

Year 3

St John the Baptist C of E Primary School

'Creating new possibilities for our future, with compassion in our hearts and courage on our journey.'



Spring 2 - Learning Overview

The Text Drivers

The youth and the dog dance



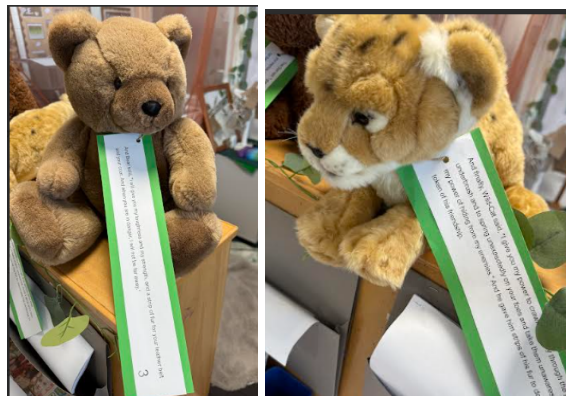
North American folklore
Canadian fairytales
Outcome: Narrative

Grizzly Bear



Information text
Canadian Creatures
Outcome: Persuasive Speech

The Hook



The children came back to school to find some creatures with dialogue from our new text attached to them.

They enjoyed experimenting with vocal expression, as they read the dialogue. Questions they needed to consider as they acted the parts were - How would the creature sound? How does the expression we use change a sentence's intention?

What we will be teaching:

English:

Narrative: The children will use their reading and writing skills to create their own narrative based on *The Youth and the Dog Dance*, a Native North American folk tale. They will choose rich and specific vocabulary to bring characters and settings to life, use adverbs to show when and where events happen, and apply prepositions to explain place, time, and cause. As the unit progresses, pupils will include direct speech using inverted commas, write compound and complex sentences, and vary their nouns and pronouns, especially when describing animals, to avoid repetition and improve flow.

Persuasive speech: They will learn to choose precise vocabulary to give clearer information and make their ideas more convincing. They will practise varying nouns and pronouns to avoid repetition and use different sentence types, including questions to persuade the reader. Like in narrative writing, they will also use adverbs and prepositions to explain time, place and cause, helping their explanations make sense. These skills will support them in writing confident, informative pieces such as a speech about visiting North America.

Maths: In Maths this half term, the children will be diving deeper into the world of fractions! They will build upon their understanding of equivalent fractions and develop confidence when adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator. They will also be revisiting a range of effective strategies to strengthen addition and subtraction skills up to 1000, helping to improve both accuracy and fluency. To round off the half term, they will be focusing on time - learning to tell the time to the minute and confidently reading and writing the time using both 12-hour and 24-hour clocks. Alongside all of this, the children will continue to develop their fluency of the 2x, 3x, 4x 5x and 10x tables and start to learn the 8x tables. We recommend TT Rockstars and Hit the Button for fun interactive games to support times tables learning.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

History/Geography:

Children will explore the continent of North America by learning about its countries, major cities, physical features and climates and comparing these to the UK to build their understanding of places beyond Europe.

Science: The big question for science this half term is - How do plants make their food? The key ideas for learning will be:

- Plants do not eat food so have to make their own.
- This food provides them with energy, and materials to grow.
- To make the food (sugar) plants need water from the ground, carbon dioxide from the air and light from the sun. The water is taken up through the roots from the soil. The carbon dioxide is taken in through the leaves.
- As well as food, plants also make oxygen which is given out back into the air through the leaves.

ART/DT: The children will design and create their own North American animal sculpture. Children will observe real animals to shape, form, model, and construct using clay. They will build confidence by adding more detail and texture to their work. A range of decorative techniques will be used, such as pressing, adding clay pieces, and painting.

RE:

In this topic, Year 3 children learn why Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday' by exploring how his death is understood as an act of love, forgiveness and hope that brings "good" to the world.

Computing: The children will develop their understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one. They will use yes/no questions to gain an understanding of what attributes are and how to use them to sort groups of objects. They will create physical and on-screen branching databases.

Music: Our music for this half term will be delivered through rehearsals and performances of the Year 3/4 production, 'You are special'. This will support their musical knowledge by giving them regular opportunities to practise pitch, rhythm and diction in a real performance context.

PE: In dance, the children will explore different ways of travelling and perform short sequences in time with the music.

In tennis (net and wall games) they will learn how to hit a ball with control using simple actions. They practise sending and receiving the ball with a partner, moving to the right place, and trying to keep a rally going.

PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday.

French: This term, children will revise numbers 1–10 and practise counting up to 20. They will continue learning how to say what they like and don't like. They will also explore Easter traditions in France and the UK, learning about French culture while comparing it to our own.

PDL (PSHE) :

They will learn about their rights and responsibilities, how to treat others with respect, and how their actions can help create a safe, fair and caring school community.

Messages to parents:

A polite reminder that children should leave toys and stationery at home.

We look forward to welcoming you into school for our Year 3/4 production, 'You are Special' and Parents Evening later in the term. Dates for the show are: **Tuesday 24th March @9:20am** and **Wednesday 25th March @2:15pm.**

Further information about these events will follow soon.

Remember to check the St John's jottings weekly for dates of upcoming events in school. This is emailed each Friday and is designed to keep our community up-to-date on important events in school. As always, please contact us if you need any support with your child, as working in partnership is so important to us.

The Year 3 Team

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