

YEAR 3 CYCLE A CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A broad and balanced curriculum that builds knowledge, sparks curiosity and helps every child to flourish.

EXPLORE
DISCOVER
BELONG
FLOURISH



HISTORY-LED THROUGH THE AGES

BIG QUESTION

How did life change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

We explore prehistory from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, discovering how people lived, the tools they used, and what evidence tells us about the past.



GEOGRAPHY-LED ROCKS, RELICS AND RUMBLES

BIG QUESTION

How does the Earth shape our world?

We investigate rocks, fossils, volcanoes, earthquakes and maps, finding out how natural forces shape the world around us.



HISTORY-LED EMPERORS AND EMPIRES

BIG QUESTION

What made Rome powerful and what was its legacy?

We learn about Ancient Rome, emperors, the invasion of Britain and the lasting influence the Romans left behind.

WHAT PARENTS WILL SEE IN THIS OVERVIEW

Each topic page shows the key learning, memorable experiences, suggested texts and practical challenges from the Year 3 Cycle A class plan. Alongside these themed units, children also explore religious education across the year, computing, music, PE, French and PSHE.

Learning in God's Love

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

Brighter
Futures
Together



HISTORY-LED TOPIC

THROUGH THE AGES

From the Stone Age to the Iron Age – with rich links across geography, science, creativity and computing.



HISTORY

Develop historical vocabulary and chronology while exploring the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Learn about everyday life, tools and weapons, settlements, stonework and metalwork, religion and beliefs, wealth and power, invention and ingenuity, and how historians use evidence and enquiry.



SCIENCE

Learn about animal nutrition and the human skeleton. Explore food groups, healthy diets, carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, seasonal changes in diets, joints, muscles and different types of skeleton. Work scientifically through identifying, classifying, observation, comparative tests, pattern seeking and research.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Use the Cook Well, Eatwell project to explore food groups, the Eatwell Guide, methods of cooking, cooking appliances and hygiene rules. Design and make a balanced taco filling.



COMPUTING

Stay safe online, evaluate digital content and develop understanding of algorithms and debugging.



GEOGRAPHY

Use maps to locate countries and key places. Explore human and physical features, four-figure grid references, compass points, the Earth's layers, plate tectonics, latitude and longitude, European countries and cities, UK counties and cities, land use, weather, carbon footprints and the local environment through fieldwork and enquiry.



ART

Explore colour theory through tertiary, warm, cool, complementary and analogous colours. Learn about Bell Beaker culture, sketching and clay techniques, then create Bell Beaker-style pots inspired by prehistoric artefacts.



ENGLISH

Read and write narratives, instructions, cinquains and chronological reports, building vocabulary and writing skills through the theme of prehistory.



RE

Explore Ganesh Chaturthi through Ganesh, puja, symbolism and overcoming obstacles. Learn about Guru Nanak, the gurdwara, langar and equality.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Prehistoric visit; healthy balanced diets; Bell Beaker pottery; making elephant masks; equal treatment.

SUGGESTED TEXTS

Stig of the Dump – Clive King;
Collins Primary Atlas;
The Street Beneath My Feet.

INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Archaeological investigation; animal nutrition enquiry; making a taco filling; creating Bell Beaker-style pots; exploring obstacles; thinking about equality.

ASK ME ABOUT

How life changed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. How archaeologists know about prehistory. What makes a healthy diet. What Ganesh and Guru Nanak teach us.

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GEOGRAPHY-LED TOPIC

ROCKS, RELICS AND RUMBLES

Explore rocks, fossils, volcanoes and earthquakes while developing geographical enquiry, science, art and design skills.

- ROCKS
- VOLCANOES
- FOSSILS
- PEOPLE
- PLACES



GEOGRAPHY

Investigate the structure of the Earth, rocks, plate tectonics, the Ring of Fire and the features of volcanoes. Use compass points and maps, and learn about latitude and longitude, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis.



SCIENCE

Explore rocks, fossils and soils, then learn about forces and magnets. Investigate pushing and pulling forces, contact and non-contact forces, friction, force meters, magnetic attraction and repulsion, magnetic fields and the uses of friction and magnetism.



ART

Create ammonite sculptures and explore figure drawing, urban landscapes and the work of LS Lowry. Develop botanical art, observational drawing, printing and weaving, and learn about the history of mosaics before creating your own mosaic designs.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Design and make automaton toys using cam mechanisms. Explore weaving on a loom, and investigate the design of greenhouses, including strong frameworks, tools, safety rules and properties of materials.



ENGLISH

Write non-chronological reports, poetry, newspaper reports and diaries, then continue with biographies, letters and myths inspired by the year's wider themes.



RE

Learn about Lent through Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and prayer. Explore Vesak through the life and teachings of Buddha and the importance of kindness.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Let's rock!; exploring ammonites; making pancakes; living museum; botanical weavers; greenhouse design; exploring mosaics; exploring Vesak.

SUGGESTED TEXT

The Firework-Maker's Daughter – Philip Pullman.

INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Red alert!; forces and magnets investigation; sculpting ammonites; designing an automaton toy; creating LS Lowry-style artwork; botanical exhibition; planning a mini greenhouse; mosaic masters; exploring kindness.

ASK ME ABOUT

How volcanoes and earthquakes happen. What fossils can tell us. How magnets work. Why Lent and Vesak are important.

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HISTORY-LED TOPIC

EMPERORS AND EMPIRES

Use evidence, stories and practical design to explore Ancient Rome, Roman Britain and the legacy of the Roman world.

HISTORY



Learn about the founding of Rome, power and rule, the Roman Empire, significant emperors, the Roman army and the invasion of Britain. Explore Boudicca, everyday life in ancient Rome and Roman Britain, Romanisation, Roman withdrawal and the lasting Roman legacy.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



Design and make a mini greenhouse, exploring the features of greenhouses, significant designers such as Sir Joseph Paxton and Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, strengthening techniques, properties of materials and how to construct strong frameworks safely.

GEOGRAPHY LINK



Use maps and geographical knowledge to connect learning about places, travel and landscapes, and compare places linked to Roman history with Britain today.

SCIENCE



Investigate plant nutrition and reproduction, including plant parts, root systems, stems, water transport, leaves, the life cycle of flowering plants, pollination, seed formation and dispersal. Explore what plants need to grow and survive, then learn about light, reflective materials, sun safety, shadows and how shadows change.

ART



Explore Roman-inspired art through mosaics, sketching and pattern work. Continue to develop drawing and creative responses through historical and botanical themes.

ENGLISH



Write biographies, letters, myths and poetry, using historical themes and rich vocabulary to bring Ancient Rome and Roman Britain to life.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Living museum; botanical weavers; greenhouse design; exploring mosaics.

SUGGESTED TEXT

Roman Tales: The Goose Guards – Terry Deary.

INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Historical reports; plant nutrition investigation; botanical exhibition; planning and making a mini greenhouse; light and shadows investigation; mosaic masters.

ASK ME ABOUT

What life was like in Ancient Rome. Who Boudicca was. How the Romans changed Britain. How plants reproduce and why light matters.

Learning in God's Love

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

DISCOVER
EXPLORE
LEARN
BELONG
FLOURISH

A
STRONGER
BRIGHTER
FUTURE
TOGETHER

EXPLORE
BELIEVE
RESPECT
LEARN
TOGETHER

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACROSS CYCLE A

Six units invite children to explore beliefs and practices respectfully, while thinking deeply about symbolism, equality, prayer, kindness, rules and special journeys.

Different
People
Brighter
World

KINDNESS
BUILDS A
BETTER
TOMORROW

RESPECT
UNDERSTAND
BELONG
FLOURISH



GANESH CHATURTHI

Ganesh; Puja ceremony; Symbolism; Obstacles.

We explore Ganesh Chaturthi, finding out who Ganesh is, how Hindus celebrate through puja, and what symbols and stories can teach about overcoming obstacles.

Big question:

How can beliefs help us overcome obstacles?



GURU NANAK GURPURAB

Guru Nanak; Gurdwara; Langar; Equality.

We learn about Guru Nanak, how Sikhs celebrate Gurburab, what happens in a gurdwara and why langar shows equality and service.



Big question:

How can we show equality and service?



LENT

Ash Wednesday; Holy Week; Prayer.

We learn about Lent, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, and think about how prayer, reflection and preparation help Christians get ready for Easter.



Big question:

Why do Christians prepare for Easter?



VESAK

Life and teachings of Buddha; Kindness.

We explore Vesak by learning about the Buddha and how Buddhist teachings encourage kindness, reflection and thoughtful choices.



Big question:

Why is kindness important?



SHAVUOT

Torah; Ten Commandments; Harvest; Rules.

We explore Shavuot, finding out about the Torah, the Ten Commandments and how rules and traditions help guide Jewish life.



Big question:

Why do rules matter?



HAJJ

Pilgrimage; Hajj customs; Special journeys.

We learn about Hajj, the customs of pilgrimage and why special journeys can be important in Muslim life and belief.



Big question:

What makes a journey special?

LITERACY & LEARNING ACROSS THE YEAR

Writing genres: narratives, instructions, cinquains, chronological reports, non-chronological reports, poetry, newspaper reports, diaries, biographies, letters and myths.

Learning by doing: prehistoric visits, archaeological investigations, healthy cooking, Bell Beaker pottery, rock and ammonite work, automata, greenhouse design, mosaics and fieldwork enquiries.

Linked across the curriculum: making thoughtful connections between our learning in RE, English, history, geography, science, art, design & technology, computing, music, PE and PSHE.

Learning in God's Love

EXPLORE
DISCUSS
READ
CREATE
CONNECT

Big ideas
Brighter futures

CURIOSITY
COMPASSION
COMMUNITY