



# Petersfield Church of England School

## Curriculum Information

*Yew Class, Spring Term 2025*



### English

This term, we will broaden and deepen the children's writing skills and knowledge of grammar and punctuation through non-chronological reports, balanced arguments, biographies, narratives that use different tenses and the effective use of dialogue. We will continue to work on spelling patterns and developing a fluent, joined handwriting style. In our guided reading sessions, we will read, analyse and discuss a range of non-fiction texts. We will also study poems including "The Listeners" by Walter de la Mare" and we will begin reading the novel "Holes" by Louis Sachar.

### Mathematics

This term we will be concentrating on the following areas of Maths:

- Ratio and proportion
- Understanding algebra
- Calculating with fractions, decimals and percentages
- Area, perimeter and volume
- Reading and interpreting line graphs, bar charts and pie charts
- Calculating the mean

### RE

**Why do Abrahamic religions look different around the world?** We will be comparing Abrahamic religions and why different worldviews may have interpreted similar origins differently.

**Why is there suffering?** We will be interpreting and exploring different sources of wisdom and beliefs about why there is suffering in the world.

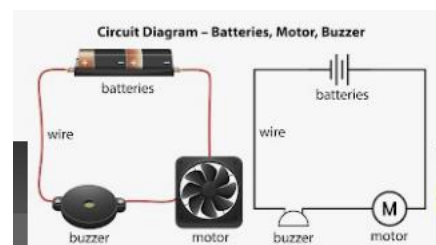
### Science

#### Materials: Mixtures and Separation

Exploring different types of mixtures, the children learn methods of separation, dissolve various substances, investigate how temperature affects dissolving time, design and create a water filter, sieve soil and evaporate solutions.

#### Energy: Circuits, Batteries and Switches

Revisiting electrical circuits, the children will draw conventional circuit diagrams, use models to explain current, resistance and voltage, compare batteries and their effects on bulb brightness and apply their knowledge to design and create practical devices.



### History: How did the Maya civilization compare to the Anglo Saxons?

Comparing the Maya and the Anglo-Saxons, children learn about the Maya civilisation. They investigate how the Maya settled in the rainforest, their religious beliefs, homes and what archaeological remains tell us about Maya cities. Using primary evidence, they examine theories into how the Maya cities declined.

#### Geography: Why do oceans matter?

We will explore the importance of our oceans and how they have changed over time with a focus on the Great Barrier Reef, specifically addressing climate change and pollution.

**Art:** This term, we will be exploring self-portraits by a range of artists. Children will be using photographs of themselves as a starting point for developing their own unique self-portraits in mixed-media.

**DT: Structures - Playgrounds** We will research playground equipment and its different forms, before designing and developing a range of apparatus to meet a list of specified design criteria.

**Music:** Our work will focus on Benjamin Britten's *A New Year Carol*. We will learn to sing the song and play instrumental parts, as well as learning about Britten's life and listening to some of his other pieces.

**PE:** We will focus on the skills and tactics needed for football, handball and tag rugby. We will also use circuit training to develop fitness.

**Computing: Web page creation** We will identify what makes a good web page and use this to design and evaluate our own paying specific attention to copyright, aesthetics and navigation paths.

**Data and information: Flat File Databases** The children will use a flat-file database to organise data in records which they will then order and answer questions about. They will create graphs and charts from their data to help solve problems, use a real-life database and present their work to others.

**PSHE:** This term, we will be revisiting the themes of belonging, feelings, problem solving, myself and relationships from our E4L curriculum. We will be covering the Cambridgeshire Primary Personal Development Programme Healthy and Safer Lifestyles unit on Managing safety and Risk.



## Yew Class Homework Menu

Last term's homework projects showed a fantastic range of interesting activities. This term, we continue to set project homework alongside the Maths or English set each week. This menu details a range of fun activities that can be completed at home to extend your child's learning. Please help your child to choose and complete a selection of these activities. To fit in with your family life, they can be completed after school, at weekends or as a half term project. If you would like further suggestions, please feel free to select from the homework menus of other classes which are all available on the school Website. Children are asked to share at least one of the activities with us in school. **The deadline for this homework is 26<sup>th</sup> February** and we ask that the homework is not brought into class until after half term.



### English

- Write a story in diary form detailing your expedition into the forests of Central America and your discovery of a ruined Maya city.
- Research and write a biography of either Frederick Catherwood or any other archaeologist who studied the Maya.
- Choose a poem or short piece of prose that you enjoy, learn it by heart and prepare a performance of it to give to the class.
- Design and make your own picture book that tells a story in illustrations rather than words.

### Suggested Reading List

- Any non-fiction book about the Maya or the oceans (try the local libraries)
- *Middle World (Jaguar Stones)* by J and P Voelkel
- Novels by Louis Sachar eg *Fuzzy Mud* or *Small Steps*
- Poetry collections (anthologies) eg *Michael Rosen's A-Z: The Best Children's Poetry from Agard to Zephaniah*

### Science

- Design a circuit for house lights that mean they can be switched on and off from two different locations (eg a hall light that can be switched from upstairs and downstairs). Make a model or draw a circuit diagram of your design.
- Design, draw and label a machine to sort coins of different sizes. Each size coin should be separated into different containers.

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### History & Geography

- Produce a flick book animation of Maya people playing the Ball Game.
- Research some of the foods we have got from the Maya and make a dish (or a whole feast!) to show off some of these ingredients.
- Make a presentation about plastic pollution and how it affects the world's oceans.
- Produce a "Spotter's Guide" to the plants and animals that can be commonly found on British beaches.

### Mathematics

- Create a maths problem or board game based on the Maya civilisation.
- Make a powerpoint presentation showing how the Maya number system worked.
- Keep a record of the temperature at the same time each day for several weeks. Draw a line graph of the results and calculate the mean temperature.

### Art & DT

- Research Mayan art work and then make a relief carving in the same style.
- Build a model playground with as many working pieces of apparatus as you can eg swings that swing, roundabouts that turn, zip wires that zip etc.

### Possible Family Trips & Visits

- Cadbury World – find out about the links between the Maya and chocolate.
- The Cambridge Science Centre
- The beach – investigate the plants and animals that live there.