Merridale Primary School
'Growing together'

Discover In Year 6

Early Islamic Civilisations

This unit has a focus on history and RE, allowing pupils to investigate the creation of Baghdad and its role in the Islamic Golden Age. The unit is based around the stories of "1001 Arabian Nights," allowing children time to read, enjoy and recreate their own versions of the stories. Children develop geographical skills and knowledge by looking at the natural resources in the Middle East and use their knowledge to justify Baghdad's geographical location. Children look at the key teachings or Islam and the features of mosques and Islamic architecture. They investigate Islamic art and create their own based on their acquired knowledge. A number of opportunities for independent project work are integrated into the topic, providing time to develop research and presentation skills.

The First World War

This unit has a history focus. It begins with developing pupils factual knowledge of the First World War before moving on to looking at the Christmas Truce. During this part of the unit children read a range of texts, including poetry about this event and write their own account in the first person. After Christmas, children will look at the impact of the First World War on the Black Country, developing historical enquiry skills and using a range of sources to investigate its impact on the local area. The link text for this unit is Michael Morpurgo's Private Peaceful. The unit will culminate in a showcase for parents in the Spring term.

Bright Sparks

This unit has a science and design and technology focus based around light and electricity. Children investigate a range of questions around light to discover how light travels and how we see things, including the angle of incidence and the angle of reflection. They look at how shadows can be altered and the key components of a fair test. Children are taught the correct electrical circuit symbols and investigate how the brightness of bulbs and loudness of buzzer can be altered. Children make their own simple circuits and create and debug algorithms. Children investigate the range of electronic games available and used simple circuits to design and make their own. Electric, computer generated music is listened to and children create their own digital music applying what they have learnt.

Evolution

This unit has a science focus looking at evolution and living things. Children examine theories of evolution and how living things have changed over time. They investigate the evidence provided by fossils and what these tell us about evolution. Creation theories from around the world and the major religions are also shared and discussed. Children investigate how living things are suited to their environments and recognise that adaptations help living things to flourish. Children are taught that all living things reproduce and that offspring are similar, although not identical to their parents. This is linked to our Growing and Changing lessons where children are taught about the changes which occur during puberty.

Our Island Home

This unit has been designed to extend pupils' geographical knowledge of the UK and is based around a trip to Borth. Children compare the coastal area of Borth to the West Midlands and other locations around the UK, examining human and physical geographical features as well as the living things which inhabit different areas of the UK. Children are provided opportunities to develop mapping skills, including creating their own maps and following orienteering trails. Children explore the seasonality of food and plan their own seasonal menus before cooking savoury dishes based on these. Children look at landscape paintings from around the UK and use these to create their own artwork.

Healthy Living

Year 6 take part in two healthy living weeks focused around the Merridale Marathon and Sports Day. The first unit looks at the spread of disease and micro-organisms. Children are given opportunities to discover theories of disease in the past and compare these to today's scientific knowledge. Children explore different ways of preventing the spread of disease and presented these in a format of their choice. Children are taught the difference between bacteria, viruses and fungi and understood that micro-organisms can be beneficial as well as harmful. The second week focuses around healthy lifestyle choices including exercise and healthy eating. Children look at simple ways of changing their lifestyle and making healthy choices as well as cooking a range of healthy, savoury dishes.