



During this term, our theme is:  
**The Maya Civilisation**  
Below are the areas that we are covering this half term



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
<b>English</b>	This half term, we will be reading a great text for Y6 – <i>Wonder</i> by R.J Palacio. This is a story of friendship, hope, humour and the importance of kindness, told from a unique perspective of a young boy who has many of his own challenges to face. This exceptional book, which we are sure the children will love, will drive our reading and writing over the first part of the half term.	Encourage your child to read for pleasure at home and to share what they have read with the class. They may also like to visit the library to read other books along similar themes or by other new children's authors. Any wider reading would be great to capture in some form, possibly a written review, photograph or poster.
<b>History</b> <b>'What Made the Maya Amaizeing?'</b>	We will be exploring the ancient Maya civilisation, learning who the ancient Maya people were, and where and when they lived. We will also be finding out about the religious beliefs and rituals of the ancient Maya people and important inventions during this period in history – including the discovery of chocolate!	As part of this topic we will be learning about the Maya calendar system. See if your child can find out about one of the calendars in more detail. They could also produce a diagram or model to demonstrate how it works.  We will be closely examining people who are significant to the Maya civilisation. Why not see what they can find out about Frederick Catherwood or John Lloyd Stephens and how they link to our exciting topic?
<b>Physical Education</b> Please ensure your child comes to school appropriately dressed for PE on PE days (Class 13 and 14 - Friday)	We will be learning and applying the rules of netball this half term. We will develop a range of skills needed to play the game over each session, before combining these skills to enable us to play full matches.  As well as this, we will be completing a variety of sports hall athletics activities.	Your child could also research a ball game played during the Maya period called 'Pok-a Tok' – an unusual game where players were only allowed to use their heads, shoulders, elbows, wrists and hips to get a ball through a hoop high off the ground!
<b>Art</b>	This half term we will be completing a whole school art project based on the picture book 'The Rules of Summer' written and illustrated by Shaun Tan. The illustrations from this book will be used as a stimulus to encourage the children to reflect on current events, build relationships and help them connect to our school community.	Shaun Tan is an Australian artist, writer and film maker. He has written and illustrated many other books such as 'The Red Tree' and 'The Arrival'. Your child could have a look at one of these at home and produce some art work based on one of his paintings?

<b>Science</b> <b>'How do we Classify Living Things?'</b>	We will be investigating living things, researching the history of classification and famous scientists linked to this. We will be developing our understanding of how micro-organisms, plants and animals can be divided into groups, according to their common characteristics. We will also be devising our own classification keys to see if we can invent systems as good as the scientists we study. As part of our outdoor learning this half term we will be investigating what lives in our school grounds.	Research an area of the natural world your child is particularly interested in. They can present this knowledge in any form of their choice and bring in to school to share with the rest of the class. See if they can produce a fascinating fact file about an unusual species or their favourite animal. We will be studying famous scientists related to our science topic, including Carl Linneaus and Libbie Hyman. Can your child complete some research and find out what they are most famous for doing?
<b>Religious Education</b>	We will be looking at the theme of Humanism, finding out what this means, exploring influential humanist thinkers and discussing their main beliefs.	Encourage conversations at home about the subject. Share your own views honestly and discuss the importance of respecting the beliefs of others.
<b>Computing</b>	This half term we will be continuing to develop our skills in writing our own algorithms as well as editing and debugging existing codes. New skills will be introduced to structure code and animate characters and scenes, gradually building to create a short animated story.	Your child can practise developing their skills at computer coding at home using Scratch Online: <a href="https://scratch.mit.edu/">https://scratch.mit.edu/</a> . Have a go and see what they can create – we would love to see what they have done at home!
<b>French</b>	We will be learning 'All About France' - from its main cities to its famous French people and landmarks. The children will use key vocabulary related to France and in particular to Paris.	Practise using the French vocabulary learnt in school at home. Can your child teach anyone any new French words or phrases? Find out about a famous French person and create a fact file on this person to share in class.
<b>Music</b>	This half term's music is all based around the theme of 'Happy'. We will be listening to, singing, appraising and comparing different genres of music, from pop and country to soul and soft rock!	Research your child's favourite genre of music. Listen to a range of different types and see what they prefer. They may discover something new!
<b>Relationships Education</b>	Our aim through our Relationships Education curriculum is to instil a sense of school belonging again, following a long break from school. All children need an adult who will listen to them and help them make sense of recent events. This will be achieved through a range of fun and interactive activities. We will also think about who our VIPs are and who is important to us.	Our first week back together will focus on Reconnecting as a class, made up of lots of interesting and diverse individuals. With a focus on inclusion, we will play a series of 'icebreaker' and 'getting to know you' games and activities which aim to help children to feel part of the bigger picture and achieve a sense of belonging. Ask your children to play some of the fun games at home with you to show you what they have been doing.



During this term our theme is  
**'Why are The Americas Awesome?'**



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
<b>English</b>	This half term, we will be reading a great text for Y6 - <i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i> by Onjali Q. Rauf. This is a story of friendship, hope, humour and the importance of kindness, told from a unique perspective of a young refugee. This exceptional book, which we are sure the children will love, will be the basic for much of our reading and writing.	Encourage your child to read for pleasure at home and to share what they have read with the class. They may also like to visit the library to read other books along similar themes or by other new children's authors. Any wider reading would be great to capture in some form, possibly a written review, photograph or poster.
<b>Geography</b> <b>'Why are The Americas Awesome?'</b>	In this unit about the Amazing Americas, the children will first find out about the continents of North and South America and the countries that form them. They will also look in more detail at some of the contrasting regions of the Americas: finding out about the landscape, climate and locations of each area.	Children could research an animal or plant indigenous to one of the North American regions studied and prepare a fact file about it. If they love art and design, why don't they consider designing a Native American totem pole and create their own version to represent themselves?
<b>Science</b> <b>'What can we Learn about Animals including Humans?'</b>	We will build on our knowledge and understanding of different systems within the human body, such as the circulatory system. We will explore how a healthy lifestyle supports the body to function and how different types of drugs affect us.	Your child could have a go at making a circulatory system paper model to share in class: Create thier model of the circulatory system by connecting the different parts together and using red and blue string or wool to represent the blood vessels. Our 'significant scientist' this half term is Alexander Fleming. Can your child complete some research and find out what they are most famous for doing?
<b>Religious Education</b>	Leading up to Christmas, we will be exploring the traditions associated with Christmas and exploring what the gospels tell us about the birth of Jesus.	Children could create a book for younger children which reveals The Christmas Story as recorded in the Bible. Children could research Christmas customs and traditions of either yourself or someone else you know.
<b>Physical Education</b> Please ensure your child comes to school appropriately dressed for PE on PE days (PE is on Friday)	We will be learning and applying the rules of netball this half term. We will develop a range of skills needed to play the game over each session, before combining these skills to enable us to play full matches. As well as this, we will be completing a variety of sports hall athletics activities.	Can you ask your child to replicate a PE lesson warm-up that we do at the start of each PE lesson? During this half term, why not complete a Yoga session or two using <a href="https://www.cosmickids.com/">https://www.cosmickids.com/</a> There is a really thematic Halloween Yoga Workout as well as some calming and mindfulness activities – enjoy!

<b>Computing</b>	This half term we will be continuing to develop our skills in writing our own algorithms as well as editing and debugging existing codes. New skills will be introduced to structure code and animate characters and scenes, gradually building to create a short animated story.	Your child can practise developing their skills at computer coding at home using Scratch Online: <a href="https://scratch.mit.edu/">https://scratch.mit.edu/</a> . Let them have a go and see what they can create – we would love to see what they have done at home!
<b>French</b>	We will be continuing to learn 'All About France' - from its main cities to its famous French people and landmarks. The children will use key vocabulary related to France and in particular to Paris.	Practise using the French vocabulary learnt in school at home. Can your child teach anyone any new French words or phrases? Find out about a famous French person and create a fact file on this person to share in class.
<b>Music</b>	This half term's music is all based around the theme of Classroom Jazz. We will be listening to, singing, appraising and comparing different jazz music throughout the ages!	Listen to a variety of jazz music at home. Can your child discover a particular song or artist that you really like? They can share this in class for all of us to enjoy!
<b>Design Technology</b>	The children will be making felt phone cases this half term – great presents for Christmas! They will learn how to make a paper template and then use different stitching techniques to create their case, before adding the finishing touches.	Ask the children to think about who they want to make their case for. They will need to take accurate measurements of the phone so they can make the correct sized case. Write these down and bring them into school to use.
<b>Relationships Education</b>	The children will learn about 'Digital Wellbeing' and how they can stay safe and be responsible online or when using technology. They will think about how they can get along with other people and to appreciate everyone around them.	Talk to your child about being safe with technology.  Talk to your child about their friends at school and how they can be a good friend.