

New learning in **maths** this half term, mainly focusses on geometry. We begin with estimating and measuring angles. Next, comes calculating missing angles in a shape by learning what the interior angles add up to. Our understanding of number deepens further as we explore sequences and patterns through algebra and real life contexts. Finally, measures of time, length, mass and capacity are recapped. Key conversions and 'known facts' of measures are used to estimate.

**History** will be the main focus for this half-term, learning about the amazing ancient civilisation of the Maya. Through varied sources, we will begin to discover what daily life was like including the importance of farming and worshipping their gods. Over the weeks, the children's knowledge will develop, as well as their critical thinking as historians, to allow them to explain the significance that the Maya had on our world. We can't wait to share our learning with you during our 'Maya Museum' on 3<sup>rd</sup> April!

During this half term's **RE** unit, we will explore the concept of 'Salvation' with the key question: What difference does the resurrection make to Christians? We begin by understanding why Christians *believe* in the resurrection by studying Bible stories. We learn that, for almost all Christians, the resurrection is the crucial part of their faith and it gives them hope for life with God, starting now and continuing into heaven.



Through our **English** lessons, the children will be writing narrative texts. Firstly, they will employ their story-telling skills to create tales of long, long ago when they scribe a story in the style of an Ancient Maya folktale. Imagination will need to run wild as they conjure up a tale of ancient gods and creatures with unusual abilities. We aim to sharpen their skills with the use of direct and reported speech as a technique of moving a story on.

A more modern adventure-style story will follow. Watching clips from Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom will be the spark to ignite their creativity for this writing task. Writers will be given opportunities to develop their techniques to create suspense at different stages in these action-packed stories. Will the heroes succeed in their dramatic quests?

In **science**, the children will continue to build on their learning of light and shadows from Year 3. We begin by identifying light sources and learning about how light travels. Using scientific vocabulary, they will explain what happens when light meets different objects, sometimes causing shadows that have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

In **PE** this half term, the children will be learning basketball and fitness skills. All classes will take part in these lessons either Tuesday or Thursday. Every other week on a Friday, they will also take part in team building games with Planet Education. Please ensure your child has a named kit in school every day as other activities may also require it.

Through our history learning, the children will discover why the Maya made and wore masks for a variety of reasons. Using impressive Maya designs as inspiration, we will plan, create and evaluate our own 3D Maya mask in **art**. Using paper mache layered over a stable structure, the children will create their base. They will then have the opportunity to add special features to their mask, carefully manipulating the paper mache into shapes. Finally, they will decorate it using their chosen colour of paints to create patterns and symbols.

Our **music** this half term focusses around 'journeys', where the children will be exploring rhythm and melody in singing. The final outcome will be to use these skills to layer vocals on top of each other.

In **computing**, children are given an understanding of spreadsheets and how they can be used. They will learn and develop skills in formatting and entering specific formulas.