

Year 4 - Areas of Study Spring 2 - 2025

Topic Title: Anything Glows
Key Question: How do we brighten up our world?
English (Reading and Writing)
<p>In guided reading, the children will be studying a book called <i>The Puffin Keeper</i>, by Michael Morpurgo. This fictional novel explores the story of a young boy who is rescued from a four-masted schooner, one stormy night, by a Benjamin, who lives on Puffin Island. Themes within this narrative include determination, conflict, emotional resilience, family, friendships and skills for adulthood. In guided reading lessons we will be using VIPERS style of questioning (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Summarise).</p> <p>In our writing lessons during Spring, the children will identify the features of, plan and write different styles of writing. These will include writing a biography on Thomas Edison, from his early life to greatest achievements. Children will research and plan their biography after studying different examples. This lends itself well to our topic this half term of electricity and children will be able to use the information they have learned in DT and science to support the writing of their biography. We will also have a unit of learning based around writing a diary entry. Within this, the children will read a range of diary entries and pick out different features of language and writing techniques that have been used in this style of writing. They will be taught to explain the effect of these techniques and have a go at including the key features that they have identified within their own diary entry that they will write. The entry will be written from the perspective of the Lighthouse Keeper in a short-animated story, linking well to the theme of electricity and light. The children will be designing and constructing their own lighthouse with a working circuit and bulb inside in DT this half term, so this unit of writing is sure to hook their creativity and excitement.</p>
Maths
<p>Maths will be taught discretely throughout this topic, following the White Rose scheme of work. The children will be exploring the following topics during Spring 2:</p> <p>Fractions and Decimals.</p> <p>Throughout their learning in each unit of work, the children will have access to practical manipulatives and resources and will be taught the real-life applications of the skills they are developing.</p>
Science
<p>Science learning this half term will involve investigating one main topic: electricity. Within our electricity unit of work, the children will identify common appliances that run on electricity. We will go on hunt around the school and record which appliances are battery operated, which use mains electricity and whether there are any which use a combination of the two. The children will be given plenty of time to experiment and investigate how to make a bulb light up in a simple series circuit. They will be given the scientific equipment to use and explore during these</p>

lessons, taking their learning into their own hands. We will explore the use of buzzers and switches in a circuit, alongside associating the correct scientific symbol with each component that is used and identifying common conductors and insulators. Creating a cross-curricular link with DT, the children will use their knowledge and understanding of creating a circuit to construct a lighthouse model.

History

Not taught this half term.

Geography

Not taught this half term.

Art

The children will have the opportunity to use a range of techniques to make a range of mark-making, based on the Chiaroscuro movement. The children will use pencils to create tonal sketches of still life. They will learn different shading techniques and learn how to use graded pencils.

Design Technology (DT)

In DT this half term, the children will put the skills and knowledge that they have acquired in science into practice by creating a working model of a lighthouse. We will learn about the work of Thomas Edison; including who he was, his early life and successful achievements. The children will research different styles of lighthouse to inform their decisions, then use this inspiration to design their own lighthouse model based around a paper cup. They will include a working circuit inside this lighthouse and choose where to put the bulb that will shine brightly once they have connected the circuit up correctly in the making process. The children will decide which colours and additional materials they will need, alongside the equipment that will support them with constructing their circuit. After this, we will build our lighthouses. The children will be sure to remember the unit of English where they will write a diary entry as a lighthouse keeper at the start of this half term; so that will link brilliantly to this activity. Once it is complete, the children will evaluate their final product; assessing where their strong points achievements and what they could improve next time.

Music

This half term in music, the children will study a Sing up unit called *This little light of mine*.

This little light of mine is an expressive call-and-response Gospel song based on a pentatonic scale. The origin of the song is not 100% clear – some believe that it was written in the 1920s as a song for children by Harry Dixon Loes, but he never claimed the credit for it. Some believe the lyrics are taken from one of Jesus's speeches to his followers in the Bible. The song has links with the civil rights movement in the United States and became an anthem in the 1950s and 1960s. Famous versions have been recorded by many artists including Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Ray Charles, The Everly Brothers, and The Seekers.

Religious Education (RE)
<p>RE will be taught weekly throughout the year. This term, pupils' learning will be based around the key question of 'Is forgiveness always possible for Christians?' The children will learn about the meaning of forgiveness, the parable of the Prodigal Son, if Jesus was able to forgive and learn how Christians believe Jesus forgave others.</p>
Physical Education (PE)
<p>This dodgeball unit focuses on the main attacking and defending skills needed to play the popular invasion game of dodgeball. Children will be learning dodgeball-specific throwing and catching ball skills, as well as different methods and techniques used to dodge the ball, including jumping, ducking and sidestepping. They will learn about the rules of dodgeball, as well as some tactics that will help them in a game scenario. The children will take part in a range of different dodgeball-based games and drills - in pairs, small groups and as a whole class.</p> <p>In outdoor P.E., the children will learn to play tennis. They will develop serving, forehand and backhand skills. They will also begin to impact spin and speed of the ball as the ball bounces or changes trajectory.</p>
Computing
<p>Year 4 will be using the audio programme Audacity this half term in computing. The children will develop their skills of working with an audio programme so that they can record their own podcasts on their 'Shining Hero' from their English writing lessons.</p>
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
<p>PSHE will be taught on a weekly basis throughout the year. This half term, the children will understand the concept of 'community'. This will include: the benefits of living in a community, what it means to be part of a community and which different communities they belong to. They will start to understand that within these communities, there is a non-exhaustive list of different groups. They will be taught how to show respect, compassion and kindness towards others and the need for sharing responsibilities within a community.</p> <p>This half term the children will also focus on the key components of money and work. They will learn skills to help them make informed and sensible decisions about money; alongside investigating how to safely use their money and keep track of it. This unit of work is important as it will help prepare for their futures and know how to be responsible financially.</p>
Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)
<p>French will be taught weekly, we will be covering the topic of pets ('As tu es un animal?') this half term. The children will be exploring the French vocabulary for different types of pet that they, their family members or friends may have in their homes. The children will learn how to ask and answer the question: do you have</p>

any pets? They will learn to construct a simple sentence to respond to this, alongside being taught more advanced vocabulary to extend their learning and add detail to their answers.

The children will learn the eight nouns and matching gender articles for the different pets. They will consolidate the new 'Pet' vocabulary and use "J'ai..." ("I have...") "et" ("and")

The children will be introduced to using the structure "qui s'appelle..." ("that is called...") and learn how to use the negative structure "je n'ai pas de / d'..." In addition, they will link all their new language together and be introduced to a new connective "mais" ("but").

[*If you require additional information relating to our school curriculum, please ask at the school office or the class teacher.](#)