

Eyrie Newsletter
Spring Term 2015

Out of Africa



Our topic this term is called "African Adventure". The focus of this topic is what it is like to live in Africa. We will look at the physical features of country and how it differs from the United Kingdom.

Literacy

As always, the literacy work we cover will relate closely to the theme of our topic. We will start this term with a focus on African Myths. The children will be reading a range of myths and then move on to writing their own. During our work on Nelson Mandela, they will look at the features of biographies. From this they will then write their own autobiographies. They will also look at stories which raise issues through "Journey to Jo'berg" by Beverly Naidoo and plan their own short story which raises an issue relevant to them.

We will also continue with our development of grammar and the way in which sentences are constructed. Over the term we will continue to learn and consolidate spelling patterns.

Numeracy

The concepts covered this term will build on the work which was covered last term.

The main concepts are:

- *Decimals - place values, ordering and rounding,
- *Fractions - simplifying and ordering.
- *Percentages - find equivalent fractions and decimals
- *Calculations - mental and written methods using whole numbers and decimals .
- *Completing number sequences and starting to understand simple formulas and how they are constructed.
- * Shapes - consolidate understanding of the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, and be able to accurately construct a range of shapes.
- * Multiplication and division facts - increase our speed of recall and use this knowledge to solve problems with different place value, eg $2 \times 4 = 8$ can be used to work out $0.2 \times 4 = 0.8$
- *Calculators - use them accurately, understanding what the display shows when calculating with money.
- *Measures - being able to convert between different units of measure including those with decimals.
- *Scales - reading and interpreting a range of different scales
- *Probability - understand the chance or likelihood something will happen.
- *Data - interpret a wide range of graphs including pie charts
- *Interpreting results - be able to calculate the mode, range, median and mean for a set of data.
- *Coordinates - be able to complete shapes, which meet given properties on a coordinates grid. Draw shapes where they will be after rotation and reflection and translations.

As in previous terms, the children will be taught skills during the morning and will be given some independent activities during the afternoon sessions, which will allow them to apply their knowledge from the morning to a given problem or puzzle.

Science

Our science will relate to the topic and will cover:

- *African habitats and the animals and plants that live there.
- *The features of living things.
- * The classification system of living things - 5 kingdoms for animals.
- *Identification and classification keys.
- *Evolution and how plants and animals change over time.

ICT

As in other terms we will build on our knowledge of how to safely use the computers, email and the Internet. We will start the term learning how to write a simple program to draw shapes and then used this to create a repeating pattern using the procedures tool. We will then use Excel to record data about rainfall in countries in Africa and learn how to use the "SUM" tool to find the rainfall for the year. Finally we will learning how to use multimedia technologies to create a weather forecast for some the countries in Africa.

History

We will be learning about the History of South Africa and the Apartheid. During the topic we will find out about famous people from the past, including Nelson Mandela and Aristotle. During our work on evolution we will consider the first people in Africa and how they relate to us today.

Geography

We will be looking at the physical and human features of Africa. Through our use of maps and atlases we will learn where the countries in Africa are and the names of the surrounding seas and countries. We will consider the variety of landscapes and climates.

Art and Design Technology

The children will be looking a range of African art from the wall hangings created by the Asante tribe to the Batik pictures created in Mozambique. They will also be creating mask used for celebrations.

We be making African instruments and looking at the foods which are a staple of Africa.

Music

The children have already had the opportunity to learn some traditional rhythms from Ghana and will develop this further by learning some songs. The will discuss the music created by the tribes from the Masai Mara.

Physical Education

As before, Eyrie's PE lessons will be on Tuesdays, Fridays and alternating Mondays. The lesson on Tuesday will be taught by Mr Cherry and supported by Mrs Gibbs and Friday's lesson by Mr Canning supported by Mrs Sinka. Mrs Richardson will be teaching gymnastics on a Monday supported by myself. The children need to make sure they have a complete change of clothes in their PE kits including a change of socks if they have tights, jogging bottoms and jumpers for when they are outside. Please can you send a letter or come and see me on that morning if your child is unable to take part, otherwise they will be expected to join in.

Religious Education

This term we will be thinking reflecting on how lucky we are compared to some of the children that live in Africa. We will look at the charities, in particular Water Aid and what they do to help families who are struggling.

How to Help at Home

Your child should be reading daily and discussing the content they read with an adult and recording this discussion in their reading journals. We have been participating in times tables Olympics which encourages the children to recall their times tables and division facts with increasing speed. They therefore need to make sure they continue to practice at home.

Creative learning logs: Some weeks the children will be set activities on Mathematics, I would appreciate it if you could write in their creative learning log approximately how long the activities have taken them and if they needed any support. Please let me know if there are any problems with the work set by writing a note in their book.

And Finally

As always, can I say thank you for your continued support.

Please let me know if you have any expertise or artefacts that relate to the curriculum areas above. If you would like to come and share any of your knowledge with the children and have current DBS clearance please let me know.

The children already seem to be very enthusiastic and involved in the topic, so I am sure this will be another exciting term.

Mrs Law