

Our topic this term is **Pirates and Mermaids**. We hope this topic web will give you some idea of the work your child will be involved in during this term.

We would love donations of any pirate treasure, mermaid / pirate dressing up clothes, scarves and bandanas, old jewellery, coins, binoculars, old maps, telescopes, binoculars and spades, pirate and mermaid stories, bags of sand. Many thanks for your support.

Maths

The children will develop an understanding of capacity and be introduced to the mathematical language of volume e.g. full, empty, overflowing. They will have the opportunity to estimate using non-standard measures.

They will be developing their number skills up to 10 through counting, rhymes and games. There will be opportunities for practical addition and subtraction and beginning to form numerals.

They will become familiar with different coins and the numbers that are on them in the pirate treasure and recognise numbers e.g. through fishing games. Through the use of shells, pebbles, jewels the children will be developing their skills in sorting and comparing and counting objects in a range of scenarios.

Language & Literacy

The children will be introduced to a variety of fiction, non-fiction books and rhymes which focus on exploring water in different contexts e.g. 'The Singing Mermaid,' 'My Granny is a Pirate,' 'The Night Pirates,' etc. They will be introduced to water related vocabulary e.g. drip, splash, trickle and words related to pirate and mermaid role play.

They will have opportunities to take turns when speaking and share their experiences and ideas with others. They will develop their imagination and communication skills through role play areas. They will explore opportunities for writing through role-play in imaginative contexts e.g. pirates and mermaids, the seaside, writing postcards, messages in a bottle, captain's log etc.

P.E.

The children will develop their physical skills through activities which encourage coordination, agility and balance. They will have opportunities to develop ball skills e.g. throwing and catching, kicking to targets.

The children will have opportunities to participate in movement to music, responding to watery themed music e.g. crashing waves and circle games which develop listening skills, collaboration and turn taking.

Expressive Arts & Design

The children will experiment with paint by mixing it with water to achieve different consistencies.

The children will be encouraged to work on large scale projects e.g. using spray paints, painting on fabric and small scale projects e.g. bubble painting, pipettes and blotting paper, blowing the paint through straws.

They will observe, draw and paint pictures with water related themes e.g. observational drawing of mermaids, underwater creatures etc. They will design and create their own Pirate and Mermaid accessories e.g. treasure chests, flags, jewellery, telescopes, hats etc.

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Personal & Social Development

The children will develop an understanding of our dependency on water in everyday life and become aware of the many things we use it for. They will learn about the importance of not wasting water and the need to respect it and the need to care for the sea and the creatures in it.

We will discuss the way water makes us feel e.g. paddling, having a bath or a drink when we are thirsty. The children will reflect on the importance of safety near water and what an important skill swimming is.

Computing

The children will have the opportunity to source information and pictures of sea creatures from the internet.

Mouse control and orientation around a keyboard are skills that will continue to be developed through a variety of programmes. They will have opportunities to use the 'Beebots' (programmable toys) to find treasure on the map and will gain experience with the taking photos on the iPad /metal detectors.

Understanding the World

The children will develop an understanding of where water comes from and by looking in an atlas and on the globe we will talk about seas, rivers and lakes. They will look at world maps and treasure maps, creating their own and relating pictures to locations.

We will discuss our need for water in the home.

Through small world play with sea creatures they will develop their knowledge of what lives in the sea. They will explore floating and sinking practically and test things out i.e. by making their own boat, investigate water-proof materials.

They will use magnets when sorting, 'treasure,' to predict and discover which materials are magnetic. They will be able to name an increasing amount of materials i.e. wood, metal, plastic, glass, paper.