

Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term 2024

Junior Class

'Sow, Grow and Farm'

This term, our class topic is Sow, Grow and Farm. During this topic, children will learn about allotments in the United Kingdom and how the government encouraged people to have them to support food rationing during the Second World War. They will have the opportunity to learn about farming in the United Kingdom and the techniques used in modern farming, including the challenges that farmers face. They will learn about the benefits of eating seasonally and about the pros and cons of importing food. They will also learn about world farming and how the different climate zones affect where different foods can be grown.



English



This term during our English lessons, our young writers will develop their descriptive and instructional writing skills through a series of engaging projects. First on the agenda is the creation of step-by-step instructions on how to plant strawberries. This hands-on experience will not only enhance their writing abilities but also deepen their

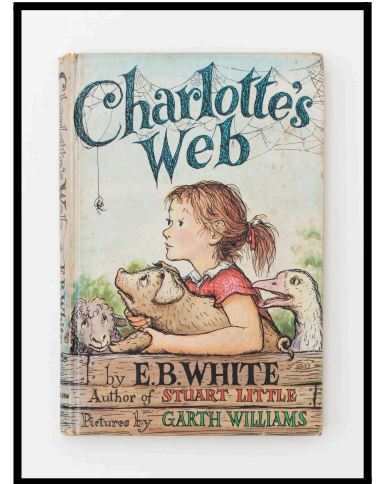
understanding of the natural world. Following this, children will immerse themselves in the daily routine of a Farmer in the UK, using their imagination to craft vivid descriptions explaining daily life as a Farmer in the UK. Lastly, our inquisitive minds will embark on a comparative journey, identifying the unique aspects of farming in the UK and India. This cross-cultural exploration promises to broaden their horizons and foster a global perspective. During each of these projects, children will continue to develop their grammar skills and apply more creative and advanced grammatical structures and vocabulary within their independent writing.

Class Story

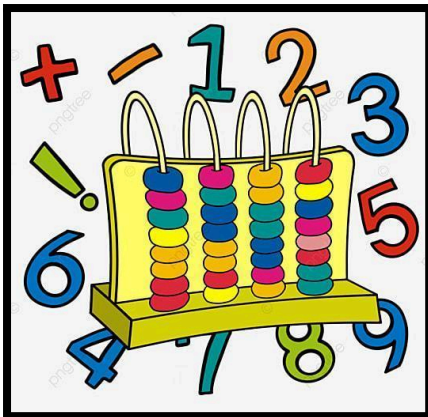
Linking to our topic 'Farm to Fork', our class book this term is Charlotte's Web by E.B. White.

'From grammar to the tenderness in which this story is delivered, E. B. White's writing is so perfect... And Garth Williams's muted illustrations are entirely without fault. Whether read aloud or solo, this is a book well deserving of its "classic" status.' - The Children's Book Review

Wilbur the pig's life has already been saved by Fern, but when he is sold to her uncle, he realises his life is in even more danger. Enter Charlotte A. Cavatica, a beautiful large grey spider. Charlotte is determined to keep Wilbur from the chopping block, and comes up with an ingenious way to do just that.'



Maths



This term in maths, our primary focus will be on mastering addition and subtraction, laying the foundation for more complex concepts. As the term progresses, students will delve into the world of multiplication and division, honing their skills through engaging activities and applying these skills in multi-step problems. Additionally, we'll introduce the concept of fractions, providing a hands-on approach to understanding this fundamental mathematical concept. Children will develop understanding of ordering and comparing fractions, discovering how to find equivalent fractions and will include the operations of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions.

Science

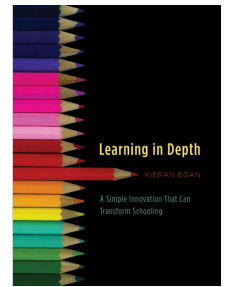
Our young scientists will kick off by exploring the fascinating world of living things and their habitats for the first part of the Spring Term. They'll become experts in using classification keys to group, identify, and name various living organisms, all while delving into the seven characteristics of a living thing (MRS NERG/MRS GREN). Through hands-on activities, students will sort living things in creative ways, construct a dichotomous classification key for local invertebrates, and showcase their skills through observational drawings and a large-scale group drawing of an insect.



After half term, the focus will shift to changes in materials, with investigations into the effects of heating, cooling, and mixing.

Learning in Depth

This term, the Juniors are embarking on an exciting project: 'Learning in Depth'. Children will decide their own topic to become experts in through planning, researching and presenting their learning through different mediums. Throughout the project, children will be recognising, developing and expanding their Building Learning Powers - reflectiveness, perseverance, resourcefulness and questioning skills.



Objectives:

- Ø To guide and mentor students in becoming experts in their chosen topics.
- Ø To assist students in creating an outstanding portfolio of their work.
- Ø To foster and enhance students' Building Learning Power skills.
- Ø To develop students' skills in presenting their work confidently in front of an audience.
- Ø To create an engaging and enjoyable learning environment that inspires a love for learning.

Computing



The children will be learning and using skills as they are needed through our Learning in Depth project this term plus practising drawing using Vectors during book week to create some spider web art.

PE

Children will need to ensure their PE kits are in school at the beginning of every week. This term's focus will be on football and hockey, offering students the opportunity to hone their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. From dribbling and passing in football to the fast-paced manoeuvres of hockey, children will engage in dynamic activities that promote physical fitness and coordination. The PE sessions promise to be



both challenging and enjoyable, fostering a love for sports and encouraging a healthy, active lifestyle. Children will continue to be taught by Adam from Exeter City Football Club every Wednesday afternoon for the Spring term.

PSHE

This term, our focus before half term in PSHE will be on "Celebrating Difference." In Years 3 and 4, students will embark on a journey of self-reflection and empathy as they explore topics such as judging by appearance, understanding influences, and tackling bullying. We believe it's crucial for our young learners to appreciate



the diversity in how we look and to celebrate their unique qualities. Meanwhile, in Years 5 and 6, the exploration will deepen, delving into the meaning of culture, addressing issues of racism, combating rumours and name-calling, understanding various types of bullying, and contemplating the question, "Does money matter?"

After term, our focus will move to "Keeping Healthy." In Years 3 and 4, children will engage in thoughtful discussions about friendships, group dynamics, and the potential risks associated with alcohol and smoking. The unit will conclude with activities aimed at fostering inner strength and assertiveness, empowering our students to make healthy choices in various aspects of their lives. For Years 5 and 6, the exploration into health will extend to understanding the risks of smoking and alcohol, acquiring skills in giving emergency aid, and developing a positive body image. Additionally, our older students will explore the importance of maintaining a healthy relationship with food, promoting overall well-being and a positive approach to nutrition.

Art / Design and Technology



Linking into the Farm to Fork topic, we will be honing our pencil drawing skills by drawing cross sections of fruit. We will then simplify these, turning them into a print for both paper and fabric. We'll also investigate repeating patterns and tessellations to help us create a final piece.

Adventure Fridays

For the first half of the term, children will be going to Rock and Rapids. They will be using the facilities of the bouldering and climbing walls and will be working on agility, balance, coordination, communication, focus and teamwork, guided by the expert instructors.



After half term, another exciting opportunity will be launched!

Music

Children will continue to be taught by Mrs Brayley on a Wednesday afternoon this year. This term KS2 will learn about the music of legendary composer John Williams who wrote the music for films such as Star Wars, Indiana Jones and Harry Potter. The children will explore his use of the orchestra and "leitmotif" - a piece of music linked to a character in a film such as the famous "Jaws" leitmotif. They will also experience a full orchestra with a visit to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, joining in with singing, body percussion, makaton and dance movements.



French



Children will continue to be taught by our French teacher Madame Wilkinson this year. Children will make use of Linguascope and continue to be encouraged to use a French dictionary to help translate topical vocabulary.

Please help your children at home by:

1. Encouraging them to complete their spelling homework and topic homework weekly.
2. Practising times tables and the related division facts using Times Tables Rock Stars
3. Listening to them read regularly, talking about the books read and encouraging children to record their reading in their reading record books as well as take quizzes on Accelerated Reader.

Homework:

Children in year 3, 4, and 5 will be given a piece of spelling each week on a Friday to be handed in on the following Thursday. They will also be given multiple topic related homework activities termly which will be optional for children to complete. Children will be rewarded for their efforts in completing these activities.

Children in year 6 will receive the above homework as well as an additional maths or English based activity each week.