

Key Skills

Geography (Miss Middleton):

- Locating Mexico: Identify the position and significance of longitude, latitude, the Equator, Northern & Southern hemisphere, Tropics of Cancer & Capricorn, Arctic & Antarctic Circle, Prime Meridian and time zones
- The Chihuahuan Desert and Cities of The Ancient Maya: Use the 8 points of a compass, 4 and 6 figure grid references, symbols and keys to build understanding of the wider world
- Daily Life in Mexico: Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity, trade links and the distribution of natural sources



History (Miss Middleton):

- Mayan Civilisation: Learn about a non-European society that provides contrasts with British History
- Gain and deploy a historical understanding of abstract terms such as empire and civilisation

Hola Mexico!

This topic focuses on Ancient Maya and modern day Mexico, looking at its history and geography and diving into Mexican culture and traditions.



Key Vocabulary

Maya	temple	deity	glyphs
Dia de los Muertos	stelae	North America	climate
Chihuahuan Desert	Rio Grande River	Dia de la Independencia	Fiesta de Santa Cecilia
Aztecs	cuisine	mariachi	La Cucaracha
indigenous	civilisation	Pok-A-Tok	astronomy
Ulama	El Castillo	equinox	heritage

Key Knowledge

This topic will run throughout the Spring term.

Geography:

- Mexico is located in North America
- Its capital city is Mexico City
- Mexico has a diverse landscape with mountains, rivers, rainforests, deserts
- Its diverse climate allows for a large range of animals and plants to survive (including many types of cacti and over 700 species of reptile)
- Mexico is home to 130 million people, with a diverse population and rich cultural heritage
- There are vast differences between Mexico's large cities and rural communities
- The Chihuahuan Desert is one of the largest in North America, with the Rio Grande providing water
- Animals such as the pronghorn antelope and kit fox thrive here

History & Culture:

- Festivals (including Dia de los Muertos, Dia de la Independencia and Fiesta de Santa Cecilia) are a central part of Mexican culture
- Many Mexican foods can be traced back to the Mayans and Aztecs
- The Mayans played a key part in the creation of chocolate
- The Maya were indigenous people who lived in Mexico over 3,000 years ago
- They Mayan calendar was very complex
- Mayan ball games such as Ulama and Pok-A-Tok were competitive, aggressive and often fatal
- Many Mayan temples still exist in Mexico today

English:

In English, we will be using visual literacy and the picture book text **“The Mysteries of Harris Burdick”** as our stimuli for writing. With this as our focus, we will write the following text-types:

- Narratives, including setting and character descriptions and dialogue
- Diary entries & Emotive Writing
- Eulogies & Recounts

(Our writing in History & Geography will also include non-fiction writing such as match reports, instructions and non-chronological texts)

We will continue revising and consolidating our understanding of the following grammar:

- Using colons, semi-colons and dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses
- Using colons to introduce a list and semi-colons between items in a list
- Using hyphens to avoid ambiguity
- Identifying subjects and objects within sentences and whether a sentence is active or passive
- Understanding the relationship between synonyms and antonyms and giving examples of these
- Using a wider range of cohesive devices to link ideas within and across paragraphs
- Understanding the difference between formal and informal register and using the subjunctive form where appropriate

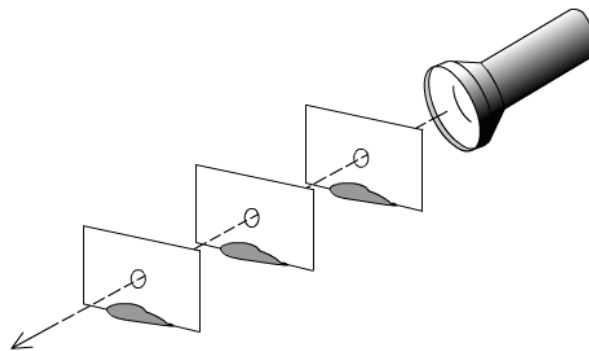
In Reading, we will revise the following skills, and continue to look at exam technique ahead of our SATs exams at the end of the year:

- Summarise the main events and key details of more than one paragraph, identifying details that support the main ideas
- Draw inferences about characters’ feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, providing evidence from the text
- Make reasonable predictions based on evidence in the text, both stated and implied
- Use evidence from the text to justify opinions or views
- Consider authors’ vocabulary choices and the impact of these on the reader

Science:

This half-term we will be looking at **Light** and completing a **“Crime Lab Investigation”** project. The skills covered will include:



- Recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines
- Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye
- Explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes
- Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them



Maths:

Maths will focus on **Ratio, Algebra and Decimals**, as well as revision of the key skills already learnt and continuing to develop our reasoning and problem-solving skills. The skills covered will include:

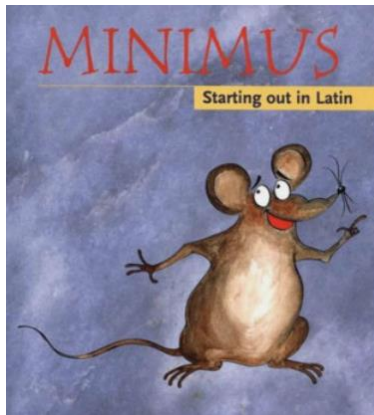
- Using the ratio symbol
- Understanding ratio as a fraction
- Using scale factors
- Drawing pictures to scale
- Understanding proportion
- Using ratio and scaling in recipes
- Using function machines
- Forming algebraic expressions
- Understanding substitution
- Problem solving with formulae
- Solving 1 and 2 step equations
- Solving problems with 2 unknowns
- Understanding integers and decimals
- Rounding decimals
- Adding and subtracting decimals
- Multiplying and dividing decimal numbers by integers
- Multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000, including decimals
- Revising key skills and methods learned in Autumn term
- Consolidating mental methods and considering the efficiency of different methods

<p>Music (Mrs Hamilton): To complement our topic, we will look at the following genres of music in Mexican culture: baroque, romantic, classical, blues, gospel, reggae, rock, samba, country, pop, Latin American, folk, swing, and world music. Skills covered will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory - Listen to and comment on a wide range of genres and musical styles using a broad musical vocabulary - Consider the use of instruments; structure of the music; inclusion of typical rhythms, harmonies, tempo and dynamics; date of composition and style of performance. 	<p>PE: PE this half-term will be Dance and Basketball with Miss Tweddle</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Dance (Friday PM)</p> <p>Pupils will focus on developing an idea or theme into dance choreography. They will work in pairs and groups using different choreographing tools to create dances e.g. formations, timing, dynamics. Pupils will think about how to use movement to convey ideas, emotions, feelings and characters, while showing an awareness of keeping others safe and will have the opportunity to lead others through short warm ups.</p> </td> <td> <p>Basketball (Wednesday PM)</p> <p>Pupils will develop key skills such as defending, attacking, throwing, catching, dribbling and shooting. Pupils will learn to use attacking and defending skills to gain possession. Pupils will be encouraged to work collaboratively to think about how to use tactics to outwit the opposition, while developing their understanding of the importance of fair play and honesty while self-managing games.</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Dance (Friday PM)</p> <p>Pupils will focus on developing an idea or theme into dance choreography. They will work in pairs and groups using different choreographing tools to create dances e.g. formations, timing, dynamics. Pupils will think about how to use movement to convey ideas, emotions, feelings and characters, while showing an awareness of keeping others safe and will have the opportunity to lead others through short warm ups.</p>	<p>Basketball (Wednesday PM)</p> <p>Pupils will develop key skills such as defending, attacking, throwing, catching, dribbling and shooting. Pupils will learn to use attacking and defending skills to gain possession. Pupils will be encouraged to work collaboratively to think about how to use tactics to outwit the opposition, while developing their understanding of the importance of fair play and honesty while self-managing games.</p>	<p>Class notices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE is on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please ensure that your child has both indoor and outdoor PE kit on these days. They should come to school in school uniform and will leave in uniform. • Homework will be set on a Friday and is due in the following Friday, unless otherwise specified. • Children should complete the assigned pages from the revision books every night; this will alternate between Maths, Grammar and Reading Comprehension. It is children’s responsibility to make note of the pages each day.
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<p>French (Miss Holden): We will continue to practise our conversational French. This half-term, will cover the topic of “A l’ecole”. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name the subjects we study in school with the correct definite article / determiner • Extend sentences by giving an opinion on the school subjects and a justification for our opinion • Start to tell the time by learning how to say the hour • Say at what time we study certain subjects at school 					
<p>Art (Miss Shafi): We will use a range of media to link our art work to our Hola Mexico project and to Science. Our main art project will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about the extraction and use of cochineal dye to create a crimson colour • Explore how household acids and alkalis can alter the pH of the dye, and how this affects its colour • Experiment with a range of dyes, acids and alkalis to create a range of colours to be use in artworks 	<p>PSHE: We will be exploring the theme of “Dreams and Goals” through our Jigsaw PSHE scheme.</p> <p>This topic will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal learning goals • Steps to success • My dreams for the world • Helping to make a difference • Recognising our achievements 		<p>Computing (Mr Meachen): Mr Meachen will continue to teach Computing every Wednesday. This half-term, we will be using iOffice to complete the following project:</p> <p>“Your local council has advertised for a new Superhero to combat local crime. Pupils must use all the skills they have learnt during Levels 1, 2 and 3 on Keynote and the word and spreadsheet processors, to design and present their hero. Pupils will learn how to create and correctly format a CV, how to add hyperlinks into a word processing document and extrapolate data from a spreadsheet in order to design a successful candidate CV.”</p>		

Latin (Mr Christofi):

In our Latin lessons, we will continue to use the Latin stories in *Minimus* to explore daily life in Roman Britain. We will explore:

- How far did life change for native Britons following the Roman invasion?
- What role did towns and cities like Eboracum (modern-day York) play in the Roman empire?
- How was the Roman army organised and used in Britain?



Drama & Performing Arts (Mr Griffin):

The reading, speaking and listening, and performance skills covered in our Drama lessons will continue to include:

- Increase familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and books from other cultures and traditions
- Preparing poems and plays to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone and volume so that the meaning is clear to an audience
- Speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English
- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play/improvisations and debates
- Gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s)
- Use movement, body language, facial expression and intonation to portray character and atmosphere

We will also:

- Explore different staging and how it impacts presenting work in different places
- Consider stage craft, including how and where to stand
- Develop characterisation, including creating, designing and performing a character



Also happening this half-term...

- 8th – 12th January
Bike Ability (Bikes & helmets in school every day, wrap up warm!)
- 23rd January, 9.00
Violin & Viola Assembly (Parents of violinists welcome)
- 25th January, 9.00
Oak Class Assembly
- 6th February
Girls' Football Competition

If you have any questions, please feel free to message me using Class Dojo or email rjolly@gg.tela.org.uk 