English

The children will start by exploring the book *The Secret Dinosaur*. During the lessons, we will complete a range of written and comprehension activities related to each chapter. Following this, we will use a film clip called *Caterpillar Shoes* to inspire our independent story writing, as well as help us describe characters and sequence events in our writing. We will be continuing our learning on grammar, spelling, and punctuation, focusing on word classes, using a range of punctuation accurately, learning our spelling rules, and practising our joined handwriting. Towards the end of the term, we will use our knowledge of non-fiction texts to write a non-chronological report about a chosen minibeast.

Guided Reading

We will also be introducing whole class Guided Reading sessions this term to develop our comprehension skills. The children will use VIPER techniques to read and answer questions about our class text 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'.

History & Geography

We will explore and create timelines to understand when dinosaurs existed, research facts about different types of dinosaurs and think about how this information can change with new discoveries. The children will also learn about the key palaeontologist Mary Anning. We will use our literacy skills to write a non-fiction text about her life and discoveries. In Geography, we will explore the school grounds using fieldwork and observational skills to assess the environment and its suitability for different habitats and micro-habitats.

Art

We will use Gwen John's portraits as a starting point to create a portrait of Mary Anning, thinking about the use of colour, space and brushstrokes. We will also explore the work of Lucy Arnold, who creates fine art pictures of minibeasts. The children will discuss her work and try to recreate their own art over a few weeks, focusing on improving their artwork over time. This will also include peer and independent feedback.

Science

We will be exploring and comparing things that are living, dead and have never been alive. We will identify the different characteristics of a variety of habitats and name plants and animals as well as find out about food chains and sources of food. We will explore behaviours of nocturnal and diurnal creatures and how they are adapted to survive. As well as this we will explore a range of different microhabitats which will support our trip in March.

Year 2 Topic Web

Living, Dead and Never Been Alive

Spring Term 2025

RE

During the first half term, we will be learning about Islam. We will be thinking about who Allah is and how Muslims worship him. In the second part of the term, we will be looking at who Jesus was and his importance to Christians, including the Easter story.

PSHE

As a school this term, we are implementing 'Zones of Regulation'. Zones of Regulation is a social-emotional learning curriculum that helps children and young people develop self-regulation skills using a system of four color-coded zones. The framework teaches individuals to understand their emotions and levels of alertness, recognize their triggers, and use strategies to manage their feelings and behaviours appropriately.

Design & Technology

The children will begin by evaluating existing puppets and then move onto learning and developing their sewing skills as they learn a variety of stitches and joining techniques. The children will then design and create their own minibeast hand puppet using their sewing skills.

Mathematics

We start this term with a unit on shape. In Year 2, we learn to recognise, name and describe 2D and 3D shapes, identify their properties such as sides, edges, vertices, and faces and use this knowledge to sort and compare different shapes. We will then move onto multiplication and division. We will use a variety of language and practical equipment to support us in understanding how to solve multiplication and division problems. This will help us strengthen our knowledge of times tables (2s, 3s, 5s, and 10s), which we will continue to practise. We then move on to learning about money and learn how to count pounds and pence (using notes and coins), make amounts, compare amounts, find change, and solve problems. The second half of the term focuses on measurement, starting with length and height. We look at cm and m, compare and order measurements, and solve problems. We then move on to mass, capacity, and temperature, where we once again measure and compare different units. In addition to these units, we will be revising our knowledge of addition and subtraction and using different methods, such as the column method, to answer word problems.

Computing

We will begin this term by exploring spreadsheets. We will learn how to enter data into cells and use '2calculate' to solve number sentences. We will also focus on questions and learn how to use the search tool to find specific information. We will then use a Purple Mash to sort information into two categories.

PE

Gymnastics: We learn how to travel and balance and link these actions into sequences on the floor and on apparatus.

Games: We will develop our skills through various attacking & defending team games. In particular we will improve our accuracy of throwing a ball over arm and underarm, aiming at a target (kicking and throwing) and our use of racket skills.

Music

While we continue to learn new notes on the recorder, we will be learning two sing two songs called 'I wanna play in a band' and 'Zoo time'. We will also listen to a collection of rock and reggae music and explore pulse and rhythm using a range of instruments.