



Curriculum Newsletter Term 4



Our theme this term is:

The Mayans:

Here are some key facts our children need to know:

The Maya civilisation began long ago in a place called '**Mesoamerica**'. This huge area is made up of **Mexico** and part of **Central America**.

Ancient Mayans are often remembered for their calendar, pyramids and writing and number systems. The Maya used a **number system with the base number of 20** (we use a base-10 number system). They wrote numbers using a system of **bars and dots**. A bar represented the number 5. Every 5 numbers they added another bar. The number zero was written with a symbol that looked like a shell. .



All Maya shared a common culture and religion, but each city governed itself and had its own noble ruler. These cities never came together to form a single empire.

The **Mayan Kings** were considered to be direct **descendants** of the Mayan Gods. Mayan religion was divided into **three parts** with earth as one part, the level above the earth as another part, and the level below the earth as the third part. The level above the earth was like the Christian heaven and the level below the earth was like the Christian hell.

The Mayans wove **beautiful fabrics** and designed **musical instruments** like horns, drums, and castanets. They also carved huge statues. **Archaeologists** can tell a great deal about the ancient Maya from their wonderful pottery and clay figures. The art they created **honoured** their leaders, gods, and their daily life.

Vocabulary & Other Maya Information to research:

Codices/Codex
Stelae
Pyramid
Temple
Solar
New Fire Festival

Art:

In Art we will be recreating traditional Maya masks using collage and paper mache techniques:

To use collage to add textures and detail to a design





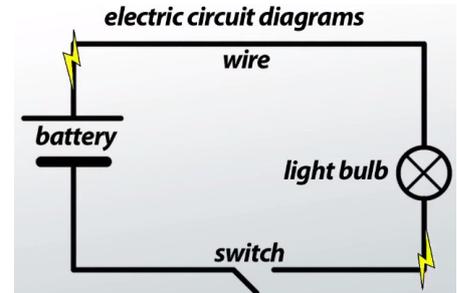
Science:

During our Science on Thursdays, we will continue:

Constructing a series circuit

Investigating the use of switches in a circuit

Understand the difference in properties in electrical conductors and insulators



And begin:

Comparing objects based on their state of matter

Learning how heating and cooling changes state of matter



PE:

We will be learning the following as part of Gymnastics:

To link actions together so they flow

To select and apply a range of skills with good control and consistency

To perform a sequence in movements with changes in level, direction and speed



Maths:

Our focus will be on the following in Maths during this term.

Arithmetic and Measures

At

To use the formal written methods of $+$ $-$ \times \div for 4 digit numbers to balance missing number equations

To \times and \div by 10, 100, 1000

To convert between fractions and decimals

To find equivalent fractions

To convert between measures e.g. g-kg

To solve worded problems including money

To calculate the area and perimeter of a shape

To read scales in different increments

Gd

To use the formal written methods of calculation to balance missing number equations including the use of brackets

To \times and \div by 10, 100, 1000 and 10,000 and present them as fractions

To convert improper and mixed fractions into decimals

To convert two step measures e.g. mm-m

To solve multiple step worded problems including money

To calculate the area and perimeter of a shape and missing sides including different units

To read scales including decimals

English

In English we will be studying the genre of Descriptive Writing this term, starting with our new stimulus of The Jungle Book.

Writing:

Extend and improve sentences using expanded noun phrases

Accurately use inverted commas to identify direct speech

Vary vocabulary to link ideas throughout a paragraph

Reading:

To solve word meaning questions by using synonyms and context

To use the number of marks available to guide the answer

E.g. 2 marks = 2 different points made

3 marks = Point + Evidence + Explanation

To use evidence to support an answer, quoting the text and using 'because' to explain

