

Year 3 Autumn 1: What does it take to be an explorer?

What we're reading: Varjak Paw

Varjak Paw is an award-winning story written by S.F. Said about a cat called Varjak who has to journey from his home to an unknown city where he has a series of adventures.

We will write a diary entry from the perspective of Varjak and about some of the events in the story. We will also use our imaginations and the books descriptions to write our own setting description full of rich language.

What we're writing:

Diary entry, setting description

Important people or places:

Matthew Henson & Robert Peary
Countries in Europe



Commander Peary.....and Matt Henson, 1909

Humanities: History, Geography, Art, Modern Foreign Languages, RE, Music, RSHE

As Geographers, we will develop a strong understanding of how to effectively and purposefully use different types of map to find information. We will learn about the 7 continents of the world and identify key geographical features in Europe. Using the knowledge gained from using maps, we will attempt to create our own map of the school playground. We will also meet a real-life explorer who will talk about his experiences and will lead some workshops on orienteering and map reading.



In PSHE, our main focus will be on ensuring that everyone has a smooth transition to Avenue Junior School. We will take part in discussions, role play activities and teamwork games to help build friendships and establish rules and routines. We will explore what healthy relationships look like and how to deal with disagreements at school when or if they arise. We will also explore online safety in depth to ensure that the children know how to stay safe online.

As Musicians, we will learn about the different musical families and explore how these work together to form an orchestra. We will learn about specific instruments and how these create a sound.

As Linguists, we will learn and practice some basic French vocabulary to be able to greet somebody politely and introduce ourselves. This will be done through a variety of spoken and written games, activities and songs.

Humanities Vocabulary	Definition
Cartography	The art and science of creating a map or chart of a geographical area.
Topography	Description of the physical features of an area. It often records various elevations.
Hemisphere	Half of a sphere. Used to divide the Earth into Northern and Southern halves.
Equator	The imaginary line that runs around the middle of the Earth and is the division of the Northern and Southern hemispheres.
Climate	The average weather conditions for a particular location over a long period of time.

RE Enquiry: How do people express commitment to a religion/worldview in different ways? We will explore the idea of commitment. We will identify situations in which we have shown commitment to something, before learning how Christians, Jews and Sikhs show commitment to their religions.



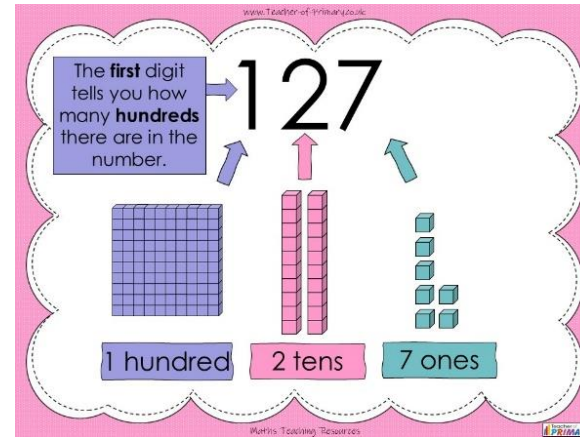
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As Mathematicians, we will learn about number and place value to build up confidence in this essential element of Mathematics. We will learn to identify, read and write 3-digit numbers and understand the value of each digit. Furthermore, we will learn to compare and order numbers. Using a variety of concrete and pictorial representations, we will learn to add and subtract 3-digit numbers. We will learn about the process of exchanging, when crossing a tens or hundreds boundary.

As scientists, we will explore light. We will learn what a light source is and understand how light is reflected from a surface. We will learn about the eye and how light helps us to see. We will also learn about shadows and the dangers of UV radiation.

Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics (STEM): Computing, Design Technology, Maths, PE, Science



As Computer Scientists, we will spend the half-term ensuring that the children know how to interact with technology safely. We will learn about e-safety and what type of information is acceptable to share online. We will look at the benefits of device free time and will introduce the idea of being a positive digital citizen.

As Sportspeople, we will have a dance focus in PE. We will work with partners to create our own dances and ensure that they can be repeated in unison. We will use dynamic and expressive qualities and use counts to keep in time.

STEM Vocabulary	Definition
Numbers	Numbers are made up of digits and have a 'value'
Digits	Digits are the symbols by which the a number is represented
Place Value	The value represented by a digit in a number on the basis of its position in that number. E.g. 251 – the digit 5 represents 50
Light	A form of energy that travels in a wave from a source.
Reflective	A word to describe something which reflects light well.
Translucent	Let some light through but scatters the light so we cannot see through them properly.
Transparent	Objects that let light travel through them meaning you can see through the object.
Opaque	Describes objects that do not let any light pass through them.

Optional Activities:

Whilst we don't set any formal homework at Avenue Junior School, we are passionate about reading and therefore ask that your child reads for at least 10 minutes a day. The benefits of this are wide ranging and can be felt across the curriculum. We are currently concentrating on our 4 times tables so any practise with that will be beneficial.

It can sometimes be nice to do some additional activities at home linked to our work in school and so below we've given a few suggestions of activities you might like to try.

- Build a model of a pyramid or the Sphinx.
- Create artwork inspired by Egyptian mythology – can you create your own Egyptian god or goddess? What would they be the god or goddess of?
- Can you make your own Egyptian deity Top Trumps?
- Research hieroglyphs. Use what you find out to write a hieroglyphic hidden message.
- Explore capacity at home – what is the greatest capacity container you have at home? Bring containers into the bath and sort them by capacity.
- Create your own magazine cover based on a hobby or activity you like?

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!



ClassDojo