

New Rush Hall School - Year 7: Autumn 1.1

English

In English this half term pupils will be studying the following books:

- "The Rabbits" by John Marsden
- "Pig Heart Boy" by Malorie Blackman
- "Goldfish Boy" by Lisa Thompson

Pupils will sequence the main events in a story, identify main themes, identify and describe characters and their motivations, explore story structure, compose pen-portraits of characters, develop their skills of making inferences and create their own stories based on themes from the texts. Pupils will develop their drafting, proof reading and editing skills, their independent reading, their understanding and use of vocabulary, grammar and punctuation.

Maths

In Maths this half term pupils will be investigating different ways to analyse and present data (including graphs, charts, averages, grouped data). They will write and complete their own survey, analysing and presenting the data. Following this, pupils will explore fractions, decimals and percentages, consolidating previous learning and mental maths skills, and extending the links between fractions, decimals and percentages. Finally, pupils will focus on different aspects of calculation: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, the order of operation, developing calculator skills, using ratio and proportion and using positive and negative numbers.

Science

In Science this half term learning will focus on cells as the fundamental unit of living organisms, including how to observe, interpret and record cell structure using a light microscope. In addition to this, pupils will begin discuss the functions of and be able to identify the cell wall, cell membrane, cytoplasm, nucleus, vacuole, mitochondria and chloroplasts. Following this, pupils will familiarise themselves with the similarities and differences between plant and animal cells. To deepen their understanding, pupils will look at the structural adaptations of some unicellular organisms, which live and thrive in our environment.

PSHE

In PSHE this half term learning will focus on health, wellbeing and safety. The focal point will be the transition from primary to secondary with students identifying ways to express their feelings and learning how to mitigate some of the challenges of the transition. In addition to this, pupils will build on previous learning about healthy relationships identifying the key features of positive friendships. Following this, pupils will familiarise themselves with personal safety strategies in and outside the school such as travel safety and safe use of fireworks. Pupils will learn how to respond to emergency situations and will learn basic first aid.

Art

In Art this half term pupils will be beginning their key skills-based learning. They will create soft and hard sculptures inspired by the pop artist Claes Oldenburg. Pupils will research and learn about the work of the artist. Following this, they will learn how to use make cardboard armatures in order to provide structural integrity to their oversized objects. Finally, pupils will use mod rock and Papier Mache to construct the outer skin of their final pieces, we will paint the objects and put them on display in the art room.

PE

In PE this half term pupils will take part in Gymnastics lessons. Pupils will begin with fundamental core floor skills so that they can perform skills correctly and safely. This will be taught as isolated practices to begin with and then be slowly moved into combining skills together to create a routine that can be judged or assessed. Pupils will explore core skills individually and in combination. They will focus on developing stability when holding their own body position and when supporting a partner, identifying the main aspects of a good performance and working with others in the group to discuss how performance could be improved.

Geography

In Geography this half term pupils will study the topic 'What Skills Does A Geographer Need?' They will describe the three aspects of the world (physical, human and environmental) and discover how our knowledge of the world has progressed over time. Pupils will study different aspects of maps (latitude and longitude, maps symbols, grid references) and use these to locate places and compare oceans and continents.

Food Technology

In Food Technology this half term pupils will be finding out how to prepare and store food so that is safe to eat. Pupils will begin to learn a range of basic skills and techniques with exploring the different tools and equipment that they will be using in the lessons. Following this, they will have an understanding of how cooking skills can help them lead a healthier lifestyle. As pupils look at these areas, they will also be making a mixture of products from a range of products including Stir-fry, Spaghetti Bolognese, Flat Bread and Chicken.

History

In History this half term pupils will be studying 'The Norman Conquest'. Pupils will begin by exploring what eleventh century England was like. Following this, pupils will assess who of the three contenders had the best claim for the English throne. This knowledge will then be used to evaluate and analyse different sources about the Battle of Hastings. Finally, pupils will describe what happened in the Battle of Hastings.

Enrichment

As part of the Enrichment Programme, pupils will be given the opportunity to experience:

Lambourne End: In this half term pupils take part in an intensive programme designed to support pupils social, emotional and mental health development at an outdoor activity centre. Pupils will use the Low Ropes Course, working on their balance and strength, trying not to fall into the water. Pupils will then be both climbing and abseiling down a 30-meter wall. Following on from this, pupils will be developing their teamwork skills to overcome challenges over different obstacles. Finally, pupils will be learning how to build a raft and taking part in Caving activities.

Horticulture: In this half term pupils will prepare their class vegetable bed, clearing weeds, digging over and applying an organic fertilizer. They will plant out an Autumn crop of pumpkins and courgettes and learn about catch crops e.g., fast growing vegetables like lettuce and how to direct sow radish. Pupils will learn about a wider selection of weeds and how to identify beneficial wild flowers. They will learn how to harvest rainwater and how to reuse water.

Swimming: In this half term pupils will be taught based on their swimming ability. More experienced swimmers will work on developing their Front Crawl, Head Surface Dives, Backstroke, Pre-diving skills and Butterfly. Lessons will take place in a 25 x 12.5-meter pool. Less experienced swimmers will swim in a smaller 12.5 x 5-meter pool and learn to develop their skills focusing on Front Crawl, Front Crawl Breathing, Backstroke and Breaststroke.