

### Literacy

This half term, the children will be reading the Power of Reading text, *Skellig*, by David Almond.

In this story, we are introduced to a young character called Michael who moves to a new home with his family and critically ill sister. Michael struggles with the changes this brings and the different challenges that he faces. The children will consider how David Almond portrays Michael's emotions before documenting these in the form of an internal monologue. In particular, they will consider how the manipulation of language, sentence structures and punctuation can contribute to meaning and alter the tone of their writing.

Throughout the story, Skellig often asks for a Chinese takeaway. Using this as inspiration, the children will create their own persuasive advert for the opening of a new Chinese restaurant before writing a TripAdvisor review of their visit. The children will consider how their language choices should be adapted based on these two purposes for writing.

When Michael moves to his new home, he befriends Mina, a young girl who lives opposite. Mina is home-schooled and particularly enjoys nature, birds and poems by William Blake, an 18<sup>th</sup> century poet. The children will subsequently explore a range of William Blake's poetry, identifying common themes and structures, before creating their own poems following a similar style and pattern.

Finally, the children will research the life of William Blake and Charles Darwin to coincide with their Science learning on evolution. The children will then use this knowledge to write a range of biographies, focusing on their organisational features and formal language choices.

### Geography

This half term, the children will consider the role of biomimicry in the development of human geography. The children will identify ways in which humans have looked to nature to solve problems in the real world and how biomimicry can help to create a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly world. The children will then explore the impact of flight development on trade links and economic activity. The children will identify the social, economic and environmental impact of aviation and how this has contributed to world development.

### Design Technology

To coincide with their Geography lessons, the children will further explore the concept of biomimicry in their DT lessons. They will focus on the small hopping insect – the Issus Coleopterus - which uses toothed gears on its joints to precisely synchronise the kicks of its hind legs as it jumps. From this, they will look to design a product inspired by nature.

### Mathematics

In Maths this half term, the children will learn to:

- Multiply decimals by integers.
- Divide decimals by integers.
- Convert between fractions and decimals.
- Convert between fractions and percentages.
- Identify equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages.
- Find the percentage of an amount.

### Religious Education

This half term, our RE learning focuses around the theme of Lent where the children will consider the key question: *How can we use Lent to change ourselves for the better?* The children will explore what Jesus teaches us about prayer, fasting and almsgiving before considering how people's beliefs and morals affect who they would give alms to and why. The children will then identify the meaning of 'conscience' before studying key scripture, including *The Widow's Offering*.

During a focus on Holy Week, the children will look at what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane and the denial of Peter. The children will learn how these events emphasise how Jesus fulfilled the will of the Father. The importance of prayer at all times, but particularly in Holy Week, is highlighted. The children will also consider how these events show that Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures of the Old Testament.



# Winged Wonders

### Enrichment

The children will create their own Skellig-themed spring rolls which they will then use as inspiration for a persuasive advert during their Literacy lessons. The children will also analyse and dissect owl pellets to learn more about the ecosystem in which they live.

### Physical Education

Children will understand and complete a range of different fitness tests including the bleep test, agility run, cooper run and circuit training. They will appreciate the use of different energy systems and be able to explain those that use the oxygen system. They will be introduced to more technical terms, such as 'aerobic' and VO2 Max. Children will be able to identify the different changes that happen to their bodies during exercise, and explain in increasing detail why these changes occur, and the effect that has on their ability to complete the exercise.

### PSHE/RHE

In RHE this half-term, the children will continue to focus on the pressures which they may face as they grow up. In particular, the children will learn to identify the pressures they place on themselves and how these have a huge effect on how they relate to the world and the people around them. The children will also address the concept of fairness, bullying, prejudice and discrimination, considering what this is, who it affects, how this might make a person feel and what pupils can do about it.

### Science

This half term, the children will be learning about the concept of evolution. They will first learn about genetics, focusing on inheritance and variations. The children will consider why we are all genetically unique before learning about dominant and recessive genes.

Much of the work will centre on the 'Theory of Evolution', first proposed by Charles Darwin. Working practically, the children will simulate scenarios to explain why birds have adapted to have different shaped beaks. As part of this, the children will learn about natural selection and survival of the fittest.

Following their investigations into animal adaptations, the children will consider how the Theory of Evolution relates to humans by naming and tracing our earliest ancestors. The children will explain some of the changes that have occurred, describing how the human race has evolved over millions of years.

Finally, the children will learn about the process of fossilisation by explaining what fossils are and how they are formed. The children will identify examples of body and trace fossils, explaining what fossils can tell us about living things in the past.

### Computing

The children will learn about variables as they design and code their own flying themed games using Scratch. In addition to creating the algorithms for their projects, the children will create their own artwork, test the coding that they have written and identify ways in which their games could be improved.

### Art and Design

This half term, the children will focus on producing abstract artwork using our class text, *Skellig*, as inspiration. They will aim to represent movement in their artwork to mimic a creature in flight.

### Music

The children will learn to sing the song, '*I believe I can fly*' before accompanying this with the ukuleles. The children will then learn countermelodies on xylophones and other tuned instruments before playing a more complex melody line from Igor Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*. Using this as inspiration, the children will then compose leitmotifs on tuned and untuned instruments.