

INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DE LANCY
ENGLISH SECTION

Outline of our work for first half of the spring term – Year 3

What will we be learning?

We will be learning that there are different kinds of soil; materials have specific properties that influence what the material is used for.

We will learn that climates vary around the world and affect how people live. We will learn to interpret different kinds of maps and make our own.

Numeracy:

We will be developing these skills and concepts:

Extending addition and subtraction, ordering numbers to 1000, using money, word problems, line symmetry and units of measure including time.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

Practise number bonds, doubling and halving, quick fire mental calculations of two and three 1-digit and 2-digit numbers. Use mathematical vocabulary such as more than, less than, fewer, total, sum, greater than. Ask for a number that comes between two other numbers. Practise rounding up and down to the nearest 10. Pose simple word problems. Ask your child the time frequently. Time certain activities – stay seated at the breakfast table for at least 15 minutes, for example – so your child can become more familiar with 5 minute intervals on a clock face. Point out objects that have line symmetry. Ask your child to help measure out ingredients or measure furniture, curtains and carpets. Perhaps you could set a measuring quiz for a rainy afternoon. They have used mm, cm, m, km, ml, l, g, kg and of course seconds, minutes and hours.

Language and Literacy:

We will be developing these skills and concepts:

Pupils will continue to develop story writing skills, focussing on plot and character development. They will be encouraged to use a wide range of adjectives and synonyms and to use a dictionary and thesaurus. They will be introduced to instructional texts and will write their own.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

You can help your child by discussing the story plot, or what they think of particular characters in their reading books, whenever you listen to them read. Encourage them to form their own opinions and to justify them by referring back to the text. If your child enjoys crafts or cookery, they might enjoy reading craft or recipe instructions with you, especially if you go on to actually make or bake!

Science:

We will be covering these topics:

We shall finish our work on Rocks and Soils, looking at differences between soils and deciding how they can be altered to improve drainage and so make them better for growing plants. This work will be relevant in the summer when we look at Helping Plants grow.

You can help your child consolidate their knowledge by drawing attention to different soil types – noticing their consistency, colour, location and exploitation for example, when out walking, gardening, visiting places of interest and so on.

The main topic for this half term is Materials and their Uses. We shall explore the various materials encountered everyday – textiles, plastics, wood, brick, stone, different metals, rubber, glass, pottery and porcelain to name but a few.

We will be developing these skills and concepts:

Children will learn to describe characteristics of materials – flexibility, strength, flammability, water resistance etc and to appreciate that objects are made from particular materials because of their specific properties or characteristics. Children will test materials, learning to conduct a fair test and developing observation and recording skills.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

You can help your child become familiar with different materials by pointing them out, discussing their characteristics and how they have been used. For instance, plastic toys are made from several kinds of plastic. Sometimes it is brittle, sometimes flexible. Discuss why some toys should be made from different plastics. Why aren't many toys made from metal? Encourage your child to use appropriate vocabulary, for instance 'flexible' rather than 'bendy'!

History:

We will be covering this topic:

Our next focus will be on the Anglo-Saxons who began to invade/settle in Britain from about 460AD after the decline of Roman domination. We will focus on this topic after the half term holiday. The themes of invasion, settlement and integration of 'foreign' peoples into existing social structures will continue. We shall be looking at how we gain knowledge and insight into ancient peoples through archaeological sites, artefacts, manuscripts, literature and folklore.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

The occasional family day out to sites of historical interest would be very helpful. This allows children to appreciate that people from the past leave traces of their lives behind them. Of course there will be no Anglo-Saxon or Viking sites near here but there are plenty of Roman sites. An interesting place to visit is the Fondation Pierre Giannada in Martigny, where a Roman temple has become the focal point for an art gallery and sculpture park.

Geography:

We will be covering this topic:

We will be extending last term's work on Weather, finding out about typical weather conditions in other parts of the world. We shall be using atlases, globes and maps to find out where these conditions occur. Pupils have a project to complete this term focussing on holiday destinations and places they have lived in. They are required to complete a 'passport' of information about their chosen destinations - where they are in the world, what kind of places they are, interesting features and facts, what makes them good holiday locations, pictures and so on.

We will be developing these skills and concepts:

Pupils will also be developing their map skills so that they can recognise and name the continents, locate countries; use a key and symbols to interpret information. They will make their own maps of the local area.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

You can help your child by discussing the weather and how it effects what you do as a family. Follow up any news items about extreme weather conditions with a discussion about it. Take a walk around your local area, point out road patterns, landmarks such as schools, post offices and so on and afterwards look at a map of the village or district with your child to compare what they have noticed with what is on the map.