



Kingfisher's Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn One **2026**

Our Newsletter will give you an overview of our learning for this half-term in all our subjects.

Welcome to or back to Kingfisher's class. Your class teacher is Miss Rutter and the class teaching assistants are Miss Oliver (Mon-Fri) and Mrs Clinch (Mon-Wed). We hope that you all had an amazing summer break with some quality family time.

We are excited to start our new school year with you!

Literacy – The Blue Umbrella



Narrative Unit – The Blue Umbrella.

Taken from the writing scheme 'Write Stuff'.

The The Blue Umbrella is a 2013 Pixar computer-animated short film about a bright blue umbrella that falls in love with a red umbrella during a rainy evening in a busy city.

Our writing incorporates a range of sentence types to create affects through careful word choice and sentence construction. This unit continues to build on writing skills such as adverbial starters, precise verbs and similes. The 'Write Stuff' scheme teaches grammar and its application so that the children can gather their ideas, vocabulary and pre-prepared sentences before being asked to bring this together in a 'big write' such as a story, newspaper article or letter. In this way your child is supported in their writing through the medium of a text that inspires them to write.

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Maths – Place Value

Maths is taught as a mixed class but with separate learning outcomes for Years 3 and 4.

In this unit, children will build a strong foundation in place value, starting with a quick refresh of hundreds, tens, and ones before expanding their understanding to larger numbers up to 10,000. Through hands-on practice, they'll learn to represent and partition these numbers in flexible ways—helping them see how digits work together rather than just memorizing them. From there, they will practice using number lines to visualize numbers, estimate values, and quickly identify 1, 10, 100, or 1,000 more or less. As their confidence grows, pupils will compare and order larger numbers, master rounding to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000, and cap off their learning with a fun look at Roman numerals.

History – Ancient Greece

This unit builds on chronologically from the study of Ancient Egypt. It elaborates on the concepts of power and democracy and includes study of Ancient Greece, Greek life and achievements and their influence on the Western World. Children will see examples of realistic sculptures and statues that the Greeks created and will learn how their artistic style went on to influence the Roman art of the Renaissance. Children will learn about Greek Gods and Goddesses and the famous story of the Trojan horse.

Science – The Human Body

This half term we will explore the human body. We will discuss muscles, including that voluntary muscles are the muscles you can control, our bodies also depend on muscles that move without us thinking or deciding that they should. These are called involuntary muscles. Our heart is an involuntary muscle; there are also involuntary muscles in our intestines that move our food through our digestive tracts. Involuntary muscles work all the time without a conscious command from us. We will explore the skeleton, looking at endoskeleton and exoskeletons and discussing the difference. The children will learn about the human brain, and how our brain is an organ which acts as the command centre for the messages that run around our body. We will discuss and explore the digestive system, which is a group of

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organs that work together to convert food into energy and nutrients that are essential for our bodies. Finally, we will explore healthy diets which ties in with our school value of well-being.

R.E

In this unit, children will consider their own views on how the world was created. Children will agree and disagree respectfully through: Reflection tasks discussions set activities Teachers will support children in developing respectful responses, using sentence stems such as: “Personally, I believe...” “I am a _____, so I believe...” “I don’t believe that, but I understand that others do.” It is important that children feel comfortable sharing their views while listening to others. Learning about different perspectives helps them recognise similarities and differences and builds respect and tolerance. By practicing these skills, children will engage in meaningful discussions, learning how to express their ideas clearly while respecting the ideas and beliefs of others.

Art - Light

This unit introduces the children to how artists use light. It starts by connecting the concept of light to the concept of form, leading on to looking at how different tones are used by artists to show light as well as learning, through the work of Caravaggio, how artists can use extremes of light to create drama. Children practise the skills learnt in year 3 to create still life drawings using graphite, chalk and charcoal to show tone.

The children then look at the work of Vermeer, another master of light, considering how he used extremes of light to create a calm realism. They compare this with the drama of the work of Caravaggio. The children then develop their skills using acrylics to paint a still life using tone to create form. They learn how painters traditionally used a ‘ground’ and ‘underpainting’ as a basis for their paintings and use the same techniques. They revise how, with opaque materials artists work from dark to light, referring back to their work with oil pastels in year 3 where they used the same principle. The unit concludes by exploring how 20th and 21st century artists have used light. Goncharova makes light the subject of her work and Rana Begum uses light as one of the materials from which she makes her work.

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Computing

In this unit we will study effective searching and unpacking hardware and software. We will explore to understand what a search engine is, how it works and how to use simple keywords to find information online. We will explore how search engines collect, sort and rank results, and why some results appear first. We will learn advanced ways to improve searches so we can find the most accurate and useful results quickly and develop strategies to judge whether information online is true and if sources can be trusted. We will learn to identify and describe different pieces of computer hardware and understand their functions. We will explore what software is and how we use it to complete tasks.

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