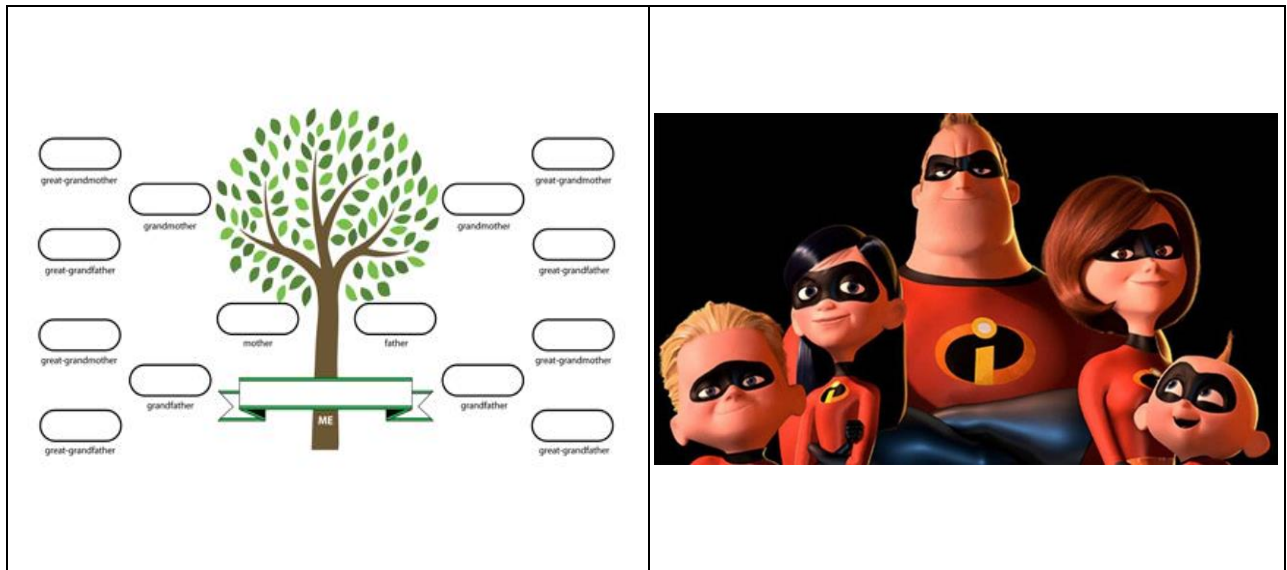


Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Merlins

Autumn 2019



Our History Theme:

My Family Tree

Our Christian Values:

Caring Commitment to Achieve Co-operation
Fairness Honesty Respect



Welcome back to school Merlins, to begin a new school year as Year One and Two! I hope you have had a fun and relaxing summer holiday and feel ready and raring to go for an exciting Autumn Term. We have lots of enjoyable activities planned, that I am eager to share with you! First and foremost, we will be introducing our History topic of 'My Family Tree', which will explore our own backgrounds and those of our other family members. I wonder how your childhood so far compares to that of your parents, or even your grandparents? We can all look forward to a wonderful term of learning and I am excited for us to discover lots about ourselves along the way.

Throughout the whole of the Autumn Term we will be exploring the History topic of 'My Family Tree'. As before, we will begin with a WOW Day to enthuse the children and an Exit Day to celebrate all of the fantastic learning, which has taken place over the term. We are very excited to develop our historical skills, where we will explore and compare history within the living memory of ourselves and our families.

Autumn Term 2019
Our theme is 'My family Tree'.
On our WOW Day, we will be sharing family photos and beginning to explore our family tree.
As part of our Exit Day, we shall be hosting a tea party for our family members who have helped us in our topic work this term.

English

During the Autumn Term, we will be linking our English closely with our History topic and exploring and describing our family. This will allow us to write narratives about our personal experiences and those of others. We will begin by practicing some key skills, such as using capital letters for names and expanded noun phrases to enhance descriptions of both ourselves and family members. We will explore a range of traditional and modern text types such as 'The Family Book' and the 'Billy Goats Gruff' to compare our own families with those of the authors' fictional characters. As a result, we will be able to develop our formal writing styles by writing reports about different families. We shall be using Toy Story stimulus to explore how toys have changed over the decades and later in the term uncover which family members may have been sent to war through our Remembrance Day learning. We will also use a range of poetic devices to bring Bonfire Night to life in our written work. In each of our writing purposes, we will build resilience in our learning by firstly planning aloud what we wish to write about, before writing down key ideas that exploring new vocabulary. We will begin to evaluate our writing, both with our peers and teacher and learn how to re-read our work to check it makes sense.

Mathematics

In Maths this term, we will begin by exploring the place value of numbers. This will include counting, reading and writing numbers forwards and backwards, to and from 20 for Year 1 and 100 for Year 2. We will learn how to represent numbers, using key strategies such as the part- whole model and a place value chart to begin to assist us in adding tens and ones. We will progress to comparing numbers and objects, using a range of language and comparison symbols (<, > and =). Finally, in our place value topic, we will order objects and numbers, using number lines to assist us. Later in the term, we will begin addition and subtraction. We will learn to recognise and count money, recognising coins and notes. We shall use our number bonds and fact families to find patterns in number sequences and use this knowledge to develop addition and subtraction bonds. We will use a range of strategies to add numbers; Year 1 will learn to add by adding more, adding by 10 and counting on. Year 2 will progress this further to add a 2 and 1- digit number and eventually two 2- digit numbers also that cross the tens barrier. Please continue to access Mathletics at home to support your child's maths learning.

Science

Within science, we will learn about the similarities and differences between animals, including humans. We will learn about our bodies and senses. We will also group animals by their main characteristics and learn about different animal's bodies. Finally, we will be introduced to the idea of food chains by learning about what animals eat and their preferred diets. Our science work will have cross- curricular links to maths through use of measuring skills and PSHE via learning about showing respect for animals, as well as other humans.

History

In our history lessons, as part of our family tree topic, we will be learning to sequence people in time order, to assess changes within living memory. This will help us to understand the concept of life chronology and appreciate the idea that generations have come before us and had different upbringings to our own. We will compare and discuss how the toys, technology and fashions have changed between these generations. Finally, we shall use our newly acquired knowledge to answer questions about the past from a number of information sources.

R.E

Our topic in RE this term is 'Being Human', with a focus on the religion of Islam. We will consider what the Qur'an says about how Muslims should treat others and live their lives and compare this to the Bible's teachings about Christian's compassion. We will consider our individual and school values and discuss why we choose to live by these. We shall also discover how the Muslim faith and beliefs can be seen in the actions of inspirational Muslims.

Computing

In our computing learning, we shall be using the ICT suite and class discussion to explore the important topic of E Safety, otherwise known as 'internet safety'. Through this, we shall learn about the dangers, as well as the positives, of using the internet and decipher ways to use the internet as safely and effectively as possible. We will also be discussing the importance of knowing who we are talking to online; ensuring that we all know the correct procedures to follow if we feel someone isn't who they say they are.

PSHE

PSHE lessons will be based around the topic, 'All About Me'. This will incorporate what it means to be 'me' in a variety of environments, with school at the forefront of this. The children will explore their rights and responsibilities as a member of a class and recognise the choices they make and the consequences of these choices.

Art

In art throughout the Autumn Term, we will explore and experiment with a range of media, via creating portraits of both ourselves and family members. We shall learn to draw lines and make marks from observations, using a range of materials. We will develop our skills further by working on a number of different surfaces, adapting both textures and colours within our artwork to the environment we're working in.

Music

In music, we shall be exploring 'Old School Hip Hop'. We will compose our own raps and edit the words to existing raps, which link closely to our new topic. We will also explore breakdancing and the 80s Hip Hop music culture (we're hoping some of our relatives might be able to tell us more about this too!) Later in the term, we will also introduce the Reggae style of music and through this medium, discover action songs that link to the foundations of music.

Cooking in the Curriculum

Our cooking provision for the term will build towards us preparing a tea party to hold during our topic Exit day for our family members. This will teach us a range of cooking skills, such as how to stir, spread, knead and shape a range of food and ingredients. We will also begin to learn how to work safely and hygienically within a kitchen environment, in order to prepare some delicious treats for our relatives! Furthermore, we will learn how to make a Jumping Bean couscous salad, allowing us to improve our chopping and measuring skills.

P.E

In P.E, we will be swimming and encompassing a range of techniques in our multi- skills lessons. Later in the term, we will be progressing to playing multi- games once we have built up our skillset.

Important Information

Our weekly homework will be set on **Thursday** and returned on **Monday**.

Our swimming day is: **Tuesday**

Our P.E day is: **Friday**

We will change reading books on a **Monday** and a **Thursday** and will give the children two books at a time. If you would like to change them more regularly, we invite you to come into the classroom after school and pick out some new books with your child, or equally ask your child to access the book boxes during the school day. It is very important for the children to be reading at home in order to help them progress through the various different stages and improve their vocabulary, which in turn helps them in their writing. Please continue to encourage your child to apply their phonic knowledge and skills to decode words, and encourage them to re-read books to build up their confidence in their reading abilities. Questioning your child on what they have read is equally important. Asking them to recall key events and define words will have a significant impact on their comprehension skills and will support their guided and independent reading provision at school.

Please understand that the children's reading stage will be changed when they have demonstrated over a period of time that they have improved their fluency and comprehension on that stage. There are a number of varied books for each reading stage and it is important that the children read a breadth of different genres. Before making the decision to move the children up a level, I always consult their National Curriculum first. I do carry out reading conferences each term, in order to check they are on the correct reading stage. This will be communicated in your child's reading diary.

I plan to take in every child's reading diary on a Monday to check the frequency of reading at home. I ask for your support with this. The children will be working hard at school on their fluency and comprehension. By reading regularly at home, the children also receive the support from you in order to further aid in their progress.

For all children at this stage in their primary school career, it is crucial that they learn and recognise the importance of increased independence. We therefore appreciate your support in encouraging your child to take responsibility for their belongings, such as reading records and PE kits. Whilst they will be told when they can change their books at school, we will be encouraging the children to choose their next book independently and be organised in ensuring that their possessions are in the correct place at the beginning of each school day.

We are always looking for willing parent volunteers to come into school to listen to the children read. If you can help with this, it would be greatly appreciated. Please see me if you think you can help. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to approach me.

Kind regards,

Miss Bates