

English: We will be studying a range of texts and genres to inspire a variety of creative writing opportunities this half term. We will begin by studying the book 'Cicada', written by Shaun Tan. We will closely analyse the themes contained within this picture book, such as prejudice, inequality and belonging. We will then engage in a sequence of drama activities. We will also use this text to as a basis for writing formal letters of complaint. Later in the half term, we will be studying graphic novels and other visual forms of story telling. Music will also be used as inspiration for writing opportunities.

Geography: As part of our Curriculum topic, we will be studying a variety of artists from around the globe. We will examine global, regional and cultural influences on different art forms. We will use atlases and maps to locate the origins of different artists and the subject matter depicted.

Texts:

- Cicada – written by Shaun Tan
- Graphic Novels – variety of authors

Science: This half term we will be learning about Relationships, Health and Sex Education. Our focus will be on the formation of healthy relationships and understanding that families can be different from one another in a multitude of ways – but this difference is something to be accepted and celebrated.

What can we learn from Art?

Physical Education: We take part in a series of skills-based lessons focussed around the sport of Cricket. We will continue to develop our hand-eye coordination, by engaging in a range of throwing and catching activities. We will learn how to bowl correctly using underarm and overarm techniques. We will learn to bat and play a number of short games.

Art and DT: Our topic 'What can we learn from Art?' will allow us to explore a range of different artists and art forms from around the World. We will begin by exploring Pop Art and some of the common tricks and techniques used as part of this modern form of artwork. We will learn about narrative art and discuss what lessons, stories or historical knowledge we can gain from this. Lastly, we will focus on the work of William T Williams, who draws inspiration from his own African heritage.



PATHS: We will use these sessions to build on and explore in greater depth some of the concepts being explored in our Science lessons. We will take part in a range of activities to help promote positive relationships and healthy friendships. We will explore a range of comfortable and uncomfortable emotions and discuss strategies on how to deal with these. With transition to Year 4 fast approaching, we will also discuss and address any worries, concerns or anxiety about this move.

French: We will take part in a variety of games, discussions, role play activities and songs to learn key vocabulary and to begin to develop some basic conversational language skills around the topic of time. We will learn the days of the week, months of the year and be able to say when our birthday is.

HISTORY: As part of our Curriculum topic this half term, we will explore different artists throughout history and the different techniques and artistic mediums they used.

Maths: We will begin the half term by exploring shape and geometry. We will learn to recognise and compare different angles. As part of the topic we will also learn to use terminology such as parallel, perpendicular, horizontal and vertical. Using newly learnt vocabulary, we will explore the properties of a variety of 2D and 3D shapes. We will learn about mass and capacity and accurately convert between units of measure. In addition to this, we will revisit calculation and some of the formal written methods.

Schools of Sanctuary: We will take part in 'A day of Welcome' to learn about refugees, migration and places of sanctuary. We will engage in a range of activities and discussions. The book 'Cicada' covers themes such as diversity, inequality and prejudice, many of which can be explored and discussed in relation to refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

Optional Activities:

Although we don't set any formal homework at Avenue Junior School we do ask that your children for a minimum of 10 minutes each day. Reading is a skill that underpins so many aspects your children's learning and regular practise of this skill is vital to enabling your children to be successful learners. Reading can take a variety of different forms: your children reading to you, you reading to your children, a mixture of both, independent reading, reading online using the Rising Stars online library and comprehension questions.

Times tables are also another great thing to work on at home! By the end of Year 4, children are expected to quickly recall their times tables facts up to 12x12. This is certainly something that takes a considerable amount of practise. The 2x, 5x and 10x tables are a good initial focus, before moving onto the others. There are many ways to practise and learn timetables – little and often is the key however!

Last half term we spent a number of weeks teaching children about time. This included reading digital and analogue clocks, using 12 and 24 hour time and working out time intervals. Supporting children with telling the time confidently is a hugely beneficial life skill.

We always love to see children getting excited by and actively engaging in our Curriculum topics. If children would like to research an artist and produce some artwork inspired by their chosen person, then we would love to see it and celebrate it in class!