

Dragonflies Class



Curriculum Information

Autumn Term 2026

Inside this booklet you will find details about your child's learning this half term including key vocabulary that they will come across.

Curriculum Newsletter

As Readers we will be enjoying Street Child by Berlie Doherty which tells the adventures of a poor Victorian boy, struggling to survive on the streets. We will focus on varied comprehension skills by answering questions relating to: vocabulary, retrieval, inference, summarising, explaining and predicting. Children will rehearse using evidence from the text to support longer answers relating to impressions of characters.

Key vocabulary: inference, summarise, impression, predict, opinion, retrieval, evidence



As Writers we will be sharpening our skills to create effective, atmospheric setting descriptions, using The Tunnel by Anthony Browne as our model text. As a portal story, the main characters are transported to a new and bewildering world. We will be learning exciting vocabulary, sentence structures and grammar, which will enable us to create our own evocative descriptions of different settings.



In the next half term, we will switch to non-fiction, where the children will write a recount of the characters' experiences in The Tunnel. Pupils must write consistently in the past tense, using a range of devices to maintain interest, whilst keeping events in the right order and using devices to build cohesion.

Key vocabulary: noun phrases, adverbs, adverbials, sentence of three, alliteration, personification, atmosphere, imagery

As Mathematicians we will revise Place Value and the four operations of arithmetic. The children will read, write, order and compare numbers to at least 1 000 000 and determine the value of each digit. They will learn to count forwards or backwards in steps of powers of 10 with positive and negative whole numbers. They will round numbers to different place values and solve practical problems. Moving forward, we will learn about special numbers such as factors, multiples, primes, squares and cubes before learning useful strategies for mental



Key vocabulary: millions, thousands, hundreds, tens, ones, round, powers, partition, bar model,



As Artists, we will explore the Pop Art movement of the 1950s and 60s. We will look at its themes of affordability, American culture and mass production. In particular, we will compare the styles of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein and the techniques they used. We will combine techniques, including printing, to create Pop Art designs of our own.

As Designers, our topic is mechanisms: pulleys and gears. We will investigate how gears can be used in combination to change the speed and direction of movements and how pulleys are used to change the direction of a force or to obtain a mechanical advantage.

Key vocabulary: commercial, icon, culture, value, elite, masses, silkscreen
mechanical advantage, physics, pulley, lever, gear, transmission, force, load

As Scientists Pupils will develop an understanding of Earth and its place in space, learning about the Sun, Moon and planets in our solar system. They will explore day and night, the Earth's rotation, the Moon's phases, and how our observations of the sky have changed over time. Pupils will use models and scientific enquiry to explain the apparent movement of the Sun, Moon and stars.

Key vocabulary: Earth, planet, moon, satellite, solar system, gravity, galaxy, rotation, revolve



Curriculum Newsletter



As Philanthropists, we will be learning about friendship and friendship groups. Children will learn what positive and healthy relationships should look like as friends, the pressures that individuals and groups might face and how to know what kind of friends we want and how to choose them.

Key vocabulary: friend, clique, peer-pressure, rejection, anxiety, commitment

As Explorers, Dragonflies will be learning how to read and interpret maps. We will look at the common features, such as the title, compass rose, map key and scale, as well as the symbols used on Ordnance Survey maps. We will identify lines of longitude and latitude and use both 4 figure and six figure references to find locations on the map



Key vocabulary: longitude, latitude, compass, scale, inset, grid references, location, contour, relief,



As Historians, Dragonflies will be exploring the Victorian era as a time of change and modernisation. We will explore how the Industrial Revolution changed our cities and our social structure. We will study inventions which changed the lives of ordinary people and the reformers who tried to improve conditions in prisons, schools and factories and why. We will look at how children were viewed through the lens of crime and punishment and what happened when you stole a loaf of bread!

Key vocabulary: empire, poverty, industrial revolution, society, social class, conditions, reformers, philanthropist, austere

As linguists, pupils will acquire the skills to present themselves both orally and in written form in French. Pupils focus on asking questions as well as providing accurate replies. They will demonstrate a growing understanding of grammar to manipulate language and start to create sentences of their own using a range of personal details including name, age, where they live and nationality.



Key vocabulary: salut, bonjour, ca va? Ca va bien, comme ci comme ca, ca va mal, je m'appelle, quelle age as-tu? Comment t'appelles tu?

As Theologians, we will be investigating how religious groups contribute to their local communities. Linking to our History topic, we will see how Victorian philanthropists were inspired by their faith to abolish slavery, found schools and hospitals and establish charities to help the poor. We will investigate the concept of compassion in both Christianity and Hinduism, how their adherents express it and why they believe it is important.



Key vocabulary: Compassion, Dharma, Karma Yoga, non-violence, reform, philanthropist, charity



As computer scientists, we will learn about safeguarding and e-safety with regards to the internet and social media, as well as aspects of digital literacy. This will mean using simple coding to create puzzles and games, adapting codes and algorithms to create different effects and looking for bugs in codes.

Key vocabulary: social media, algorithm, block coding, if statements, parameters, loop, sprite,

This overview is intended to give you a flavour of what we will be studying this term. If you recognise any of this 'good learning' at home, please feel free to write it on a post it note and send it into school so that we can add it to your child's learning. This will help us to recognise the next steps in learning that your child needs to take.

Any questions about this overview, please let us know via Class Dojo.

Curriculum Newsletter

Remember – you should be reading, practising your spellings and your times tables as frequently as you can every week.



Spelling

Spellings to learn each week will be given practised in class, then given out on Fridays to complete and rehearse for a spelling test each Wednesday.

Maths

One piece of maths homework also goes out on a Friday, to consolidate what we have been doing in class. This should be returned by the following Wednesday.

Times Tables

Times tables are a foundation for so much of our Maths learning and we will do lots in class but please practise yourself via Tackling Times Tables at least 4 times a week.



Also, practise with songs, chanting, write them down, get tested by a friend or family member...

Reading

Read aloud with an adult at least 5 times a week, write this in your



Reading Record book and get your adult to sign it. Bring these in each day as we will also have the opportunity to read in class.

Of course, you can read independently in addition to this!

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Optional Topic Homework

These activities are for you and your children to explore together at home. They are a great opportunity to become immersed in the topic being taught this term. Children are rewarded with 'dojo points' for the completion of any optional activities.

- **Workhouse Diary:** Write a diary entry from the perspective of a child working in a Victorian workhouse or factory.
- **Invention Advert:** Design a newspaper advertisement for a famous Victorian invention, like the telephone, penny-farthing, or camera.
- **School Comparison:** Write a letter to a friend comparing your modern school day to a strict Victorian classroom experience.
- **Victorian Baking:** Try making a traditional Victorian recipe at home, such as a Victoria sponge cake or shortbread
- **Thaumatrope Toy:** Make a working thaumatrope (a popular Victorian optical illusion toy) using a cardboard disc, string, and two drawings that combine when spun.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDrcVgKGp_0
- **Make a Shoebox Home:** Build a miniature Victorian room inside a shoebox to show what a rich or poor house looked like.

Please use Class Dojo if you need to contact me, or to share anything that your child has done at home.