

## Year 4 – Summer Mysterious Mayans

During this half term, the children will be learning all about the Ancient Mayan civilization. They will explore the many achievements of the Mayan people including architecture, religion, food, farming and games. Our topic culminates in a celebration of what might be the Mayan people’s most exciting discover – cacao!

### OUTCOME: Setting Description

#### History/Computing

The children will be learning about significant Mayan landmarks and using these to make inferences about life in these times.

#### Writing

Transported back 4,000 years in time and flown across the ocean to Central America, the children will arrive at Chichen Itza, a once thriving city of the Mayan people. Through considered vocabulary choices and carefully constructed sentences, the children will describe what they see around them as they arrive here. They will focus in particular on varied ways to start their sentences – including using similes, ‘ed’ clauses and expanded ‘ing’ clauses.



### OUTCOME: Mayan Games

#### History

The children will research games that the Maya people used to play, including the ball game called ‘pitz’. The children will have an opportunity to test out the rules and try playing this game (minus making any sacrifices to the Gods!).

#### Computing

Using ‘pitz’ as their inspiration, the children will design and make their own Mayan themed computer games. Using Scratch, the children will first look at the difference between count-controlled and infinite loops, and use their knowledge to modify existing animations and games using repetition. Their final project will be to design and create their own Mayan themed game which uses repetition.

### OUTCOME: Double-Page Spread

#### History/Computing

The children will use non-fiction texts and the i-pads of research the achievements of the ancient Mayan civilisation. Driven by the children’s interests, this could include topics such as Mayan religion and gods, hieroglyphics and the Mayan number system, food and farming.

#### Writing

The children will present their research findings in a double page spread. They will focus upon organising their findings into paragraphs focused around a theme.



### OUTCOME: Mayan Masks

#### History

The children will learn the significance of masks to Mayan people and identify common themes and what they represented.

#### Art

Using their understanding of the significance of masks to Mayan people, the children will design their own masks. They will then use paper mache to create a strong structure and acrylic paints to bring their masks to life!

### OUTCOME: Ancient Mayan Story

#### Writing

The children will begin by reading the Ancient Maya creation story. Using the technique of story mapping, we will build our familiarity with the plot and begin to explore create vocabulary that we can use to retell the narrative. We will begin to look main and subordinate clauses that we can use to write complex sentences.

### OUTCOME: Chocolate Factory!

#### Science

In Science, the children are going to be learning about the states of matter – solid, liquid and gas. They will learn the properties of each state and use these to compare and group materials. They will also take part in investigations to help them observe changes that take place for some materials when they are heated or cooled.

#### History

The children will have researched and learned about many of the achievements of the Ancient Mayan civilisation – one of which we are all incredibly grateful for – the discovery of chocolate!

#### DT

By applying their Science knowledge, the children will experiment with changing the state of chocolate from a solid to a liquid (and back again!) in order to create their very own chocolatey creations!

### Maths

This term, the children will begin by completing their focus on division. They will secure their use of formal written methods to help them to divide 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. They will then move on to focus on fractions and decimals. Within fractions the children will look at equivalence, fractions of amounts, counting in tenths and adding and subtracting fractions. During their focus on decimals, the children will learn to recognise tenths and hundredths as well as compare, order and round decimal values. **Pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 times table by the end of Year 4.** Any support practising tables at home will help build your child’s confidence in mental maths, which they will use in many areas of their learning.

### PE

Throughout the course of the Summer term the children will be developing their skills in Athletics, Tennis and Cricket. Their Athletics learning will involve running (short and long distance), jumping and throwing skill development. The children will take part in further hand-eye coordination work through mini tennis, incorporating both racket and ball skills and building up to use of nets, shot selection and mini match play. Finally, the children will develop their throwing and catching techniques and batting and fielding in cricket.

### PSHCE

In PSHCE the children will begin with a topic focused around ‘Relationships’. They will consider how friendships are made and how they can respond when friendships change or are challenged. They will also consider their emotions when a relationship changes and they are no longer able to see someone who was special to them. After half term, the children’s PSHCE learning will focus on how we are all unique and how we change as we grow older. Lastly, they will think about how we feel when changes happen and how they can manage their responses to changes that are beyond their control.

### Music

This term in music, the children’s learning will be focused around one song: ‘Blackbird’ by The Beatles. They will begin by listening to and appraising ‘Blackbird’ along with other songs by The Beatles. Through building familiarity with the melody and rhythm patterns, singing and applying what they have learned about the glockenspiels, the children’s learning will build to a final performance of ‘Blackbird’ which we will endeavour to share with you on SeeSaw!

### RE

In RE this term the children will be learning about some of the key world religions including Hinduism and Sikhism. They will explore the questions: ‘What does it mean to be a Hindu?’ and ‘What do Sikhs value?’. After half term, they will then consider how different belief systems can come together as they ask ‘How can we live together in one world?’.

### French

This term the children will continue with their topic of months, dates and birthdays before then starting a new topic of Monsters! This topic will be based around the book "Va t'en grand monstre vert" (Go away big green monster!). Through this, they will practise using the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular of verbs in descriptions and revise vocabulary for parts of the body.