



During this term, our theme is:
The Maya Civilisation
 Below are the areas that we are covering this half term



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	This half term, we will be reading a great text for Y6 – <i>Wonder</i> by R.J Palacio. This is a story of friendship, hope, humour and the importance of kindness, told from a unique perspective of a young boy who has many of his own challenges to face. This exceptional book, which we are sure the children will love, will drive our reading and writing the first part of the half term.	Try to ensure your child reads at home on a daily basis. They may also like to visit the library to read other books along similar themes or by other new children’s authors. Any wider reading would be great to capture in some form, possibly a written review, photograph or poster.
Maths	Maths this half term will have a big focus on place value and the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). We will also compare and classify geometric shapes based on their properties and sizes, and find unknown angles in triangles, quadrilaterals, and regular polygons.	Encourage your child to practise their times tables and access Times Tables Rock Stars to enable them to quickly recall multiplication and division facts. Weekly arithmetic homework will be sent home for children to complete and return to school.
Science: Biology ‘How do we Classify Living Things?’	We will be investigating living things, researching the history of classification and famous scientists linked to this. We will be developing our understanding of how micro-organisms, plants and animals can be divided into groups, according to their common characteristics. We will also be devising our own classification keys to see if we can invent systems as good as the scientists we study. As part of our outdoor learning this half term we will be investigating what lives in our school grounds.	See if your child can research and produce a fascinating fact file about an unusual species or their favourite animal. We will be studying famous scientists related to our science topic, including Carl Linneaus and Libbie Hyman. Can your child complete some research to find out what these scientists are most famous for doing?
History ‘What was life like for the Maya?’	We will be exploring the ancient Maya civilisation, learning who the ancient Maya people were, and where and when they lived. We will also be finding out about the religious beliefs and rituals of the ancient Maya people and discovering how the Mayan people communicated.	As part of this topic, we will be learning about the Maya calendar system. See if your child can find out about one of the calendars in more detail. They could also produce a diagram or model to demonstrate how it works.

<p>Physical Education Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school ready for PE lessons.</p>	<p>We will be learning and applying the rules of netball this half term. We will develop a range of skills needed to play the game over each session, before combining these skills to enable us to play full matches. As well as this, we will be completing a variety of 'Health Related Exercise' (cardiovascular and physical strength building).</p>	<p>Encourage your child to get outside while the nights are still light! You could also ask your child to research a ball game played during the Maya period called 'Pok-a Tok' – an unusual game where players were only allowed to use their heads, shoulders, elbows, wrists and hips to get a ball through a hoop high off the ground!</p>
<p>Art - Sculpture</p>	<p>This half term we are making Memory Pots out of Modroc and then decorating them in the style of the famous artist, Clarice Cliff. We will be exploring the work of this artist, particularly her use of colour and design. A range of techniques will be used to sculpt and decorate these.</p>	<p>Explore the work of Clarice Cliff and create a sketch of one of her famous pieces. Discuss memories of your time at Northwood that you might like to place inside your memory pot.</p>
<p>Religious Education 'How do Muslims express their beliefs?'</p>	<p>This half term, the children will first learn about the five pillars of Islam and then the six pillars of faith. They will learn about these pillars in detail and reflect on Muslims' beliefs in comparison to other religions.</p>	<p>Encourage conversations at home about the faith. Share your own views honestly and discuss the importance of respecting the beliefs of others.</p>
<p>Computing</p>	<p>The children will be developing their skills in writing their own algorithms as well as editing and debugging existing codes. New skills will be introduced to structure code and animate characters and scenes, gradually building to create a short animated story.</p>	<p>Your child can practise developing their skills at computer coding at home using Scratch Online: https://scratch.mit.edu/ Encourage your child to have a go to see what they can create – we would love to see what they have done at home!</p>
<p>French</p>	<p>We will be learning 'All About France' - from its main cities to its famous people and landmarks. The children will use key vocabulary related to France and in particular to Paris.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to practise using the French vocabulary learnt in school at home. Can they teach you any new French words or phrases?</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>This half term's music is all based around the theme of 'Happy'. We will be listening to, singing, appraising and comparing different genres of music, from pop and country to soul and soft rock!</p>	<p>Maybe your child could research their favourite genre of music. Ask them to listen to a range of different types of music to see what they prefer. They may discover something new!</p>
<p>PSHE</p>	<p>PSHE this half term will focus on core values such as teamwork, important people in our lives who we trust, and the importance of staying safe online.</p>	<p>Talk to you child about the importance of online safety, especially with the increased use of mobile phones and tablets. Do they know who they can go to if they are worried about something?</p>



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During this term our theme is
‘What impact do volcanoes have on Iceland?’

Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	This half term, we will be reading a great text for Y6 - <i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i> by Onjali Q. Rauf. This is a story of friendship, hope, humour and the importance of kindness, told from a unique perspective of a young refugee. This exceptional book, which we are sure the children will love, will be the basis for much of our reading and writing.	Encourage your child to read for pleasure at home and to share what they have read with the class. They may also like to visit the library to read other books along similar themes or by other new children’s authors. Any wider reading would be great to capture in some form, possibly a written review, photograph or poster.
Maths	Over the course of this half term, we will be exploring fractions, decimals and percentages in more detail - building on prior knowledge and converting between them. We will also be expanding our understanding around volume, converting measures and negative numbers, applying these skills to a range of problems.	Encourage your child to spend time on Times Table Rockstars to build and consolidate their times table knowledge further. As well as this, they could practise the arithmetic skills they are developing at school to aid them further in lessons.
Geography ‘What impact do volcanoes have on Iceland?’	In this unit, the children will first find out about the core of the Earth, alongside what causes Earthquakes and how volcanoes are formed. They will also look in more detail at the country of Iceland; why does it have the most volcanoes in Europe, how they are a part of life there and what significant event happened in Heimaey fifty years ago.	Your child could research a volcano within Iceland and create a poster on it; alternatively, they could do this for one of the volcanoes in the UK. If they love art and design, encourage them to create a design using traditional Icelandic imagery and symbols.
Science ‘What can we learn about animals including humans?’	We will build on our knowledge and understanding of different systems within the human body, such as the circulatory system. We will explore how a healthy lifestyle supports the body to function and how different types of drugs affect us.	Your child could have a go at making a circulatory system paper model to share in class: create the model of the circulatory system by connecting the different parts together and using red and blue string or wool to represent the blood vessels. Our ‘significant scientist’ this half term is Alexander Fleming. Could your child complete some research and find out what he is most famous for?
Religious Education	This half term we will be looking at the key question of creation and science: conflicting or complementary? We will study the creation story from Genesis as part of this, including how Christians interpret their beliefs and why many Christians find science and faith go together.	Talk about what they have learned in school. Explore wider creation stories from other religions together.

Physical Education	We will be learning and applying the rules of netball this half term. We will develop a range of skills needed to play the game over each session, before combining these skills to enable us to play full matches.	Can you ask your child to replicate a PE lesson warm-up that we do at the start of each PE lesson? Please ensure your child has their complete PE kit in school at all times. Black shorts, plain white t-shirt, black plimsolls. A tracksuit and trainers may be worn for outdoor PE.
Computing	This half term we will be learning how to use Excel spreadsheets. We will learn how to use a range of tools, techniques and data to construct our own spreadsheets.	If you have access to Excel at home, you can practise building a spreadsheet together about a topic that interests you.
French	We will be developing our French knowledge through the topic – My Family. We will be exploring a range of key vocabulary and phrases in relation to this, including learning how to ask and answer basic questions. We will be developing our spoken, written and reading skills in relation to French.	Ask your child to practise using the French vocabulary learnt in school at home. Can they teach you any new French words or phrases? They could also find out about a famous French person and create a fact file on this person to share in class.
Music	This half term's music is based around the theme of Classroom Jazz. We will be listening to, singing, appraising and comparing different jazz music throughout the ages!	Encourage your child to listen to a variety of jazz music at home. Can they discover a particular song or artist that they really like? They could share this in class for all of us to enjoy!
Design Technology	The children will be making felt phone cases this half term – great presents for Christmas! They will learn how to make a paper template and then use different stitching techniques to create their case, before adding the finishing touches.	Ask your child to think about who they want to make their case for. They will need to take accurate measurements of the phone so they can make the correct sized case. Ask them to write these down and bring them into school to use.
PSHE	PSHE this half term will focus on online relationships and digital wellbeing. We will also finding out about 'fake news' and why it is important to use trusted sites.	Talk to your child about staying safe on the Internet and why it is important to only visit trusted websites.