



# MAYANS – THE MAGIC MAYANS



## YEAR 6

### SUMMER 2023-2024

**FOCUS CURRICULUM PRINCIPLES – (1) Strong Working Partnerships. (2) Promotes Independence and Curiosity (3) Opportunities for memorable experiences**



## KEY AREA OF LEARNING - HISTORY

The Maya civilisation was an incredible one of wonder, invention and art. They belong to a period in time in which, thanks to archaeologists, historians are still learning more and more about them. We are going to explore all there is to know about them, pinpointing their location in the world and how they came to prominence as a civilisation. We will use the discoveries of sites such as Chichen Itza in order to piece together how cities were built by the Mayans and what the most important buildings were. From the discoveries, we will also learn about key aspects of their daily life, including the worship of the Mayan Gods and how some of their incredible inventions were vital to their way of life. The children will finally be left with the task of answering the big question, 'Why did the Maya civilisation disappear?'

### SCIENCE

**Circulatory system and the human body** – We will be exploring how the human body works to keep us alive through the way that the heart functions and the make-up of the blood it pumps. We will also look at how our diet and lifestyle can influence the overall health of our body and its systems.

**Electricity** – We will be expanding on work the children have previously completed on circuits (in lower years) in order to design and make our own circuitry for different purposes. Importantly, the children will learn how to draw these correctly using the scientific symbols for features such as light bulbs, buzzers and cells.

### ENGLISH

This term we are going to be focusing on one of my favourite books to study in class. This is called 'The Arrival' by an author the class should be more than familiar with, Shaun Tan. This is a completely word-less book that the children can interpret in many different ways, this is one of the aspects that not only makes the book such an intriguing read but causes the writing produced from it to be so creative. Our other complimentary text is called, The Maya: Clever Ideas and Inventions from Past Civilisations. We will be using this book as the basis for creating an explanation text based around different Mayan inventions that had a significant lasting impact.

### MATHS

For the first four weeks of the term we will be focusing on the areas of the maths SATs we most need to prioritise revising, such as applying the four operations to fractions. Once the SATs have passed, we will delve a little deeper into the new learning of Year 6 in order to develop the children's understanding of them, particularly through reasoning problems. This will include areas such as algebra, ratio and working with circumference and diameter. After this, maths sessions will revolve around the importance of problem solving within arithmetic areas children have already attained confidence in. These will include working with percentages, fractions and decimals all within real world contexts.

### HOMEWORK

The main focus for homework will be on continuing our work revising and ensuring that areas that the children are least confident on are being practiced. There will be a home project menu sent home with the expectation children do one a term, with the option to do more.

### COMPUTING

This term the children are going to learn about website design and what aspects are most important. They will also learn about the Micro: Bit and how it enables the children to code a wider range of things through its inputs and outputs.

### PE

As the sun comes out for the summer we will be focusing on more outdoor-based sports by practicing a wide range of athletics events (particularly running races), rounders and different cricket games as well.

### FRENCH

Children will be learning the common French words that would be used within the classroom environment. This will be words that can help describe elements of the classroom, give opinions on subjects and say common phrases both teachers and pupils would use.

### PSHE/SMSC

**Social** – Teamwork within class, particularly through the creation of 'Mayan music which involves cooperation with others.  
**Cultural** – Looking at aspects of Mayan history  
**Moral** – Looking at the moral implications of the Mayan treatment and land use.  
**Spiritual** – Constant referral to issues around spirituality in workshops (class and whole)

### TRIPS/VISITORS/OTHER

Booster sessions will be continuing this term up to the SATS. We will also be having our residential and numerous other trips, including one to Portsmouth cathedral. There will also be leavers events towards the end of the school year.

### ART

The Mayans were well-known for some of their incredible artistry and no more than through their eye-catching masks. Using sketching, the children will design their own masks and then through embroidery create their very own.

### DT

We will learn about how the Mayans designed pyramids as essential landmarks within their cities. Then, using what we have learned, we will design and make our very own pyramids using a wide range of materials.

### MUSIC

The children will become songwriters as they create their very own leavers song, using a well-known positive song as the basis for their own. They will not only be writing lyrics, they will also compose their own melody to add into the song as well.

### RE

For the first half of the term we will focus on the concept of love and how this is taught in Sikhism through the act of Sewa. In the second half of the term we will be exploring the humanist way of life and the different traditions that they have.