced. Another big focus of our writing this term will be on non-fiction journalistic writing where children will experience taking part in their very own 'La Tomatina Festival'. Using this first-hand experience the children will use their skills to write a newspaper article reporting on the Spanish event. As a class, we will debate whether the controversial Spanish tradition of bullfighting is right or wrong. We will use this to create our own persuasive speeches, letters and balanced arguments.

Within these tasks, they will continue to develop their grammar, punctuation and spelling skills, which they will ensure they will apply in other areas of the curriculum.



Mathematics

This term, the children will be developing their knowledge of decimals. The children will begin by making links with their previous learning in fractions. They will then apply their knowledge of decimals to support them when solving problems involving money. The children will make links with real life events based upon their topic 'Viva Espana' such as adding up the cost of a meal from a Spanish menu as well as working out the costing of a holiday to Spain. The children will build on their problem solving skills using the four operations.



Vocabulary

Decimal, Place Value, Money, Pounds, Pence, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Lots of, Total Amount, Change, Left Over, Currency, Fractions, Expenditure,

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Creative Curriculum

Our topic this term is 'Viva Espana'. Where we will research and explore the European country – Spain. In Geography, the children will begin by locating Spain on a World map identifying seas, key cities and famous landmarks within Spain. They will compare and contrast Spain with the UK, and then find out more about the physical and human geography of the country, including the climate. The children will also find out about how tourism affects Spain. Finally, they will focus on Catalonia, and discuss why some people who live there want independence from the rest of the country. They will also conduct a study on the city of Barcelona.

Within Art and Design, the children will learn about great Spanish artists, architects and designers. The children will make silhouettes experimenting with their drawing and sketching techniques.

Within History, they will learn about The Spanish Armada and discuss how it was the most powerful naval fleet of its time. Also, the children will explore Spanish history and culture by looking in detail at historical festivals such as the La Tomatina Festival and the controversial sport of bull fighting.



Vocabulary

Barcelona, Sagrada Familia, Antoni Gaudi, Architects, Continents, Spanish Armada, Culture, Traditions

Science

This term our initial Science topic is electricity. We will start by identifying common appliances that run on electricity. Then we will investigate how different electrical circuits work using concrete materials. We will construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. Developing our scientific thinking, we will then 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. This will then enable us to recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associated metals. During the final term, we will explore the topic of sound. We will begin by identifying how sounds are made, associating some of them with vibrations enabling us to recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear.



Vocabulary

Circuit, Bulb, Buzzer, Wire, Switch, Conductor, Insulator. Vibrations, Wave, Ear Drum, Ear canal, Anvil, Cochlea, Stirrup, Volume, Pitch, Air, Simple Circuit, Parallel, Appliance, Soundproofing, Note, Power Source

Enrichment

Spanish Day- As part of our topic 'Viva Espana', we will host our own Spanish day where we will take part in a range of different activities such as making and tasting Spanish cuisine, learning the traditional Spanish dance the Flamenco and by taking part in our very own 'La Tomatina' festival.



Important Dates

- INSET DAY – School Closed Thursday 2nd May 2019
- Friday- PE. Please could you ensure that the children bring the correct kit needed for both indoor and outdoor sessions.