

Big Cats Spring Curriculum Newsletter

M

Our topic this Spring term is Chocolate. Throughout Spring 1, we have been exploring 'The Mayans' and during Spring 2 we will be looking at 'Fairtrade'.

This term, Year 5/6 have been learning about the ancient civilisation of the Maya. We have been researching many facts and found out that the ancient Maya lived around 4,000 years ago. They had many different Gods for many different things, these include Gods like Chacc, the God of thunder and rain, and they lived in regions of Mexico and Central America.

English

We have explored a Mayan myth in detail (Rain Player) and familiarised ourselves with a folk-tale (The Chocolate Tree) and then wrote our own version of the myth. We will be writing explanation texts and persuading letters; we will be advertising and creating adverts when selling our own chocolate during Spring 2. When writing, we will be looking to include persuading language and a variety of sentence structures and punctuation marks (semi-colon, colon, hyphen, dash).

Each week we will be learning a spelling rule or pattern which will be practised as part of the week's homework. At the same time, we will be working on words from the Year 5 & 6 spelling list.

Handwriting will continue to be a strong focus this term; please ensure children complete their spellings using continuous cursive (joined-up) handwriting.

Maths

Our units of work this term focus on division, fractions, time and money. Please support your child at home by helping them with their On The Boil targets and how to tell the time

Our Maths On The Boil targets for Spring 1 are:

- Year 5: Know all divisions to 144 divided by 12.
- Year 6: Calculate fractions of amounts (including with the numerator bigger than 1).

Our Maths On The Boil targets for Spring 2 are:

- Year 5: Finding change from £10.
- Year 6: Finding change from all notes.

Useful websites for this are:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Mathmagician/mathsdiv.html>

We would also recommend regular practice with RM Easimaths and TT Rockstars.

Science: Materials

During Spring 1 and 2, the children will be comparing materials based on their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity and response to magnets. They will revise knowledge of solids, liquids and gases, in order to describe how mixtures might be separated. They will also cover aspects of solutions. Throughout the term, the children will be conducting experiments to explore how to separate materials and to explore reversible and irreversible changes.

P.E.

Up to half term the children will be focusing on developing their hockey skills as well as learning about health related fitness with our School Sports Co-ordinator, Lee Smith. This involves looking at ways of improving our health through physical activity and the impact it has on our bodies.

Art and Design & Technology

Spring 1 will have a focus on Mayan designs in art. We will be creating patterns in a geometric and exaggerated Mayan style, as well as looking at the theme of nature. The children will design and mould clay pots which they will add their own Mayan designs to.

Spring 2 will have a Design and Technology focus, where the children will design, create and evaluate their own chocolate bars!

Music

The year 5 children continue have their woodwind and brass lessons. The day has changed for this, so please remember to bring your instruments in on a Monday now rather than a Tuesday

Computing

During the spring term we will be looking at the use of databases: where they are used, why they are used and their features. We begin by looking at what a database is – a collection of information – before thinking about how that information can be sorted quickly using a range of fields to filter the information. This term also sees Safer Internet Day on 7th February where we will be looking at how we can make the internet a safer place to visit by thinking more critically about what content we find there.

History

This term we will be learning about the achievements of the earliest civilizations – with a particular focus on the Mayans.

P.S.H.C.E.

Our theme this half-term is Say No To Bullying. We will be learning about safe use of the internet through the Safer Internet Day in February. After half-term we will be learning about fair trade and joining in with Fair Trade Fortnight.

Important dates

Wednesday 1st February: The Miscalculation of Cap'n Half-inch (Maths workshop for children)

Tuesday 7th February: Safer Internet Day

Friday 10th February: Year 6 Junior Citizens.