

Year 5 Curriculum Themes 2021/22



Autumn Term 1 – Marvellous Mechanisms

Roll up, roll up! This half term, there's all the fun of the fair to experience! Soak up the unique sights, smells and sounds of a theme park. Year 5 will learn about the science behind roller coasters and write poems that are shaped as a loop the loop. The children will design their own theme park and map their ideas using digital technology. They will investigate the mechanisms that make these marvellous machines work: cams, gears, pulleys and levers. In addition, the children will explore the physical forces of friction, gravity and air resistance, and investigate them during exciting experiments. We will also be sharing the story of *Clockwork* by Sir Philip Pullman – a chilling tale of mechanisms gone mad!

Autumn Term 2 – Our Solar System

5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Blast off! This half term, year 5 are taking a journey through space - the final frontier. The children will navigate the Solar System to investigate the eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. They will look at our Moon and learn about the high-stakes race to be the first to reach it, programme a rover to traverse the lunar landscape and work scientifically to investigate gravity, and what happens when there is none. The children will also compare the times of day at different places on the Earth and use satellite navigation systems to track hidden treasure. They will get into a spin making simple models of the Solar System and listen to the haunting sounds of space themed songs. Then it's launch time as they build and launch a rocket for an important test mission. Throughout this theme, we will be reading the space-age novel 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce – a fast paced adventure that sees a schoolboy lost in space.

Spring Term 1 – Medieval Maladies

Beware the Black Death! For their second theme, Year 5 will travel back in time to 1347 – the peak of plague in Medieval Britain. Over the course of this half term, the children will develop their historical knowledge by immersing themselves in a world of pestilence, battle and chivalry. The children will learn about the spread of plague and the life cycles of microbes, as well as the wider society of this fascinating period of history – from the arms and armour of brave knights, to the turbulent trouble of the peasant's revolt. We will be reading *Children of Winter* by Berlie Doherty – the story of two children trapped in a doomed village during the great plague of 1666.

Spring Term 2 – Inventions and Industry

Grab your pickaxe and shovel! We're headed down into the mines to explore the world of work and industry in the 1800s. During this theme, the children will explore the history of coal mining and industry in our local area. They will discover the impacts of strikes and disasters on the societies of the past, and will compare the conditions of labourers then and now. Furthermore, the children will investigate coal mining's legacy and its future in a world of changing energy. To immerse themselves fully in this troubled time, year 5 will be reading *'Street Child'* by Berlie Doherty – a tale of hardship in Victorian London. They will also be visiting the Black Country Living Museum to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the past first hand.

Summer Term 1 – Take one Author/Materials and their properties

This half term, we will be exploring the poetry and writing of Kwame Alexander – one of the UK's most important children's authors and poets. Through this, the children will be writing their own raps, rhymes and rhythms as well as deepening their understanding of some of the issues and challenges faced by Britain's diverse communities.

In science, the children will be investigating the properties of different materials – from electrical and heat conduction, to malleability and whether they can be dissolved. The children will also be designing and conducting their own experiments to show reversible and irreversible changes.

Summer Term 2 – Pharaohs

The ancient Egyptians were master builders – creators of some of the largest monuments that the world has ever known – and their mysterious gods and rituals still puzzle archaeologists to this day. This half term, we will transform into Egyptologists and enter a world of pyramids, tombs, and ancient gods. Over the course of these weeks, the children will work to unravel the secrets of the Pharaohs using historical sources and ancient artefacts. They will cruise the Nile, exploring life along its fertile banks and discovering the fascinating culture of this historical period. They will learn about the ritual of mummification and embalming and the journey to the afterlife. Their story this half term will be *'Secrets of a Sun King'* by Emma Carroll – the story of a girl caught up in an ancient Egyptian curse.