

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. We will also learn about performance poetry and have a go at writing our own poems.

RE: In RE this half term we will be learning about Islam and what it means to be a Muslim. We will explore the 5 pillars of Islam and Ramadan and we will understand the significance of these within the Islamic faith. We will also engage in work to counter stereotypes and to continue our work on antiracism. We will use the book 'The Proudest Blue' to support with this.

Art: 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.

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.

## What can we learn from Art?

Physical Education: We will take part in a series of lessons around the topic of creativity. We will continue to work on fundamental skills such as team work and coordination whilst exploring creative movements and sequences. We will learn different games and exercises and work to adapt and create our own versions.

### Texts:

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



PSHE and RHSE: This half term we will be exploring the topic of healthy lifestyles and healthy relationships. We will begin by looking at what makes a good active lifestyle and how we can make small changes to improve our diets and amount of daily physical activity. We will also begin our work on drugs education, looking at alcohol and cigarettes. Through our work on healthy relationships, we will learn about 'consent'. This involves discussions around asking for permission (to join in games, activities etc), personal boundaries (social and physical) and then appropriate and inappropriate touch. We will also be using the NSPCC's PANTS resources to support with this.

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 language skills. We will learn the days of the week, months of the year and learn how to say when our Birthdays are.

**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 learning about fractions; exploring the relationship between the numerator and the denominator. We will learn to recognise halves, quarters, and thirds as well as finding some simple equivalent fractions. We will then learn about length and perimeter. We will practise using a ruler to measure distances accurately and from here, we will convert between centimetres and millimetres. We will also learn how to measure and calculate the perimeter.

Schools of Sanctuary. The book 'Cicada' covers themes such as diversity, inequality and prejudice. We will explore and discuss these in relation to our school community but also linked to refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

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 3x, 4x, 8x tables. There are many ways to practise and learn timetables – little and often is the key however!

A little later in the year, we will be teaching the children about time. Part of this will include reading both digital and analogue clocks before progressing onto working out time intervals, durations and reading timetables. It is really helpful if you can begin working on this with your children at home. Recognising o'clock, half past and quarter to/past times is a fantastic starting point!

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!

Vocabulary	Meaning
Artistic Medium	The materials used to enable artistic expression such as paints and canvas, coloured pencils and paper, clay...
Shading	The darkening (or variation) of colour within a drawing. Often used to make drawings appear more realistic.
Primary Colours	Red, Yellow, Blue. These 3 colours cannot be obtained by mixing any other colours together. All other colours can be made by mixing these colours together.
Secondary Covers	A colour resulting from the mixing of 2 primary colours.
Ben Day Dots	A term used to describe small coloured dots (typically red, yellow, blue) that are variously spaced and combined to create shading and the appearance of different colours.
Mixed Media	A variety of artistic media used to create a piece of artwork. This could be a combination of clay and paints, or pencils and water colours.
Narrative Art	This type of artwork tells a story; either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time.
Texture	This is the perceived or actual surface of a piece of artwork – in essence how it feels. Texture can be an element in 2D or 3D artwork.

### Class Dojo:

We love to see the work children and families have been doing at home.

Please do upload pictures via Class Dojo and we will make sure that these are celebrated in class and rewarded with team points or certificates.

Likewise if children have any notable achievements or events outside of school (swimming medals, football tournaments etc), we love to hear about these too!

### Volunteering in School

With the school environment now unrestricted by Covid guidance and legislation, we are looking to have lots of volunteers within school to help support and enhance our learning. This could be as a regular slot to help with spelling, reading or maths. Or it might be that you have a particular occupation/skill that you think would be interesting or relevant to our learning.

We have a number of volunteers starting in Year 3 in the next few weeks, but we are always on the look out for more!