

During this term, our theme is:

How do toys compare now to the past?

Below are the areas that we are covering within the theme.

Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	<p>As part of our English work this half term we will be looking at the books Old Bear and Gorilla. We will be focusing our stories around toys to link to our topic work. They will be writing in various different forms over this half term. The children have been making fantastic improvements and we are really looking forward to seeing their writing continue to improve.</p> <p>Alongside this we will also be continuing our daily phonics lessons. This half term we will begin to focus on reading comprehension and some children may start to access our accelerated reader programme.</p>	<p>Continue to read at home with your child. We hope to get lots of our children attending the top prize this time!</p> <p>Reading small chunks often is great way to keep up interest in a book and increase a child's confidence.</p> <p>Practice their spellings at home regularly.</p>
Maths	<p>This half term we will be improving our knowledge of money. We will be looking at different ways to make different amounts and will do this practically within our classes. We will also begin to look at multiplication and division and trying to work out practical problems. As well as this we will begin to look at interpreting graphs. The children will create and interpret pictograms, tally charts and block diagrams.</p> <p>The children will continue to do their weekly arithmetic tests and regular nifty fifty tests.</p>	<p>See if your child can recognise the spare change you have at home. Can they make up different amounts of money using a range of coins?</p> <p>Keep counting things you can see around you and reading house numbers, bus numbers and other numbers to may see in everyday life.</p>
Science	<p>This half term our Science focus will be focusing on plants. The children will get the experience of planting their own bean stalk and measuring it regularly to see how much it grows. They will also be looking at a range of wild and garden plants and will get the opportunity to go out on a local walk to see a variety of these.</p>	<p>You could look at a range of plants you have at home or in your local area and create a pictograph off all the ones you see.</p> <p>You could draw or paint a beautiful picture of your favourite plant.</p>
Information Communication Technology	<p>We will be recapping E Safety and how we can stay safe when using a computer phone, tablet etc.</p> <p>We will be learning how to program toys and then transfer this skill to creating algorithms on the computer. We will explore using different software and look at using the bee-bots in school to create basic instructions.</p>	<p>Discuss technology used at home and how children can use this safely.</p> <p>Use the internet to play age suitable phonic and maths games or sing along to songs that help us learn.</p> <p>Show your child where the relevant keys are on a keyboard and what they do.</p>

Religious Education	This half term we will be looking at the Easter story and looking at the reasons why Christians celebrate it. They will look closely at the sequencing of the story and do some fun activities around this. The children will continue to look at how and why Jesus is special to Christians.	Encourage conversations at home about the subject. Share your own views and discuss the importance of respecting the beliefs of others.
Physical Education	This half term we will be looking at hand skills. We will introduce throwing to the children and look at throwing with accuracy. We will also look at ways to roll and stop a ball. We will move these skill into game situations.	Children will need PE kit in school which will be sent home at the end of each half term. We will need appropriate footwear, a white top, black bottoms and something to keep warm if we go outside. Can you teach them a game involving a ball?
Art	This half term we will be looking at the artist Dennis Chev and recreating one of his famous sketches. The children will get the chance to explore different sketching pencils and improve their technique. They will create a beautiful sketch of a chosen flower.	Can you sketch something within your house? Explore and look at a range of sketching techniques.
History	This half term we will be looking at toys. The children will get a fantastic experience when they visit Bowes Museum on the 2 nd of March. The children will get a chance to see a wide range of old and new toys and will get a chance to create their own peg doll. The children will also get the opportunity to explore a toy box from the Head of Steam Museum. One lesson the children will get the chance to bring in their favourite toy and compare it to ones from the past.	Discuss with your children about toys you used to play with in the past and think about how the materials have changed over time. Could you create a timeline of toys looking through your family's favourites?
DT	We will be focusing on sliders and levers this half term. The children will explore a range of books that use these mechanisms. They will then plan and create their own levers to link in with our book in English.	Can you read a book to your child that uses a range of sliders and levers?
PSE	This half term we will continue our PSE lessons and look at how we can be positive learners and how we can make good choices.	Discuss and talk to your children about the ways that they can be positive learners and make good choices. As part of our English work this half term we will be looking at the books Old Bear and Gorilla.

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