

The Ancient Maya



RE

We will kick off the spring term looking at the topic of 'Christmas', before moving to 'Revelation' in late January. This topic will last for approximately 4 weeks, and will be followed by a whole school week studying another faith. After that we will move to learning about lent followed by Easter.

Areas of Learning

We have arranged an exciting *shared learning experience* related to our topic for Noel class pupils again this term. In February we will be taking our *learning outside of the classroom* for a day trip! I'm really excited for this one, watch this space for a letter coming home soon!

As *writers* we will be studying traditional tales, beginning with the Mayan folktale 'The Chocolate Tree'. We will look deeper at types of sentences and their effects within descriptive writing, as well as applying more of our known SPAG skills within a narrative piece of writing. During the second term we will look at another traditional Mayan tale- 'The Rain Player'. We will look at how to re-tell a traditional tale through plays and make use of drama skills to feed our writing. We will also be looking at the impact and effectiveness of speech in narrative writing and children will be exploring writing the same events from different perspectives.

As *Historians* we will find out all about The Ancient Maya; people from the Yucatan region of Mexico over a thousand years ago. The Mayans were an incredibly inventive and resourceful people, whose achievements have shaped the world we know today!

As *Geographers* we will use world maps to identify the location of Mexico and the location of the Ancient Mayan civilisation in relation to the Aztecs. We will collate and analyse data relating to the human geography both ancient and modern, and further explore the culture of the Maya.

As *Digital Experts* we will continue to use search technologies effectively, appreciating how results are selected and ranked. We will use further software to create, gather and share content and take advantage of opportunities for communication and collaboration with people from across the globe.

Cross-Curricular Problem Solving, Reasoning and Mathematics

We have been studying an area of Maths called *visualising and constructing* in recent weeks. We build upon this foundation into finding and creating formulae; we will be looking to apply this knowledge by exploring the mathematics within the architecture of the ancient Maya. We will then be moving into the subject area of fractions, decimal fractions and percentages, and will be taking up a new timetable enabling us to reformat our Maths learning into two distinct categories- New learning, in our typical Maths lessons format, and daily Maths 'meeting' which will enable us to keep our key skills fresh and practice for fluency and recall.

Diversity/Possibilities.

During the spring term we will be learning all about the culture of the Ancient Maya, but our studies about Mexico will lead us to comparison with modern day Mayans and Mexicans. We will touch upon their beliefs, cultural rites and rituals, food, arts, sports and how these elements of who the Ancient Maya were compare with other civilisations, both historical and modern.