

9US
Curriculum Newsletter
Autumn Term 2023



Our Values...

Welcoming Teamwork
Friendship Trust
Independence Fun!

'Humanities' is our whole school curriculum priority for the Autumn Term.

A Humanities Curriculum Day will take place this term for the whole school, with lots of exciting activities planned which will focus on History, Geography, RE and British Values.

Festivals of the Month

September: Sukkot
October: Dussehra
November: Diwali
December: Christmas

Independent Living Skills/Work Related Learning

Pupils will use the classroom, outdoor spaces and Food Technology Room to begin to explore the skills required in the world of work. They will be working on their soft skills of speaking, listening and teamwork and will engage in practical horticultural skills working with a senior gardener from Bromsgrove School. As part of their learning the pupils will form a team that will grow and supply flowers and plants for the Catshill in Bloom Project.

Art

Art activities for 9US will be inspired by the colours of Autumn and the work of William Morris and the Arts and Craft Movement. Pupils will focus on producing work from primary observation and work towards producing patterns in print. Pupils will produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences in a sketchbook by using a variety of materials and techniques. Pupils will be given the opportunity to discuss the work of the artist and express their own opinions and ideas.

Computing

Music Creation and Programming in Kodu are this term's topics. The focus is on developing the use of algorithms, programming and how technology can be used safely and purposefully. E-safety will be integral throughout all computing lessons.

Science

This term pupils are exploring electricity and magnetism. They will be introduced to and explore electricity, including power sources, electrical safety, making simple circuits, identifying insulators and conductors and exploring magnets and magnetic materials. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their ability to work scientifically through predicting and testing predictions, making observations and measurements and presenting these and grouping according to results. There will be a focus on practical exploration.

Humanities

This term's History focus Victorian Britain.

Pupils will learn about Queen Victoria and what life was like for rich and poor people in that era. During the term, pupils will also discover the types of houses Victorian people lived in and the environment in which they worked.

How is my child's progress being recorded?

All pupils are continuously assessed using SOLAR, which breaks down Chadsgrove P-scales and National Curriculum Levels into small steps, so that we are able to track progression through each level in each subject area.

Music

Pupils will explore musical notation and experiment with the different ways music can be written down. They will create their own visuals (Graphic Scores), using pictures and symbols to notate individual parts within songs/pieces of music. Musical material will link to the class's current focus on Victorian Britain.

Maths

This term, pupils will be taught in short blocks in order to ensure appropriate coverage of the following key areas: properties of numbers, the four operations (focussing on addition and subtraction), using money, time and sequencing events, measuring, geometry, sorting and sequencing and thinking skills and problem solving. This should help pupils to be able to remember, build and apply their Mathematical skills in a range of different contexts.

A key focus this term will be using money, including recognising coins, being able to match coins to the relevant number of pennies, counting on from given coins and adding the value of two coins. A reward shop will be used to support pupils' learning.

Pupils will also explore positional language and concepts for example up, down, forwards, backwards, in, out etc.

PSHE and Relationships

Physical Health and Wellbeing will be the focus for this term. This will link with the lessons being delivered in PE, Swimming and Rebound Therapy.

Pupils will be taught the importance of good personal hygiene routines especially after doing exercise.

The Books Beyond Words text 'George gets Smart' will encourage healthy discussion about how important hygiene is and the impact that not staying clean has on health and wellbeing.

Wellbeing Days will also form part of the curriculum focus.

PE, Swimming and Fitness

PE takes place on Wednesdays; the focus for the first half term is gymnastics, the pupils will work with a partner exploring different ways of mirroring, matching and following and then transfer these skills to apparatus. The second half of the term the focus is table games, pupils will develop their polybat skills learning tactics and how to score a game.

The pupils will take part in an outdoor adventurous activity during the term.

On a Tuesday pupils will either take part in hydrotherapy, fitness or rebound therapy. Those taking part in hydrotherapy will be informed individually.

English

Pupils will focus on the topic 'Victorian Britain'. They will be exploring poetry and short stories by the author Hans Christian Anderson. To promote a love of reading pupils will continue to build up their experience and knowledge of both fiction and non-fiction texts by having lots of opportunities to explore a range of books, both independently and as a class.

Pupils will have three weekly Phonics sessions, appropriate to their developmental needs, to help expand their knowledge of sounds and to develop their fluency in preparation and practice for reading.

Pupils will also continue to practice their handwriting and typing skills. This will be supported by the use of software such as Clicker 8.

How can parent carers support their child's learning?

Please check the Home-School books on a regular basis to communicate any useful information about your child as well as to keep in touch with what they have been doing in school.

Please provide a snack and drink for break time (where appropriate). If you have any concerns at all, please feel free to contact us by email or phone, although we may not be able to speak to you right away if we are in class.