Investigators Curriculum Overview Autumn 2

Theme: This half term, Year 4 pupils will learn about the history of Tutbury Castle and explore the important people and events connected to it. They will discover why the castle was built after the Norman Conquest, learn about the features of a motte and bailey castle, and find out how the castle changed over time. Children will study the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots, understand why she was seen as a threat to Queen Elizabeth I, and learn about the role of the castle during the English Civil War. They will also create timelines to place key events in chronological order and develop their understanding of how national events have shaped their local area.

This half term, Year 5 pupils will deepen their understanding of Tutbury Castle by exploring how it was used by different rulers and how its role changed over time. They will investigate why the Normans built castles to strengthen their control of England, examine how castle design developed, and explore the causes of rebellions and conflict. Children will compare the lives of Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I, learn about the differences between the Tudor and Stuart monarchies, and investigate the causes and key events of the English Civil War. Through research and timeline work, they will develop their historical enquiry skills and understand how local history connects to significant events in British history.

Literacy: This half term, children will develop their reading and writing skills through a range of exciting texts. They will explore *Hidden Figures* to learn about influential people and write character maps, diary entries, news articles and a persuasive letter. In History, they will compare two castles and create a non-chronological report, learning how to explain and present factual information. Children will also enjoy the song *You're a Mean One, Mr Grinch*, using it as inspiration for creative poetry and expressive writing. Throughout the unit, they will learn how different types of writing are used to inform, explain, persuade, analyse and entertain.

Mathematics: The children will continue to take part in Mastering Number to strengthen their arithmetic and times tables skills. This half term we are focusing multiplication and division.

PE: In this PE unit, children will develop their jumping, landing and seated balance skills through a range of practical activities. They will take part in skill-building exercises, cooperative games, healthy competition and Personal Best challenges, helping them improve their control, coordination and confidence. Children will work towards completing challenge levels, aiming to progress from red challenges to blue challenges as their balance and agility skills develop. They all also be taking part in yoga this half term and they will learn how to control their bodies, improve their balance and coordination, and build strength and flexibility through yoga poses and sequences.

RE: This half term, children will explore the question “Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?” They will learn about different reasons why Jesus is important to Christians and why many people find his teachings inspiring. Through stories, parables and miracles, children will think about how Jesus encouraged people to make good choices, help others and live good lives. They will also share their own ideas and opinions about what makes someone inspirational.

Science: This half term, children will learn that all solids, liquids and gases are made of tiny particles that are arranged and move in different ways. They will explore how materials change state through melting, freezing, evaporation and condensation, and understand that different substances change state at different temperatures. Children will investigate how heating and cooling affects particle movement, carry out experiments to test changes of state, and learn how these processes are linked to the water cycle. They will also extend their knowledge by exploring plasma as the fourth state of matter, understanding absolute zero, comparing Celsius and Fahrenheit temperature scales, and considering how human activities can affect the water cycle.

PSHE: This half term, the key topic is 'Bullying Matters'. This half term, children will be learning about healthy relationships, friendships, and staying safe online and offline. They will explore different types of bullying and how to seek help and support, understand the positive and negative ways the internet can be used, and learn how their online behaviour can affect others. Children will also discuss respect, kindness, inclusion, and the importance of valuing differences. They will develop strategies for resolving conflict peacefully, managing changes and transitions, and building positive friendships.

Design Technology: This half term, children will be learning about Cooking and Nutrition through the practical task of making pretzels. They will learn how to safely and hygienically use kitchen equipment and ingredients while developing cooking skills such as mixing, kneading, shaping and baking. Children will explore where ingredients come from, understand the importance of a healthy and balanced diet, and learn how food helps our bodies to stay healthy. Through making pretzels, they will build confidence, independence and important life skills in the kitchen.

Computing: Learners will identify the input device (microphone) and output devices (speaker or headphones) required to work with sound digitally. Learners will discuss the ownership of digital audio and the copyright implications of duplicating the work of others. In order to record audio themselves, learners will use Audacity to produce a podcast, which will include editing their work, adding multiple tracks, and opening and saving the audio files. Finally, learners will evaluate their work and give feedback to their peers. This unit uses 'school news' as a context for the podcasts, but this can be changed to suit your curriculum.