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**Visits and visitors**

We are hoping to visit a local Islamic centre to find out more about the Five Pillars of Islam and Muslim family life. After half term, we will visit Liverpool to explore the slave trade, linked to our English work on Windrush.

**Music**

Our focus for Autumn Term will be learning songs from World War Two. We will learn to harmonise with each other and to discuss the pitch of music. After half term, we will be learning about blues music. We will be playing chords and scales in a blues style.

**Art & Design Technology**

In Art, the children will be studying self-portraits in the style of the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. They will sketch and design self-portrait using inspiration from nature and folk art. In Design and Technology, they will research the style and purpose of Mexican headdresses before designing and making their own.

**Computing**

In Computing, the children will learn how to stay safe on the internet and on social media. They will investigate all the ways to protect themselves and how to report any concerning behaviour. Additionally, they will learn to code by designing their own algorithms.

**French**

In French, we will explore different languages across the world before learning to introduce ourselves. We will learn how to talk about our families, revise counting to 10, and say how old we are.

**Music**

Our focus for Autumn Term will be to compare and contrast the work of two composers – Florence Price and Hans Zimmer – by listening to and appraising their music. The children will express what they like and dislike about the pieces, use musical vocabulary and perform alongside others.

Curriculum Newsletter

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Autumn 2024

The Acorns Primary & Nursery School

**Physical Education**

This term, we will have P.E. on a Monday afternoon. We our focusing on developing our athletics skills by working hard to increase our stamina. Children will need trainers, please, as our lessons will take place on the field as long as the weather allows. We will learn how to partake in relay races and practise our long-distant running.

**Personal, Social, Citizenship & Health Education**

We will look at ‘Living in the wider world’ with a particular focus on money and how spending decisions can affect other people and the environment. Furthermore, we will look at relationships between friends and the impact of bullying and the dynamics of a family.

 **English**We will start the year by studying the text ‘Star of Fear, Star of Hope’. We will develop our ability to use inverted commas and other punctuation to to punctuate direct speech and will develop our ability to organise paragraphs around a theme. We will then apply these skills to write a story set during World War Two, containing a flashback. After half term, we will be studying ‘Stories about the Windrush Generation’. The children will develop their understanding of persuasive language and using organisational features. They will then use this knowledge to write an information leaflet about a period of Black history. In reading sessions, we will focus on furthering our knowledge from our afternoon lessons and will have opportunities to answer questions about our class novels. Across the term, we will review how to use our summarising and inference skills to answer questions about a text.

**Maths**

This term, we will work on place value. We will explore the value of different digits in numbers with up to 6-digits. The children will learn to round numbers to aid with estimation, and they will start to explore negative numbers. Following this, they will review mental methods to add and subtract before progressing to using formal written methods when dealing with larger numbers. Over the term, the children will have daily opportunities to practise their times tables. It will be vital that these facts are memorised in order to help with our mathematics topics later in the year.

**Science**

At the start of the term, we will be investigating how light travels, how we see things and how we can change shadows. We will then explore the properties of materials and their different uses. We will work scientifically throughout the units, planning, carrying out our own experiments, recording and analysing our findings.

**Religious Education**

This term we will look at the Five Pillars of Islam and how important they are for Muslims. We will also investigate how the Muslim faith is expressed through family life. We will describe celebrations, worship, pilgrimages and rituals which mark important points in life and reflect on ideas.

**History & Geography (Humanities)**

In History, we will study the Maya civilisation. We will develop our research skills by using different sources to find out what remains of ancient Maya. Pupils will learn about the remarkable achievements of the ancient Maya. Through these activities, pupils will learn about the Maya perspective of time, the calendar system, writing, maths and the environment. In doing so, they should see the stark contrast between their own history and that of the Maya. In Geography, we will focus on how biomes of different regions have been altered by human activity. The children will compare and contrast the climate, landscape and inhabitants of three different areas of the world.