

Here come the aliens!



We'll be honest: 'Aliens' is not on the National curriculum! However, imagination, questioning, discussion, fantasy, purposeful problem solving and discovery are all important parts of both a child's education and the National Curriculum.

Premise of the topic: Some aliens have crash landed into our school playground. Their ship has broken and they need Year 1 to help them fix it. They are also lost and need help to find their way home. Whilst the aliens are here, they also want to find out about what it's like to live on earth.

PE

Throwing and catching skills

We are very fortunate in Year 1 to have the expertise of Mr Paul Chadwick (our Vale Academy Trust PE specialist) who will be supporting our classes this term. Our focus will be practising and developing our hand-eye co-ordination and ball skills.

English

Our main focus will be the book 'Here come the aliens' by Colin McNaughton. In the book, lots of aliens are on their way to visit earth but then they turn back when they see a photo of scary human children! We will be designing new aliens to go in the book and writing descriptions of them. We will also write our own versions of the story.

We will use a range of stories and poems to develop skills in reading, writing and oral story telling. We will practice composing a sentence orally before writing it and adding punctuation in the form of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will practise the correct pencil grip and form and orient letters correctly in handwriting. We will also take part in daily phonics sessions to develop fluency and independence in reading and writing.

Year 1 - Term 1

Geography

The aliens need somewhere to live so we need to investigate different house types. We will go on a walk around Charlton to look at our own houses and design houses for the aliens to live in, applying our knowledge of materials from our Science investigations. We are also going to find out about the history of space exploration and look at significant individuals like Tim Peake, Neil Armstrong and Yuri Gagarin.

PSHCE

This unit will help pupils settle into their new class and will focus on making sure pupils are happy, safe and able to learn.

Class rules: Why do we have rules? How can we work well with others? What characteristics do we need to be a good learner?

Rewards and Consequences: How can we show we care about the feelings of others?

How can we be effective learners? How can we increase listening and concentration skills? Children will explore feelings and develop an awareness of body language.

Maths

We will concentrate on our core number skills such as counting, number order and simple calculation. This will be taught through investigation, real life scenarios and the use of equipment.

Children will learn to:

- Read, write and order numbers from 1 - 20 and identify and represent these numbers on a number line and using pictorial representations.
- Identify one more or one less
- Begin to count in steps of 2, 5 and 10.
- Use addition and subtraction facts
- Represent calculations with number sentences using + - and =.

Computing

This term we will mainly be using the I-Pads to create art and to use computer modelling to solve a problem. The children will use Toca Monsters to investigate what to feed our alien visitors and to learn how computers can help us to trial different approaches. They will also use art packages to create space pictures.

Music

Children will be learning a variety of songs to support lots of different subjects. We will focus on joining in and becoming confident in singing within a group.

Design Technology

Our junk modelling skills will also be developed by constructing papier mache UFOs.

We will also investigate which material makes the best aliens. They will explore clay, plastercine and playdough.

Art and Design

Children will develop a wide range of art and design techniques creatively to create mixed media collages of the Solar System. They will develop scissor skills to cut out shapes and arrange them to create one picture.

Science

This unit will give children the opportunity to identify and sort different materials. They will go on a materials hunt and begin to tell the difference between what an object is and what it is made from. In order to mend the alien spaceship, the children will explore different materials and investigate their properties. They will use this knowledge to select different materials to meet the varying requirements of the broken spaceship. We will answer your children's questions about space and discover what life is like living on the International Space Station. Throughout the year we will also look at the changing seasons. The aliens will be concerned that the trees are dying as autumn approaches so it will be up to year 1 to reassure them!