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| Curriculum planningWe teach our curriculum through a thematic topic, such as The Granite Tramway and we aim to include links to our local area and outdoor learning, wherever possible. We find children quickly become enthusiastic about their topics and we can capture that enthusiasm to develop subject specific skills in a purposeful way. It also enables children to see the connections between the different subject areas. We aim to ensure that in every topic, we start with an interesting event or “hook/happening” and include visits and visitors to bring the learning to life. Under normal circumstances we will hold end of Topic exhibitions to share the children’s learning with their families and the local community.MathematicsOur core teaching in Mathematics follows the National Curriculum and draws on resources such as White Rose and Maths No Problem as best suits the children’s needs. Our Maths lead ensures that each class benefits from a structured progression of maths skills, with a consistent approach from year 1 to year 6. Our teachers encourage the use of practical experiences, concrete resources and pupil’s own maths talk to construct their understanding of mathematics. Real life experiences, the use of the outside learning environment and cross curricular links support our pupils mathematical thinking and encourage their enjoyment and engagement with the subject.We place a strong emphasis on the learning of key maths facts (addition and subtraction of numbers to 20, and multiplication facts to 12 x 12) and we ask parents to help with home learning to ensure that children have instant recall of these facts which they will need for more advanced problem solving.EnglishSpeaking and ListeningSpeaking and listening skills are developed as an integral part of our learning in all subjects. Through our topic work we ensure that children’s vocabulary is developed. Use of talk partners enables children to practice speech and dialogue for learning. We use drama, particularly role play, to explore different types of speech and our ‘Talk for Writing’ curriculum involves children in learning and retelling stories.ReadingReading in school starts with a phonics-based approach to learning to read. Our reception children enjoy learning the corresponding sound (or phoneme) for each letter. Our teachers use rhymes, songs and actions to ensure the learning is fast and fun. This approach is supplemented using ‘phonetically decodable’ books matched to each child’s phonic understanding to ensure that children achieve mastery of all their sounds for reading in reception and year1 and 2. Reading books are carefully graded with reading based on texts at an appropriate level for the child’s decoding skills. Reading comprehension also starts from the very beginning with guided reading sessions to explore understanding of different texts. Once children have learned to reliably decode print, guided reading continues throughout Key stage 2. This is developed to explore the skills of skimming and scanning texts to find information, establishing a deeper level of understanding using inference and deduction and developing an appreciation of themes. We are developing our use of Accelerated Reader to support assessment of the children’s reading comprehension and to ensure an appropriate choice of books for their ability. We encourage a love of reading through the reading of books regularly in class as well as a daily quiet or shared reading time. All children benefit from a thirty-minute reading session each day.PhonicsLearning in Phonics is effective at Ilsington, and we have recently invested in the Phonics Bug scheme to ensure that we keep our Phonics teaching and learning as effective and up to date as possible. WritingIn the earliest stages, children are encouraged to breakdown the sounds they hear in words and use their phonic skills to write them as part of their daily phonics sessions. Fine motor skills are practised in fun ways and when they are ready, they are taught correct letter formation and will be using the Kinetic Letters handwriting scheme. Children are encouraged to have-a-go at writing in a variety of learning activities as well as in guided groups with the teacher.Our children enjoy writing because of our commitment to a ‘Talk for Writing’ approach. This enables children to have lots of oral rehearsal before writing and to feel confident and clear about the content of their writing before they start. Children throughout the school have regular experience of extended, independent writing, which they then share and discuss with teaching staff as part of their own process of reflection and improvement. Our pupils write for a range of purposes and audiences and across a wide range of subjects and text types.Spelling skills and strategies are taught in class and children are encouraged to learn sets of words included in the curriculum for each year group at home, with a weekly test in school. Parents are asked to help children with learning spellings at home as part of homework.Science We use an established science curriculum (Hamilton) to ensure continuity and progression in our science teaching from year 1 to year 6. Children learn the skills of being a scientist through planning, carrying out and evaluating regular investigations as well as learning scientific facts and concepts. We provide an exciting range of investigative and outdoor sessions to ensure that Science is engaging and inspiring for our pupils.Information TechnologyFollowing the success we had in establishing blended learning throughout the 2021 lockdown, our teaching of IT has developed. We deliver National Curriculum knowledge and skills through specific taught sessions whilst also weaving digital learning throughout our whole curriculum. We believe that our children need to be aware of the potential for the cross curricular and creative use of IT to prepare them for their future lives. Our school is well resourced with IT with each class having access to it’s own set of laptops or I Pads. The school will benefit greatly from the future installation of an new internet connection in the locality in 2022.History and GeographyThese subjects are taught thematically with a different topic each term or half-term. We find this approach ensures maximum enthusiasm and engagement from our pupils. We try to start each topic with some sort of event like a visit or visitor to engage children from the very beginning. As a result, the children quickly become immersed in the topic. We have achieved some truly amazing project work because of this approach. As we plan topics for the children, we try where possible, to make relevant links to our local community and the beautiful outdoor environment surrounding us.Religious EducationWe follow the Devon agreed syllabus for RE in common with all other maintained schools in Devon. This ensures a rich mix of learning about Christianity and other World Religions through themes. We have close links to our local church and from September 2021 the ‘Open The Book’ team have returned to support children’s understanding of the stories in the Bible. Once Covid restrictions are lifted, we will be inviting cultural champions and members of other faiths into school to ensure that our children have an informed view of the wider world outside Ilsington and Devon. We will also be taking children to visit places of worship in larger towns and cities through their time in our school.Personal, Social, Moral and Health EducationWe have recently adopted the Jigsaw scheme for Relationship and Sexual Education, and we use this in our weekly lessons. We have a whole school planned curriculum which includes progressive and age- appropriate learning about drugs, smoking and sex education. We also support children in exploring feelings, social situations and aspirations through circle time, drama and group activities. We are always happy to discuss and share with parents the materials we use for this area of the curriculum and parents are notified in advance when this topic is due to be taught. Our school’s Christian values have also been chosen by the children and the school community to support the children’s personal, social and moral education. We share useful resources to support safeguarding of children with their families via our weekly SWAY newsletter and our school website.MusicWeekly music sessions develop children’s sense of rhythm, timing and pitch through listening and composition activities. We have access to shared resources through the link Academy. Art and DesignOur detailed art curriculum develops skills in drawing, painting, and a variety of 3D activities taught through blocked sessions to enable flow and creativity during sessions and a timely completion of projects. Design TechnologyOur Design Technology curriculum is linked to our topic and science work. We practice cutting, shaping and combining a range of materials to make puppets, bridges, pop-up cards, slippers, shelters, photo-frames, Egyptian shadufs, Roman shields and much more from our own designs. This subject is taught through blocked sessions to allow pupils to have a more focused and effective learning experience. The Life Skills team have aleardy begunleading an exciting project this autumn for UKS2.Modern Foreign LanguagesChildren in key stage 1 learn some Spanish vocabulary and phrases mainly through songs, and rhymes. In key stage 2 children begin a more structured approach: learning Spanish phonics and conversational language. They also learn about Spanish culture through eating Spanish food, learning Spanish songs and sharing Spanish stories. |