



During this term, our theme is:

How have railways changed?

Below are the areas that we are covering within the theme.



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	To start this half term, we are very excited to start work with a brand-new novel that links with our Railway topic. This book is called, 'The Highway Falcon Thief' and is the first in an adventure series by M.G Leonard and Sam Sedgman. It is a brilliant book, full of excitement and mystery, which we know the children will love. Whilst studying this fantastic book, we will be writing a newspaper article to report on the theft that occurs in the story. After this sequence of work we will focus on creating balanced arguments based on the particular themes in the book. To end the half term, we will focus on poetry using 'Look Out, A Poem of Hope' by Philip Ardagh.	Read at home as often as you can and share the stories with those at home. You may wish to read the other stories within 'The Highland Falcon Thief' series. Also, you may wish to write some of your own pieces of work at home inspired by our school work – you could write your own newspaper article based on event which may be happening around you. Remember to be a fantastic journalist, you must investigate and gather all of the evidence.
Maths	This half term, we will be looking at decimals (to thousandths) including ordering and comparing decimals. As well as this, we will be looking at converting between fractions, decimals and percentages, where we will be finding fractions of amounts. We will also be focusing on arithmetic so we can practise our basic skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, which will help us as we begin to look at multi-step problems in addition and subtraction.	There are many activities online to help with practicing using fractions, decimals and percentages. See if your child can recognise numbers with up to three decimal places – can they then order and compare these with different amounts or even percentages? Times tables are a solid foundation for a lot of arithmetic within maths; a good way of practising this is by logging onto Times Table Rockstars at home – can they win enough coins to get themselves a new outfit?
Science Biology	During our Science work this half term, we will be starting our unit of work around humans and animals, focusing on the human life cycle. We will cover the following areas: What are the stages of human life? How do babies develop and grow? What is puberty? What changes take place in old age? How are gestation periods and life expectancy across humans and other animals similar and different? Who was Leonardo da Vinci and how was he influential?	Your child may have questions surrounding some of the learning in this topic; it would be great if you could discuss these areas of learning to further consolidate the work in school. As well as this, you could research the life cycle of other animals (including how they change over time) and explore how this is similar and different to humans.
History	During this half term, we will start to learn about the railway, its history in Britain and why it is so significant, both to our country and the town of Darlington. We will cover the following areas: What were the earliest railways and locomotives like? What was special about a steam locomotive? Why did the railway network grow? What was the impact of the railways on society? How have locomotives changed our time? What might the future look like? We will also study the work of some key, significant individuals and look at how the history of Darlington is linked so closely to the history of the railway.	You could research the history of trains and the railway; if you have ever been on a train, you could also talk about what the experience is like. Also, why not explore train timetables to discover where you could get to from Darlington and how long the journeys would take. As well as this, you could also look at The Head of Steam museum's website or the National Railway Museum's website for further information and interesting videos. We would love you to share any of this information and work with the rest of the class.
Computing	In computing we will be developing our coding skills to create different games using programming software. We will use a program called Scratch to develop our games. We will begin by planning a game and then focus on creating a	Use computers or tablets at home or in Darlington library to research space to then create a poster or a PowerPoint presentation which we will

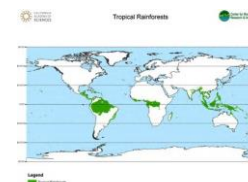
	prototype to test. Once we have tried them out we will be debugging them and re-testing.	then share with the rest of the class. Any work done at home will be celebrated in school. Discuss how to stay safe online with your children.
Religious Education	In RE, our overall theme is Christians and how to live. This will focus on the key question 'What would Jesus do?' Throughout this topic we will discuss places of worship and evaluate why they are important in different religions. We will compare different religious beliefs.	You may want to discuss significant figures in Christianity and explore why they are important to this faith. You may also want to visit a local church and create conversations about the importance of these buildings.
Physical Education	In rounders, we will be exploring the game and practising various skills such as fielding, batting and bowling. This will help develop motor skills within children and encourage teamwork and co-operation. We will learn the rules of the game and the skills we can build to be successful in our striking and fielding.	Practise some of the skills that may help your child in rounders such as catching, throwing or fielding the ball. You could even watch some games of rounders – help your child to follow the game and learn some of the rules.
Art	This half term, our key artist is Claude Monet. We will be using his 'San Giorgio Maggiore at Dusk' painting for inspiration. We will focus on his style of artistry and the techniques he uses to create his world class painting. During our sessions we will focus on our colour mixing skills to create muted primary and secondary colours. We will also use precise brush strokes to create detailed landscapes.	You could look at some of Claude Monet's art and explore how it changed over time. You could also research some other artists during this time frame and compare them to Claude Monet's.
PSHE	This half term children will complete work linked to citizenship and finances. They will consider the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we contribute to our community? • Why is it important to respect the law? • How can we look after our money? • How do we budget effectively? How do we know if something is good value for money?	Talk to your child about the importance of behaviour and actions and why different rules may be needed in different places. Do they understand the rules in places outside of school and why these are in place? Come to an agreement of rules in certain places that you both think should be followed. You can also talk to your children about finances, bills and budgeting money. You may want to set them a challenge to see if they can be given a small budget to create a meal for the family. This will help them understand that we need to use our money wisely and consider our household bills before having luxuries.
French	Our learning in French this half term will focus on 'at the tea room'. We will describe different foods, snacks and drinks in French. Along with some key phrases to help us order a range of items. We will also be learning about French currency and using our maths knowledge to be able to pay the bill.	Find out the names of common items in a café, writing and pronouncing these words. Also, you could research how to ask some key questions in French.



During this term, our theme is:

What is so special about rainforests?

Below are the areas that we are covering within the theme.



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	This half term, we will be reading <i>Clockwork Or All Wound Up</i> by Phillip Pullman. We will be using this book to inspire us to write about our own journey to Glockenheim, where we will use a lot of informal language to share our initial thoughts about this peculiar German town. We will then be writing our own spooky ghost story, focusing on our use of descriptive language to draw suspense.	The main activities that would benefit learning in English is if children can read at home regularly and practise spellings when they come home. We really appreciate your support in these areas. As well as this, your child could use the internet to find out more about the Glockenheim in Germany, or to look at some ideas for our spooky stories.
Maths	In Maths this half term, we will be continuing to develop our arithmetic skills. Alongside this, we will be returning to some of our prior learning including rounding decimal numbers with two decimal places to the nearest whole number; using formal methods for addition and subtraction; exploring shapes and our knowledge of angles; and using measurements including converting between different measurements such as imperial and metric units.	Continue to practise times tables to ensure your child can recall these facts promptly. Encourage your child to share their Maths learning and explore Maths when they are out and about.
Science	This half term we are learning about Super Science! We will be looking at forces and how they impact our daily life. We will learn all about buoyancy and air resistance. To finish our Science topic, we will consolidate our learning about the phases of the moon.	At home children can explore their learning by talking about what they have been doing in class. They could explore different items and their buoyancy and how stream lined they may be.
Geography	We are looking at what makes rainforests special, focusing on using our knowledge of different biomes. We will also consider different types of rainforest and the different plant and animal species we would find in them. We will also use our map skills to locate the worlds rainforests to decipher where in the world they are most common. Alongside our rainforest topic, we will also be completing some first-hand field work in and around our school environment.	The children could conduct their own research into rainforests and present their findings to their family and they peer in school. They can create information booklets to share their learning.
Computing	We will continue our coding element of computing where we will continue to build on our previous learning to develop our games. We will use more complex codes to change the variables and incorporate timers and scores.	Children can login to scratch at home and have a go at using some of their coding to create new games.
Religious Education	Our key question to focus on in RE is 'What matters most to Humanists and Christians?' This investigation enables us to learn about life from a Christian point of view and from a Humanist point of view (a non-religious way of life).	Talk to those at home about religion – what are their beliefs and views? It may be interesting for some of the children to get involved in their local community.

Physical Education	We will continue our rounders topic in PE this half term. We will be exploring the game and practising various skills such as fielding, batting and bowling. This will help develop motor skills within children and encourage teamwork and co-operation. We will learn the rules of the game and the skills we can build to be successful in our striking and fielding. Alongside this, we will be working on our Athletics skills to build our skills for sports day.	Practise some of the skills that may help your child in rounders such as catching, throwing or fielding the ball. You could even watch some games of rounders – help your child to follow the game and learn some of the rules.
DT	We will be looking at the role of switches in complex electrical circuits. We will investigate how to build our own circuits and move on to developing these skills by incorporating mechanical elements including different types of switches to program, monitor and control the flow of electricity.	Encourage children to take time to think about electrical items and how they are able to be turned on and off. They can also discuss their previous learning to explore how to create simple circuits and research ways they could potentially make them more complex.
PSHE	This half term children will complete work linked to aspirations and new beginnings. They will consider the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are our star qualities and how do we develop even more? • How do I make the most of opportunities? • Can does a positive attitude help? • What have I achieved this year? • What will Year 6 hold for me? 	Talk to your child about the importance of aspirations in life and working hard to achieve future success. You could discuss their qualities that will help them to achieve this. You could also take time to reflect with your children about their experiences this year and what year 6 maybe like in the future.
French	In French, we are learning all about our home. Throughout this topic we will explore what our home is like. We will then develop our speaking skills to describe our home and what is in it. To finish this topic, we will be able to hold conversations about our home with our friends.	Encourage the children explore their learning and ask them to describe their home in French.