

Autumn Term – ‘The Midnight Guardians’ by Ross Montgomery

Through the book ‘The Midnight Guardians’, the children will step into the world of Col who, with the help of his unique set of friends, is desperately trying to find and save his sister from a Blitz-bombed London. The underlying theme of war will launch the children into discovering the reasons behind the start of World War 2 and how Britain changed during the war years, giving particular attention to the Blitz and famous wartime leaders. The children will also have the opportunity to explore the reasons why children were evacuated from cities to the countryside. Sticking with the theme of war, the children will code the Crumble Controller to create a blackout scene in Computing and D&T to mirror those that occurred during the war. The children will focus on the importance of industrial areas and learn the human and physical differences between developed and developing countries in Geography this term. Using Leonardo Da Vinci for inspiration, the children will create a sketched piece of observational art (with convincing scale, depth, texture and tone) and justify their chosen techniques. In RE, the children will explore the idea of justice and freedom, looking at examples of the power of forgiveness and reconciliation in this country and will also look at whether Christmas is only for Christians. In Science this term, the children will be focusing on Electricity & Light in depth, exploring how they travel. In Music, we will listen to, compare and contrast the music of different composers, focusing on the impact Mozart, Beethoven and Elgar had on people. In PSHE this term, we will be looking at “Being myself in my world” and “Celebrating differences.” For our PE topics the children will explore gymnastics, and further develop ball and games skills as well as agility. In our Maths lessons, the children will be focusing on place value and the four operations. In Writing, the children will be bringing Col and Ruth’s stories to life through their own Warning and Journey Tales. Using what they will learn in History, the children will also produce some writing based on evacuation and the Kinder Transport.

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Spring Term— ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’ by Michael Morpurgo

Kensuke’s Kingdom tells the story of Michael who, after a sailing accident, is left stranded “alone” on a desert island. Michael then meets a Japanese man (Kensuke) who lives a primitive life there—Kensuke arrived on the island after his war ship was bombed, he believes his wife and daughter were killed when the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. This term the children will be fully immersed in World War 2—they will explore how, why and when WWII ended, making links to Hiroshima and Nagasaki and VE Day. They will also know the major influence Britain had, and continues to have, on the world.

In Music, we will be using a variety of musical devices to compose a war tune. Following Michael’s around-the-world boat journey, the children will explore and understand different time zones, identify Ordnance Survey map symbols and be able to use six-figure grid references to locate a place of interest. From this, the children will then create their own interpretation of Kensuke’s Kingdom (island) by creating a map showing the locality, they will then use this to create an explanation text of their island. In D&T, the children will be exploring textiles and creating their own cushion, using patterns and seam allowances to ensure it is a commercial product. The children will also have the opportunity to paint Kensuke’s Kingdom in their own personal style using the work of L.S Lowry for inspiration. In PSHE this term, we will be looking at “Dreams and Goals” and “Healthy Me”. For our PE topics we will be exploring Dance and Netball. In RE, the children will look at ‘Living a Faith’ and explore the question: What gives a sense of identity and belonging? They will also learn about Easter. Using Kensuke’s island, the children will investigate living things and their habitats and be able to explain how living things are characterised based on similarities and differences. They will understand that animals thrive in specific habitats as a result of evolution. In Computing, the children will be challenged to create a multi-page presentation incorporating visual, sound and text elements. In Writing, the children will use this text to tell both Michael and Kensuke’s stories through composing their own meeting tales, character flaw tales and conquering the monster tales. In Maths, we will be exploring algebra, ratio and proportion, measure and geometry.

Summer Term – ‘Holes’ by Louis Sachar

‘Holes’ tells the story of Stanley Yelnats and his family’s history of bad luck. When this bad luck unfairly lands Stanley in the juvenile detention centre - Camp Green Lake (which doesn’t have a lake in sight!) - he and his campmates are forced to dig holes to build their character... but what are they really digging for? Told with heart and humour, this story teaches the children about crime, punishment and redemption. In Geography, the children will focus on deserts and will learn the names of and be able to locate some of the world’s deserts such as The Sahara, The Great Basin and The Great Sandy Desert. They will also use Google Earth to locate a country or a place of interest and follow the journey of a river. Using the work of Giacomo Balla as inspiration, the children will use a range of tools to create their own clay sculpture. In Computing this term, the children will be preparing to publish their Literacy work through using a keyboard efficiently. They will also have the opportunity to use spreadsheets, databases and data loggers to solve a given problem. In D&T the children will be challenged to explain how food ingredients should be stored and create a two-course meal—they will understand the difference between a savoury and a sweet dish. In History, the children will be looking at two ancient civilisations—the Ancient Greeks and the Mayans. They will compare and contrast these two civilisations, focusing on the impact they had on the world and how they were considered an advanced society in relation to that period of time in Europe. In RE, the children will be looking at hopes and visions, focusing on the big question: What is life about? They will look at the teachings of the different faith founders and explore ‘Big Questions’, attempting to suggest some answers to these. In PSHE this term, we will be looking at “Relationships” and “Changing me”. Through our Summer performance, we will be looking at improving our performance skills including singing in harmony, performing parts from memory and singing in two parts. In Science, the children will learn about evolution and inheritance. In Writing, the children will be challenged to write from different points of view, telling the story of the various characters from our class text, Holes. In Maths, the children will have the opportunity to undergo a series of maths investigations. In PE, the children will be Olympians—competing in a range of athletic events.