



# Year 5 Spring Newsletter



## Topic

Slavery, Life of cowboys, Homesteaders and the Great Plains, The Grand Canyon and the environment. These are going to be the main themes for this half term. From a historical perspective we will be looking at how people lived in this harsh and un-tamed environment. From a geographical perspective, we are looking at settlement and land use and why it is important to preserve and protect special places.

On the penultimate day of the Spring-Term (Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April TBC), we will be celebrating all we have learned on the Wild-West and we will be holding a 'Wild-West' day. The plan would be to prepare a feast during the morning and to sit and share food together as an alternative lunch. More details to follow. We will be looking for some parent helpers as well on that day to support with the cooking and the preparation. It will also be a dress down day - Wild-West theme.

## English

In English, we will be continuing to use the online world 'Inspire Education' linking our writing to the Wild-West and our Topic. Children will learn more about the Buzzard Brothers and some of the mischief they got up to in the Wild West. We will be looking at the social life in frontier towns where children will have to invent a new drink from desert resources. We will also be looking at Gold-mining and how African slaves were taken advantage of during the 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. We will be focussing on diary writing, persuasive writing, narrative and biography.

## Maths

In Maths, we are moving on to look at graphs. Children will have to interpret information in tables and line graphs. Following this we will be looking at fractions. Children will be learning to add, subtract and multiply fractions. If you are helping at home, showing children alternative strategies to solve problems can really help them. In addition, any help with them learning their times-tables would be really useful too.

## Science

The science topic for this term is 'Properties of Materials'. Children will learn how to categorise different materials according to their properties and to create experiments to test these properties. Children will also have to understand processes such as dissolving, irreversible reactions and secondary reactions. The focus is largely on working scientifically and creating and conducting experiments in a fair way.

## Art/DT

WHOLE-SCHOOL VISIBLE LEARNING PROJECT

## IT

In IT, we will be looking at coding. Children will be using the web-based software 'code.org'. Children will be consolidating what they already know about problem solving by creating algorithms to complete levels in different games. Children will have to debug their algorithm when they run into a problem.

## PE

Mrs Sohna's class will be swimming on Wednesdays until Easter. Mr Clayton's class will be doing Hand-Ball until half-term. For our indoor lessons, both classes will be looking at gymnastics.

## RE

This half-term, our focus is on Christianity and the Easter Story. Our focus question is: How significant is it for Christians to believe that god intended Jesus to die?

## PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Education)

Our PHSE focus is 'Healthy Me'. We will be looking at the role of food, body image and how people can develop eating disorders. We will be looking at the risks of smoking and the misuse of alcohol. We will also be looking how to stay calm in emergency situations and will be showing the children some basic first aid.

## Music

In music this half term we will be continuing to follow the 'Charanga' scheme and will be focussing on Jazz. Children will be learning about rhythm using a variety of instruments, notably: Xylophones and different percussion.

## Other

We would like to encourage all children to read every night for at least 20 minutes; this can be reading of any genre. Homework will continue to be given out and reviewed on Wednesdays.

## Useful Websites

Maths - <https://nrich.maths.org/>

All subjects - <https://www.busythings.co.uk/> (Login = home8972 Password = crazy8362)

IT - [www.code.org](http://www.code.org)

## Key Dates

4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March = World Book Week

15<sup>th</sup> March = Red Nose day

21<sup>st</sup> March Visual Learning Exhibition

4<sup>th</sup> April TBC - Wild West Day

5<sup>th</sup> April - School Sponsored Walk