

Welcome back! I hope half term was filled with lots of rest and family time.

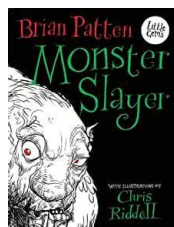
We are looking forward to an exciting term, including the Feast of St Charles', Remembrance Sunday and Anti-Bullying Week, all leading up to our advent and Christmas preparations.

English

This half term as writers, we will be focusing on:

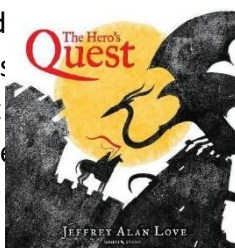
Monster Slayer -

The monster Grendel has awoken and the townspeople are terrified. Even the King has abandoned his great Hall. Hero after hero comes to slay the monster, but no one can outwit Grendel. Only Beowulf has a chance. But when Beowulf finally triumphs, an even greater horror awakens. Grendel's mother, the Hag, wants revenge on the slayer of her son. High quality cream paper and a special easy to read font ensure a smooth read for all.



The Hero's Quest -

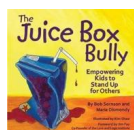
This story tells of a quest through world magic and myth. Dragons watch, wolves chase and sea monsters lurk. The quest must be completed by our hero, and the story begins as all stories must... with a hero appearing from out of the dust.



The Juice Box Bully -

During Anti-Bullying week we will use this story to consider how we treat others and how we can 'Make a noise' to stand up to bullying.

We will also use 'Lou', a short Pixar film about how we can change.



Maths



This half term, as mathematicians, we are going to be focusing on the following:

Addition and Subtraction

This unit builds on children's Year 3 work on adding and subtracting with 3-digit numbers. It further develops their estimation and answer-checking strategies and their problem-solving skills. This unit provides essential preparation for beginning to add and subtract numbers with more than four digits. Before they start this unit, it is expected that children:

- have a firm understanding of place value (up to 4-digit numbers)
- know a range of mental addition and subtraction strategies
- can apply these strategies to a range of contexts including measure.

We will focus on using addition and subtraction strategies in reasoning and problem-solving situations.

Measure – area

In this small step, children encounter area for the first time. They learn that area is the amount of space taken up by a two-dimensional shape or surface. They explore different ways of working out the area of a shape,

Multiplication and Division

This unit builds upon the previous work children have done on multiplication and division from Year 3, where children learnt how to multiply by equal grouping and to divide using sharing. This unit also builds upon previous work children have done on addition and subtraction. It also develops children's reasoning skills, which they are developing throughout the year.

RE – Branch 2 – Prophecy and Promise

In this branch, pupils will compare two accounts of the appearance of John the Baptist, noticing what is the same in St Mark and St Matthew's accounts. Alongside physical appearance, both gospel writers draw on the prophet Isaiah, suggesting that the one Isaiah speaks of is fulfilled in the person of John. For Christians, this is true as it is a sign that Jesus is the Messiah. In the gospel accounts, John prepares the way for Jesus' ministry, whereas, in Advent, the figure of John the Baptist asks Christians how they will prepare a way for Jesus in their own lives and at the end of all things.

Were the Anglo Saxons a benefit to Britain?

For our topic learning this half term, we are going to become historians and delve into the history of the Anglo Saxons and their impact on Britain.

Here is an outline of our learning for this half term:

In **week one, as historians**, we will be looking at who were the Anglo Saxons, and why did they invade Britain?

In **week two, as historians**, we will be researching if Anglo Saxon place names still exist today.

In **week three, as historians**, our focus will be on what was a Saxon village/farm like and how do they differ from today?

In **week four, as historians**, we will be exploring the Anglo Saxon hierarchy.

In **week five, as historians**, we will explore Sutton Hoo and try to figure out its importance.

In **week six, as historians**, our research will take us down the Anglo Saxon justice system. What did happen to 'naughty' Anglo Saxons?

All our history learning this half term links with the following National Curriculum areas:

Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful

Guided Reading

For our Guided Reading this half term, we are going to be developing our inferential and retrieval skills. As we become more confident with this, we will work towards timed exercises and more independent question answering. We use the ERIC approach to Guided Reading (Explain, Retrieval, Interpret and Choice). To build these skills this half term, we are going to be using *Journey to Jo'burg* by Beverley Naidoo.

Naledi knows that her little sister Dineo might die too. But what can she do? Their grandmother has no money and there are no doctors in their village. So Naledi makes up her mind. She will have to get Mma who works more than 300 kilometres away in Johannesburg. The only way to let her know was to get to the big road and walk. So Naledi and her brother Tiro did just that...

Banned by the apartheid government in South Africa, this is the story of two children's courage and determination to find their mother and bring her home.

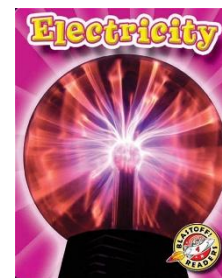


Science

Our next Science topic is all about electricity!

Our Enquiry Questions this half term is '**Can I make that light and buzz?**' This science learning links very nicely with our DT learning this half term and we will be making our own torches and buzzing wire games!

Make sure you keep an eye on SeeSaw to see our updates and games as the half term progresses!



How can you help?

If you ever need to contact me, just catch on the gate on Tuesday mornings, or any time after school. I can also be contacted through the info@cha.srscmat.co.uk email address – Miss Smith will forward anything that is meant for me!

Daily reading is essential. The fluency and understanding of a text is now embedded, but we still need to work together to continuously challenge the children with their question answering, expression, tone and pace. Your child will be heard read at least 3 times a week in school by an adult, so please ensure that you listen to them read at home.

This year, there will also be the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). This will take place in the Summer Term and is a statutory test for Year 4 children in England. More information will follow through the year, but there will be a real push on quick recall of multiplication tables. Please encourage your child to complete regular practice using Times Tables Rockstars, Timestables.co.uk and 'Hit the Button'. Any questions, just ask.

Mrs Brassington & Mrs Fraser