

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

The Green, Leaffield, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX29 9NP

Tel: 01993 878273

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Headteacher: Mrs. Rhiannon Abberley



Be kind, be curious, be you!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well. It has been lovely to see the children back and ready for a busy and exciting term in Rosen Class.

Topic – Road Trip USA!

This term we are heading on a Road Trip across the United States. We will begin by locating the USA on a world map and globe, identifying its position in relation to the equator and the Tropics, before learning about all fifty states and their capitals to build a secure understanding of North America.

Our journey will then take us to New York State, where we will explore its climate, population, boroughs and transport systems in greater detail.

As we travel across the country, we will also learn about Native American history and culture, with a particular focus on the Iroquois tribe. The children will research different aspects of Iroquois life, including food, homes, clothing and beliefs. They will create sketch maps to show where the Iroquois lived and consider how the local environment, especially woodlands and rivers, supported their way of life by providing shelter, food and transport.

Literacy and Class Book

In Literacy, we will use *Native American Stories for Kids* by Rose Evelyn to explore legends and folklore. The children will learn the key features of traditional tales before planning and writing their own legend inspired by Native American storytelling.

Our class book is *Twist of Gold* by Michael Morpurgo. This powerful story follows Sean and Annie as they escape the Irish potato famine and travel to America in search of a better life. Through this text, we will develop comprehension skills and explore themes of resilience, hope and determination.

Spellings will continue to follow the Emile spelling scheme.

Science

In science, we will continue learning about forces. The children will explore contact and non-contact forces, including friction and magnetism. They will carry out investigations to understand how friction affects movement and identify magnetic materials, as well as learning about the different parts of a magnet.

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R.E.

Our key question this term is: *Does art help with understanding stories?*

We will focus on Holy Week and artistic depictions of Jesus to explore key events and reflect on what these images reveal about his character. The children will learn how colour is used symbolically in Christian art and consider how artists communicate meaning through their choices.

Wider Curriculum

In PSHE, our unit is *Money Matters*. The children will explore different payment methods, budgeting and the idea of value for money. They will also learn about keeping money safe when making payments and consider how choices can have a wider impact.

In Computing, we will learn about branching databases. The children will use yes and no questions to sort information, create physical and on-screen databases and design their own identification tool.

In Design and Technology, our project is *Make It Move!* The children will investigate cam mechanisms before designing, making and evaluating their own moving automaton toy.

In Music, all learning will centre around the song *The Dragon Song*. The children will sing, perform and work together to create a class performance, developing their understanding of rhythm, pulse and pitch.

In French, our unit is *Les instruments*. The children will learn the names of ten instruments and use the phrase "I play" to build short sentences, recognising and spelling the vocabulary accurately.

P.E.

P.E. will take place on Tuesdays, taught by Mr Andrews, in school.

We will continue swimming every Wednesday afternoon, so please ensure kits are in school and clearly named.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set on Fridays and is due back the following Wednesday. Children are encouraged to complete tasks as independently as possible.

Snacks and Belongings

Children may bring a healthy snack and a clearly labelled water bottle that they can open independently. Please ensure all items, particularly jumpers and coats, are named.

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Contact

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or would like to offer your help or share a skill to support our class, please speak to me before or after school or contact the school office to arrange a suitable time.

Thank you for your continued support. I am really looking forward to our American adventure and to all the learning this term will bring.

Best regards,
Helen Kelly
Rosen Class Teacher