

Literacy

Our focus text this term is *The Tin Forest*. Having experienced an exciting classroom transformation, the children will begin the topic by writing diary entries, from our own perspective, of 'The day my classroom turned to tin'. After learning that the old man in our text lives in a tin forest, the children will be challenged to write descriptive phrases to describe his setting using techniques including expressive language, alliteration and personification – all of which feature within the text. The children will then write their second diary entry. This time, in role as the old man who lived in the forest. Within their writing, the children will focus on using complex sentences to explain why the old man was feeling so low. For our final diary entry, the children will use hot seating to get into the role of the old man and imagine his hopes and dreams. In particular, we will consider how important they must be to him, knowing where he lives and how he feels. The children will create 'dream jars' to help them generate descriptive vocabulary before writing their diary entry.

Later in the term, we will discover that within the book we begin to understand that the 'forest' is actually a junk yard! The children will write a persuasive letter to our school community encouraging others to look after our environment. In this, they will use emotive language and persuasive vocabulary that grabs the reader's attention. The children will then write their final persuasive letter. This time, they will be writing to Blue Peter to persuade the TV presenters that they deserve to be awarded a green Blue Peter badge. In their letters, the children will inform the reader of all the eco-friendly things that they have done during our topic so far in order to help protect our planet!

Geography

The children will study the impact that humans are having on the physical geography of the United Kingdom. Linked to the extermination of wolves in the UK (which the children learnt about last half-term), as well as their focus text '*The Tin Forest*', the children will learn about deforestation in the UK. They will find out that ancient woodlands are being felled at an alarming rate to make way for new roads, electricity pylons, housing and airport expansion. The children will also consider human impact in terms of the amount of waste produced in the UK and land fill sites. Having explored these two issues, they will explore what could be done to tackle them.

Design Technology

Considering the 6 R's (rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, repair) the children will be set the challenge of designing and making a Christmas decoration from recycled and reused materials to sell at our Christmas fair.

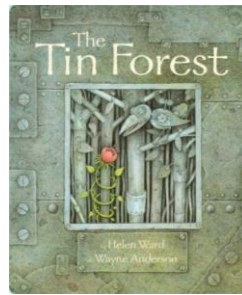
Science

Stemming from the idea of a 'Tin Forest,' the children will consider what plants need in order to germinate. They will then conduct their own investigation to discover what they require to continue to grow into healthy plants. From this, the children will then be challenged to germinate their own seeds and nurture a healthy plant which will be added to our Tin Forest!

Religious Education

In our RE lessons, we will learn what it means to be a 'Steward of Creation'. By looking closely at scripture, the children will revisit the story of creation, and consider how we can help look after our home, God's creation. They will encourage others to do the same. Following this, the children will then listen to visitors from our local parish, and learn how they are helping others within our local communities as well as further afield. The children will also learn more about Brother Lionel and his charity, 'Reaching the Unreached'.

The children will explore Advent as a time when we prepare for Christmas and recognise Jesus in the world. They will look at the story of the Annunciation and consider how it inspires us. Alongside this, they will listen to the story of the Visitation and, from this, suggest things that we should do during Advent.



Enrichment

The Year 3 classrooms will be transformed into a 'Tin Forest' upon the children's return from half-term.

Throughout the term, the children will be visited by special guests who will talk to them about the importance of recycling and how to promote it both within the school and at home. The children will then spread this message throughout the school.

The children will write to Blue Peter to persuade the presenters that they deserve to be awarded a green Blue Peter badge as a result of all the eco-friendly things that they have done during this topic!

PSHE/RHE

Through story, videos, discussions and role-play, children will learn that they are created in God's image and loved by God. This concept will help them to develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships. They will discuss the sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation, and will learn about how these are a wonderful part of our relationship with God. The children will learn to celebrate similarities and differences, and to appreciate and look after their bodies as gifts from God.

Mathematics

The children will continue to work on addition and subtraction and use these skills to solve worded problems. They will then move onto multiplication and division where they will learn to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables.

Physical Education

The children will become accustomed to a rugby ball, the correct method of carrying the ball and how to offload successfully to a partner. They will be taught how to pass correctly and develop an understanding of some simple rules e.g. the ball must go backwards.

They will learn how to outwit an opponent by dodging and through 2v1 or 3v2 gameplay. Their defensive skills will be improved, including the difference between touch and tag rugby and the process of taking another player's tag. Manipulated, small-sided matches will provide a challenging and competitive environment in which their skills can be further mastered.

Computing

The children will explore the concept of sequencing in programming through Scratch. After an introduction to the programming environment, the children will be introduced to a selection of motion, sound, and event blocks which they will use to create their own programs, featuring sequences. In their final project, the children will create a representation of the sounds of 'The Tin Forest', applying their knowledge of the stages of program design.

Art and Design

The children will continue to improve their art and design techniques by creating their own dream jars. From plasticine, they will create mini sculptures within a jar showing the world that the old man dreamed of. Following this, the children will study the work of Toshihiko Mitsuya – a Japanese artist who uses aluminum foil to bring the creatures from his imagination to reality. Inspired by his work, the children will shape and join aluminium foil, creating recognisable features from 'The Tin Forest' as well as creatures imagined by the old man in order to transform their own classroom.

Music

Inspired by the group 'Stomp', the children will make their own instruments out of recycled materials. They will then create their own samba-style piece of music to perform to the school community!