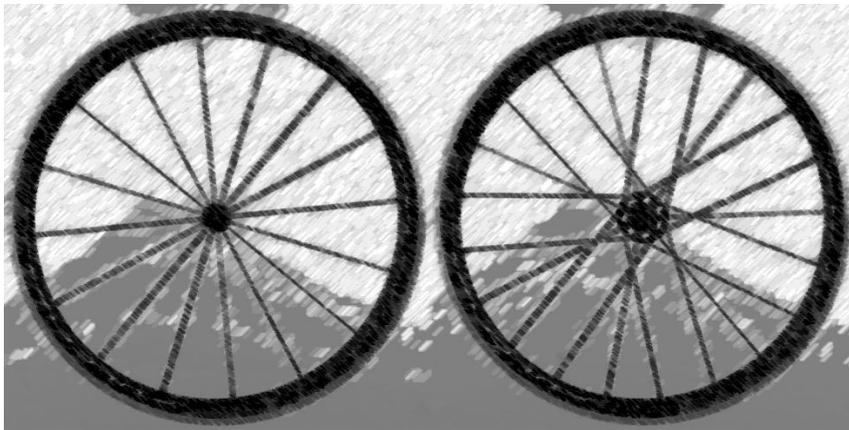
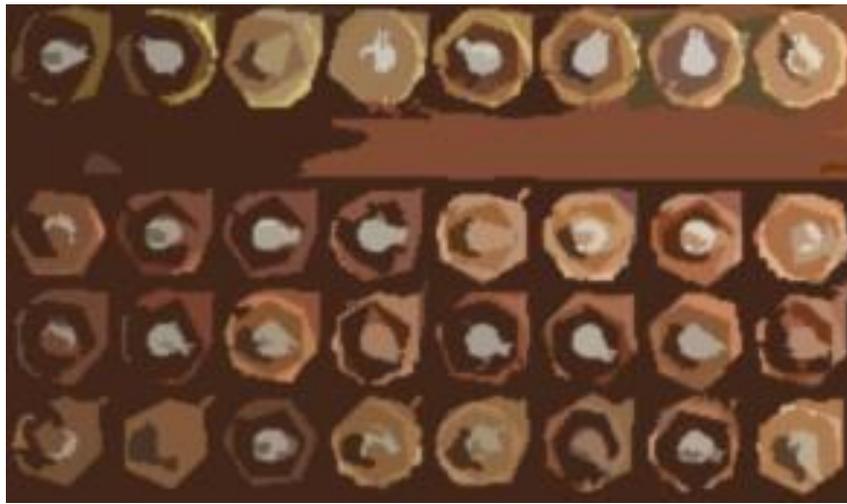


Year 2 – Cheddington Combined School

Spring Term Newsletter

Japan – The World Wars – Everyday Materials



Culture – Cracking Codes – Fair Testing

Welcome back after the Christmas break, we have a busy and exciting term planned...

Mrs Damon is joining the Year 2 team and will be teaching Monday and Tuesday with Mrs Williams teaching Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The main themes that will be running through all areas of our work this term include:

- An investigation into Japan and its culture, as well as a look at life on the Isle of Coll.
- The World Wars, including a look at the local history of Bletchley Park.
- An investigation into everyday materials, looking at their inventors, properties, and how we can change materials for particular uses.

English

We will continue to read and discuss a wide variety and genres of texts, to inspire our writing across the term. Some areas of work will include: a look at the Katie Morag stories by the author Mairi Bedderwick; reading of Traditional Tales from other countries, including Japan, before writing our own traditional story as well as a script for our puppet theatre; looking at letter writing during the World Wars and in particular letters of child evacuees; creating information booklets on life during the war, fact files on famous people, as well as instructions for how to prepare a prize sheep for a country show, how to make origami models and war-time recipes!

We will be further developing our English skills in spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as extending our formal comprehension skills across a wide variety of non-fiction and fictional texts (including: reading, retrieving and recording answers, as well as developing skills in prediction and inference.)

Maths

This term in maths we will be looking at:

CALCULATION: number and place value, including estimating, counting and comparing numbers, addition and subtraction, including recall and application of number facts and mental calculation strategies, as well as using partitioning and counting on/back strategies, multiplication and division, including grouping, sharing and recalling and using times tables facts, geometry, including properties of 3D and 2D shapes, measures and money, fraction, including finding fractions of quantities, shapes and sets of objects and statistics: collecting and representing data.

PROBLEM SOLVING and **REASONING** skills which will include applying and explaining mathematical knowledge and strategies.

Please make sure you continue to practise recalling and applying number bonds to 10, 20, 100 and times table facts for 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 times tables.

Science

This term in science we will be investigating Everyday Materials. We will be looking at identifying different materials, their properties, usage, how and why they were developed and how they can be changed. We will be establishing what a "Fair Test" is and undertaking a number of "Fair Test" enquiries, including finding out which materials make good insulators, which materials you can weave and why and if/how you

can change materials by heating, freezing, bending, squashing, stretching. We will also be looking at our responsibility in using both man-made and natural materials.

Also in science the children will be looking at “What helps them to stay healthy”. Topics that will be covered include: hygiene (dental and washing hands), diet, exercise, sleep and mental well-being.

Geography

This Term we are undertaking an extensive study of Japan and its culture. As part of this we will be comparing its physical and human features with part of the UK, The Isle of Coll, to find out if there are any similarities or differences. We will be further developing our use of maps, atlases and globes to establish some basic facts for both regions. We have also linked up with the Japanese Society in London. They are very kindly sending us an activity chest containing items related to Japanese culture that we can investigate. The Society will also be running a workshop for us to explore aspects of Japanese culture, such as its language, kimonos and the art of origami.

History

After the Half Term break we will be looking at the World Wars. We will be finding out about when they took place, how they started, some of the battles that were fought on land, sea and air, as well as what life was like on the home front. We will be particularly researching what it was like for children in the World Wars and the personal stories of evacuees. This will include some local historical work including using the school’s log books to find out about the impact of evacuees in Cheddington, as well as looking into the crucial work that was carried at Bletchley Park during World War Two.

Art/DT

In the first half of the term we will be investigating and responding to Aboriginal art and develop our ideas in 3D work, designing and making didgeridoos. After half term we will be making prints inspired by the work of the Japanese Printmaker Hokusai. As part of our DT work we will be designing and making our own puppets, which will include looking at different seasonal kimono designs.

PE

This term in PE the children will continue to develop their ball skills, particularly in the area of playing team games. We will also be exploring dance. Our PE lessons will also link into our science work on staying healthy, including taking and measuring our pulse rates.

RE

The topics for this term are Special Places, followed by Special Occasions. This will include the children investigating what is special to them and why, as well as exploring what makes some places special to particular religions (including: Christianity, Judaism, Shintoism, Islam).

IT

In ICT the children will be continuing to look at programming, using Beebots and Probots. They will also be developing their word processing, graphic design and research skills.

Homework – Please feel free to use your child’s diary as a means of communication between us. Let us know immediately if there are any problems regarding the homework, or any other matter, so that we can try to solve any problems before they become too big!

Homework activities will be set on a Thursday and will be due back on the following Monday.

Your child should read at least 5 times a week to an adult for 5 minutes and spend 5 minutes practising spelling or number bonds (10, 20, 100)/time tables (x2, x3, x4, x5, x10). Please sign your child’s diary each week to show that you know that your child has completed the homework, and to record their 5 minutes of skills practice on the relevant number of days. Using TT Rockstars regularly (passwords at the front of your child’s diary) is a fun way for your child to practise and develop their times table skills.

How you can help your child.

- Please ensure that your child’s belongings are labelled.
- Ensure that your child has their correct equipment required in school; water bottle, reading book, home school record book, homework folder, PE kit.
- Any monies brought into school at any time should be in a clearly labelled, named envelope.
- Please support and encourage your child with their homework and sign their homework diaries once a week (please also note when your child has finished reading their book so that we know it can be changed.)
- Listen to your child read and test them on their number bonds/tables and spellings each week.

VLE

Please make sure you log on each week to the VLE (passwords are in your child’s diary). The site is updated each week with links to topic sites, information on our learning in class, news of activities and photos/videos of our work. Your child can message others in their class too. Could I ask that you continue to contact me with queries either after school or via the school office (Children please keep sending me your updates!!)

We look forward to working with you again closely this term. Thank you for your support. Finally thank you for all your Christmas cards, good wishes and gifts.

Year 2 Team:

Mrs Williams, Mrs Damon: *Class Teachers*

Mrs Lowery, Ms Brooking, Mrs Knight: *Teaching Assistants*

Mrs McLeman: *Teaching Year 2 Art*