



Merridale Primary School

'Growing together'



Discover In Year 5

Out of this World!

This exciting topic has a **science** focus, exploring space (Earth, the sun, the moon and beyond). Children learn about the solar system and the other planets. They explore the scientific reasons for day, night and the seasons. Children also discover that our moon is a natural satellite and study the phases of the lunar cycle in detail. Children also explore the history of space exploration. Children develop programming skills as part of **computing** in order to design and create a space themed computer game. The topic also has a **Design and Technology** focus; children work in pairs to design and make their own moon "space buggy" using a range of materials and their knowledge of electrical circuits.

Ancient Civilisations

This topic has a main focus on **history** and **geography**. Children briefly look at how some of the early major world civilisations developed and how successful they were. Pupils explore the physical geography of Egypt and Greece. Children then study the civilisations of Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece in detail, exploring various aspects of daily life and significant contributions to the modern world. The topic involves a visit to the Birmingham Museum to explore real life ancient Greek artefacts. In school, children also design their own vase in the style of ancient Greek pottery. As part of **Design and Technology**, children design and create a model of the Parthenon. Children create their own Powerpoint presentation during **computing** lesson based on what they have learnt about the ancient Egyptians or Greeks.

In the Lab

This topic is primarily **science** based. Pupils explore the properties of materials and how they can be classified according to these. Children also look at how a solution is created and how the substance can be recovered from a solution. Pupils develop their understanding of solids, liquids and gases and explore how mixtures might be separated including through filtering, sieving and evaporating. In addition, children look at examples of reversible and irreversible changes and consolidate this understanding through real life applications such as cooking. Throughout the topic, pupils develop scientific skills of observing, measuring accurately using a range of scientific equipment, recording and presenting data and learn about the importance of fair testing.

This is your Life

This unit has a **science** focus, looking at life cycles of animals and humans. Children look at the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird and briefly describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. This topic also incorporates SRE "Growing and Changing" work when studying the life cycles of humans and other animals. The topic also extends to an oral **history**/family history project making links with older generations in families and the local community to share stories. Pupils study family trees and devise one for their own family. Children devise their own questions and visitors from an older generation are invited to share what life was like for them. Children also make local visits to the Archives and a cemetery. During writing lessons, pupils study autobiographies of famous people from history and use this as inspiration for their own writing. During **computing** lessons, pupils record their own podcast in role as a person from an older generation, taking into account events from British history.

The Need for Speed

This unit also has a **science** focus looking at streamlining and water and air resistance. Children develop their knowledge and understanding of this by looking at how athletes, swimmers and sports vehicles are affected by these factors. Staff from Birmingham Thinktank Museum also run a workshop in school to develop children's understanding of air and water resistance. Children develop persuasive writing skills by writing an advert for a fast car. Children also make a visit to Sycamore adventure go karting! As part of computing, children created their own digital animation for a "fast car".

Healthy Living

Year 5 take part in two healthy living weeks focused around the Merridale Marathon and Sports Day. The first unit involves a study of the different food groups. Pupils explore what constitutes a healthy balanced diet and the importance of maintaining this. Pupils also consider the effects of an unhealthy diet and harmful substances such as tobacco. The second week focuses around healthy lifestyle choices in relation to exercise. Children look at simple ways of changing their lifestyle in order to incorporate more exercise and adopt a more active lifestyle.

In year 5, the class teacher is Mrs Banks. The following adults also work in year 6: Mrs Robinson, Miss Patel and Miss Hargrove. PE takes place every Thursday. Spellings will be given out on Mondays and tested on the following Monday. Other homework is normally given out on a Friday and due in the following Tuesday, although there are occasions when other homework will be given. My maths and Timestables Rockstars will be used throughout the year to support children's learning in maths