

Year 5 Curriculum Overview



Term 1a	Term 1b	Term 2a	Term 2b	Term 3a	Term 3b
Fitness for life	Celebrations: Feast and Festivals	Off to the Races	The Victorians: An Era of Inventions	What did the Ro- mans do for us?	Infinity and Beyond

Fitness For Life

This is a Science based topic which investigates the importance of keeping fit through exercise and healthy eating. Children will assess their own levels of fitness and learn how they can keep fit as they go through life. They will complete a fitness 'test' at the start of the topic and then repeat the test at the end to compare their rates of fitness.

When studying respiration, the children will observe a set of lungs inflating and deflating.

They will be taught the names of the main bones of the skeleton, and also the names and location of the body's main organs. Using scientific equipment, they will record their heart rates before and after exercise and plot and analyse this information in the form of a line graph. They will look at the impact of exercise on their joints and muscles, and in PE will learn the importance of taking part in warming up and cooling down routines. The children will use their business and enterprise skills to complete the final outcome of this unit which is the planning, development (via story boards) and filming of a fitness video which we look forward to sharing with others.

In design, the children will produce a working 3D model of the arm, which will demonstrate the way muscles work in pairs. Children will identify the names of the muscles used for a variety of movements and will use these names within their everyday language to increase their vocabulary. Once the model is completed, the children will get the chance to evaluate the success of their model; identifying what worked well and possible areas from development. Children will also be finding out what is needed for a healthy body and will be designing a weekly plan to show how much we should be exercising and what we should be eating to maintain a healthy body. This will be completed in groups, using our Learning Life Skills topic 'learning with others.'

We will be linking this unit of study to Literacy, where the children will create a letter to persuade people to exercise. We will also be researching some famous athletes to write biographies about them

Wow Day: Investigating our pulse rate

Fantastic Finish: Fitness video show with parents watching videos made by the children. Persuasive writing shared with parents regarding healthy lifestyles.





Celebrations: Feasts and Festivals

This topic looks in depth at both religious and non-religious celebrations; the feasts and festivals, which occur throughout the year. The children start this topic by looking at the story of Diwali and understanding the symbolism of light. Research will help the children to design and create a diva lamp. The children will investigate the rituals and customs related to Hindu, Sikh and Christian ceremonies. They recall a personal journey they have made to a special event and discover what a pilgrimage is and study the Muslim Hajj. The children will use their knowledge of Hajj to write home, as if they were on a pilgrimage.

Rites of passage are looked at by comparing the celebrations related to growing up and becoming an adult in different religions i.e. Christian Baptism, Sikh Amrit ceremony and Jewish Bar Mitzvah. The children reflect on the question 'what happens when we die?' and compare their ideas with the beliefs of different religious groups. Children also research the religious festivals of Eid, Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas and non-religious events such as Chinese New Year and American Thanks giving. They will use this information to make comparisons between different celebrations i.e. similarities and differences between a Christian and Muslim wedding ceremony.

As part of the celebratory topic, children will investigate why certain foods are used for specific celebrations and purposes. We also look into the Chinese New Year and design our own displays for it. We will link this to Literacy lessons by creating our own non-chronological reports on different festivals and learn a story from another culture which we will then adapt to write our own.



Wow Day: Learning the story of Divali; making and decorating Diva Lamps

Fantastic Finish: Celebration with parents



Off To The Races

The children will be studying various forces (friction, air resistance, gravity) in the context of designing and racing cars. They will carry out numerous investigations into drivers' reaction times, the effect of incline on speed and distance travelled, and discover how the design and shape of their car affects its speed also.

This topic will combine numeracy data handling skills, problem solving, and scientific enquiries to lead to the final outcome; a formula 1 competition race day. In addition to this the children will be using elements of observational art to draw cars. The children will investigate the relationship between materials and streamlining by creating paper aeroplanes and testing which one travels the furthest.

The children will be involved in working in teams for the majority of lessons, learning how to communicate and collaborate effectively. In Literacy, the children will write stories with flashbacks, initially studying the short film clip *The Piano* by Aiden Gibbons. They will go on to use this information to plan, write and edit their own story with flashbacks from the view of a racer.

Literacy will involve us looking at explanations to explain how a racing car and formula track race works. We will also be exploring the thoughts and feelings of racing drivers and creating some descriptive writing around this.

Wow Day: Dragster car visit

Fantastic Finish: New Chapter Grand Prix. Children race the cars they have made with parents as the spectators.



The Victorians- An Era of Inventions

Over the course of this unit children will develop a deeper understanding of how Victorian inventions are still affecting our lives today and will debate the question “What was the Victorians’ greatest invention?” This topic looks at a variety of different inventions and legal reforms i.e. changes to medical equipment and practices, public health and social reforms including how the working conditions of children changed. Children will develop their research and presentation skills during the topic, and develop a thorough understanding of the inventions of the period and the impact they had at the time and how they still having an impact today. They will work towards their own Great Exhibition to be presented to parents. Acting as museum curators they will produce visual and PowerPoint displays including newspaper articles and leaflets about their chosen Victorian inventions.

The children will undertake an in-depth study to see how the Victorians discovered how Cholera was spread. Using six figure grid references they will complete a map to show where the victims of cholera were located and therefore the distribution and spread of suffers. They will be looking closely for clues at the location of the majority of deaths. They will then write a letter to Dr. Milroy trying to persuade him to agree with them and Dr. Snow that the water pump is the source of the problem. In Science they will look at how germs are spread and how sewage plants work; filtering water to make it fit to drink again.

In Drama, the children’s work is supported by a Victorian day where everyone lives as a Victorian for the day. Everyone is encouraged to dress the part. In Literacy, the class read the book ‘**Street Child**’ by Bertie Doherty. The book gives the children an insight into what life was like as a Victorian child growing up in a workhouse. Children will also study ‘**The Highwayman**’ by Alfred Noyes. They will act out this poem and then adapt it to create their own addition. In Music, the children will learn a number of Victorian songs and learn some from the musical *Oliver*.



What did the Romans do for us?

The children will learn about the historical and geographical impact the Roman period had on Britain, and its lasting legacy. A re-enactment of the Roman invasion of Britain takes place with half of the year group acting as Celts and the other half as Romans. In preparation for this activity the children will design and decorate their own shields and learn about battle formations and battle equipment.



Time will be spent examining how the Romans ran and inhabited Britain. Pupils will study how roads were constructed and how they still influence the English road network today. The children will examine Roman armour and the specific colours and designs on Roman shields. They will use this information to design and produce their own shield.

The examination of Roman entertainment will give the children the opportunity to practise their musical and artistic skills through the creation of a song.

The children will look at the similarities and differences of Roman towns compared with settlements today. They will discover that many place names have their origins in the Roman conquest and will look at how Roman technology, architecture, designs and inventions are still used today i.e. the use of cement in building, public baths, sanitation, aqueducts and under floor heating. The children will also design and



make their own mosaic floors, using their numeracy knowledge and understanding of patterns and tessellations.

They will also see how our language is affected by Latin which was spoken by the Romans. Our legal system is based upon Roman law - establishing the premise that you are innocent until proven guilty and how we measure our population via censuses and still use the Julian calendar with 12 months and 365 days.

What they learn will be used to support the literacy lessons where children will write a narrative in which they travel back in time to an event in the Roman Empire.

Wow Day: Making and decorating Roman Shields

Fantastic Finish: Dress up as a Roman – have a Roman battle with shields made at the start of term

Infinity and Beyond

For this topic the children will be studying space and our solar system, focusing on the relationship between the Sun, the Earth and the moon. The children will make 3D solar system mobiles. A trip to the Leicester Space Centre will bring the topic to life and hopefully stimulate further interest.

The unit starts with a tour of the planets which orbit the sun. They learn that the Earth orbits the Sun once each year and due to the tilt of the Earth's axis this explains why we have different seasons. As it takes 24 hours for the sun to rotate on its axis, the children learn why we have periods of day and night.

The children will look at the history of the space race using drama and will think about what it must have been like to be the first people launched into space and the first to step onto the moon.

In art, the children will investigate the use of colour and how to blend colour to create a picture of the sunrise and sunset. They will select their medium and explore texture to create more 3D pieces of art.



Children will use their skills to answer questions such as: Why do unsupported objects fall towards the earth? How do the planets move in relation to the sun in the solar system? How does the moon move around the Earth? And what causes day and night?

In Literacy, children will look at science fiction settings and use this, with their knowledge of space, to write their own sci-fi adventure story.

WOW Day: Making and decorating solar system mobiles

Fantastic Finish: Solar System Extravaganza where parents are given a guided tour of the children's learning by the children.