

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?	
English	<p>Fiction: Kassim and the Greedy Pirate's Treasure</p> <p>Your child will be learning to retell the story of Kassim and the Greedy Pirate's Treasure. This is a wonderful original story by the Talk+Writing founder Pie Corbett. It is designed specifically to consolidate the children's prior understanding of how writers communicate speech in literature with a focus on dialogue (i.e., two or more characters speaking to one another); use of effective reporting clauses that convey the speaker's emotions; and, crucially, how these are punctuated. They will finish the unit by writing their own tale about pirates and their misadventures which must include dialogue!</p> <p>Non-fiction:</p> <p>The children will be writing a non-chronological report about pirates. This will be supported in the children's whole class reading lessons, where they will be learning how to effectively research the topic and use this learning to structure their report. This will lay the foundations for some super essay writing in the future!</p> <p>While reading fiction with your child, really question them about the author's use of speech. Ask questions like, "Is there a new paragraph when there's a new speaker?" and "Look at what Character B said. How are they feeling? How do you know?"</p> <p>Start a glossary of interesting words and phrases you find. At Floreat we have a 'magpie book', which we use to store shiny words that the children like so that they can use them again later. Encourage your children to steal vocabulary that shines!</p>	
	Writing	<p>Nelson Handwriting</p> <p>Your child will continue to write with their 'Perfect Pencil Grip' and 'Posture for Writing'. All Year 3 children have been practising their joined-up Nelson handwriting for over a year and have made great progress.</p> <p>Also, those children who have shown real progress with handwriting will be introduced to writing in exercise books without tramlines.</p> <p>You can support your child by ensuring that they sit properly on their chair with their feet on the floor, facing the table with a pencil in their writing hand and their other hand on their work. Please ensure that your child completes their home learning in joined up writing and with a sharp pencil.</p>
		Reading
Mathematics	<p>Maths No Problem</p> <p>At the start of this half term, your child is exploring the concept of multiplying a single-digit number by a two-digit numbers e.g. 34×2. They will then continue to develop their skills by learning multiplication and division with regrouping, i.e., when the product of the digits in the one's column is greater than or equal to ten and must be renamed and thus regrouped into the ten's column. They are continuing to develop their skills and methods so that they can choose the most efficient way of calculating an answer. Pupils will continue to independently solve everyday mathematical problems, e.g. A shopkeeper has 52 ice creams. She packs them equally into 4 boxes. How many ice creams are there in each box?</p>	

	<p>"Prove it" will be commonplace in maths lessons this year. "How do you know?", "Explain...", "Tell me more..." and "What if...?" will all be used to help deepen your child's understanding of mathematical concepts. We will be encouraging your child to explain their reasoning in multiple ways, with a large focus on purposeful talk within our maths lessons.</p>
	<p>You can support by continuing to practise number bond fluency and drawing children's attention to making number bonds within numbers to support addition. (For example: 4 + 6) Please also practise the all of the times tables at home starting from anywhere in the middle, not just 0! Please also encourage your child to tell the time throughout the day (using both analogue and digital clocks).</p>
Knowledge	<p>Science – We will be learning about insects. We will explore the physical characteristics of an insect: their exoskeleton; their tripartite structure – their head, thorax and abdomen; and their having six legs. We will then look at their lifecycles – their metamorphosis – where some transform from egg, to larva, to pupa, to insect, and where others grow by shedding their exoskeletons. Lastly, children will discuss whether insects are helpful or harmful to our environment.</p> <p>History – This half term, your child will be learning about the history of law and order in our country. This will be framed through an exploration of Henry II, a reformer, who introduced the rule of law and trial by jury to Britain; King John, whose fallout with the English barons led to the signing of the Magna Carta – a document which precludes modern legal rights; as well as discussions about King Richard and the Crusades into the Holy Land.</p> <p>Geography – Your child will be exploring the geography of Western Europe. Specifically, they will look at the area's physical features: its temperate climate and mountainous terrain, i.e., the Alps. Too, they will look at the socio-political features: trade and agriculture.</p>
	<p>You can support your child at home by questioning them about the areas we are studying this half-term and encouraging them to read widely around them too. Any additional knowledge that your child brings to the classroom will be duly celebrated!</p>
Character	<p>Your child is learning about Perseverance and Communication and Teamwork. Whilst looking at these virtues we will explore real life contexts that the children might find themselves in and how we could approach these situations. These virtues will be embedded through discussion and stories as well as a community service project. The children will be fundraising for a local charity.</p>
	<p>During, for example, home learning, praise your child for their efforts not for their achievements – really get them to realise that their persistence and hard work is the most important virtue while learning! Help them form a growth mind-set!</p>
Art	<p>Your child will be exploring symmetry in Art. We will develop this knowledge through studying the work of Andy Goldsworthy, who creates artwork in a natural landscape using natural materials. He has a focus on natural symmetry, i.e., symmetry that occurs in the natural world, be it reflective or rotational, e.g., the rotational symmetry of a pine cone, or the reflective symmetry of a leaf.</p>
	<p>Your child will have opportunities to produce their own works of art with a variety of media which will develop their knowledge of symmetry.</p> <p>You could support your child by going for a walk to the park – look carefully at the natural objects you find with them. Are they symmetrical? Don't forget to pack your sketchbooks! Draw what you see.</p>
Music	<p>Your child is learning to play either the violin or the viola. As I am sure you are aware, the children are becoming more confident with their instruments and reading music. This will continue into the new year.</p>
	<p>You can support your child by encouraging them to practice little and often. The music tutors recommend 10 minutes per day.</p>
P.E. and Dance	<p>Your child will focus on increasing their range of basic gymnastic and body management skills. They will generate simple movements in jumping, balancing and rolling and progress into creating routines. Children will also be, when ready, introduced to handstands, headstands, cartwheels and round offs.</p>
	<p>Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school every Monday morning. Children should have trousers as part of their PE kit as we teach PE outside when possible.</p>