

Year 3

The Terrible Tudors – Term Theme.

The focus of our Terrible Tudors theme is to engage children in their learning through History, Art, Dance, Design Technology and Music. The children are fully immersed within the theme, especially when learning about Henry VIII and his six wives! They also learn about the life of the other Tudor Monarchs and about how both the rich and poor lived at this time. The children have the opportunity to create oil pastel portraits of Henry VIII and his wives. They learn about what the Tudors ate and in DT plan, make and eat Tudor Pottage. In PE, children are inspired by researching Tudor dances and work towards learning a whole routine. This is then performed to their year group at the Traditional Tudor banquet, held at the end of term.



The Iron Man – Half Term Theme

During this theme, all our cross curricular work arises from the story of The Iron Man by Ted Hughes (a children's classic). In English, it provides the stimulus and opportunity for the children to write using a variety of different genres (instruction texts, newspaper report and character descriptions). This theme also links to our Science work, focussing on Forces and Magnets. The children have the opportunity to investigate pneumatic systems in a DT project, where they design and make a Moving Monster. In Dance, the children compose their own work based on a robotic piece of music. The story also lends itself to creative art work, with a focus on collage.



Earth Explorers – Half Term Theme

During this theme the children learn about volcanoes (which is always very popular). We look at the location of the Ring of Fire and the different types of volcanoes. The children learn about different types of rocks and investigate and test their properties. In art the children create a model clay volcano and try their hand at block printing inspired by Japanese artist, Katsushika Hokusai. From this, they move onto learning about the rock cycle and soils. Children are always fascinated to learn about how fossils are formed and finding out about the famous palaeontologist, Mary Anning. Homework projects during this theme often involve children creating their own exploding volcanoes! Although not directly linked, the children always enjoy the opportunity to become expert archers in PE during this half term.



Where's The Bear? – Half Term Theme

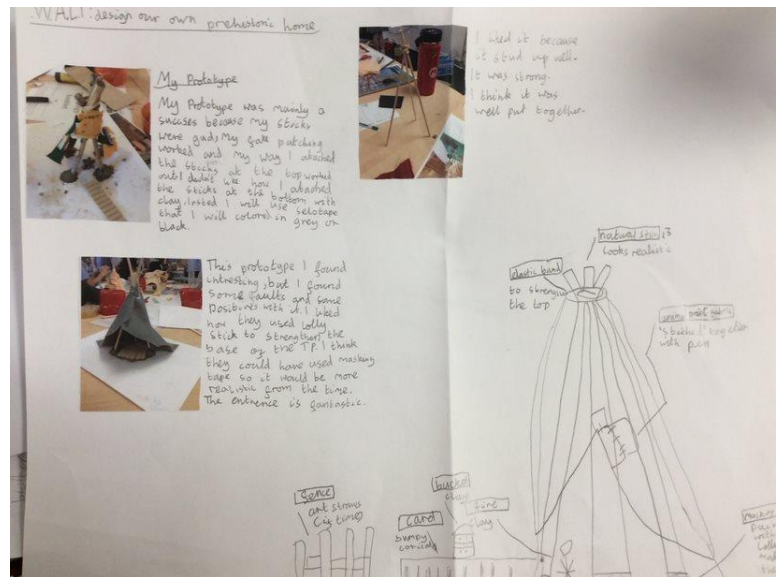
This is a Geography based theme where the children learn more about living things and their habitats. They learn about the different types of bears in the world and they can all recite the 'bear song' by the end of the theme! They learn about the parts of the world where these bears are found, which leads in to focussing on World Biomes. The children enjoy revisiting the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and a unit of work on Performance Poetry. In Science the children learn about the life-cycle of plants and explore the requirements for plant life. During our work in Art, children recreate art work inspired by Henri Rousseau, using collage, watercolour and oil pastels.



Stone Age to Iron Age – Half Term Theme

Going back a little further in history, the children learn about changes in everyday life during this period - from what people ate, to how and where people lived. Two books are at the heart of this theme.

'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. The children use this book to create their own shadow puppet play, linking to our Science work on light. 'Oi! Caveboy' by Alan Macdonald provides lots of English opportunities. In Design Technology, the children have the opportunity to design and create their own model of a Stone Age home.



Other Highlights of Year 3

We value the importance of educational visits to bring themes to life. In recent years, this has involved a visit to Temple Newsam House in Leeds, and a trip to Harlow Carr. We also look to have at least one visitor a year to come into school and run a workshop in connection with one of our themes. In Maths, the children are always very motivated to learn their times tables in order to beat the super heroes. In Year 3 the children also start to learn a Modern Foreign Language – French. We have half a term of Forest School where the children spend half a day each week outdoors, learning skills such as lighting fires, building shelters, using wood-working tools etc. This is always a highlight for the children - particularly toasting marshmallows! In RE, children begin to explore a greater variety of beliefs in addition to Christianity and Islam, these include Hinduism and Humanism.

