

The Big Blue

For our Big Blue topic, we will launch learning with a Pirate School stunning start and a locality walk, inspiring children to write about features of Worthing. Through Geography, children will build a classroom model, while Book Talk sessions will use pirate stories for drama, grammar (including contractions), and non-fiction retrieval. In Science and History, pupils will explore materials and seaside holidays, linking learning to their My World books. English lessons will focus on past tense, time connectives, prefixes, boxing up, oral rehearsal, and writing a diary entry. Creative learning continues through Art and Design and Technology, alongside Maths learning about coins and capacity.

Stunning Start

To launch our Big Blue topic, we will begin with an exciting Pirate Day, where children and staff will come to school dressed as pirates. The day will start with a message in a bottle welcoming the children to Pirate School and setting them a series of fun challenges. Throughout the morning, children will complete five pirate-themed activities, including a treasure hunt around Tarring with a Geography focus on identifying local features, learning a pirate song and choosing a pirate name, making a pirate telescope, tackling a “walk the plank” obstacle course, and designing their own pirate treasure map. Photographs will be taken throughout the day for our class book. At the end of Pirate Day, all children who successfully complete the challenges will be rewarded with a chocolate gold coin and a Pirate School Certificate to celebrate their achievements.

Fabulous Finish

For our Fab Finish, we will warmly welcome parents to join us in sharing and celebrating all the wonderful learning from our Big Blue topic. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to see the children’s hard work showcased, including our pirate ship artwork, diary writing, and other creative outcomes inspired by our pirate adventures. This special event will give children the chance to proudly talk about their learning and achievements, bringing our Big Blue journey to an exciting and memorable close.

Phonics

Across the next four weeks, the children will be exploring Phase 5 Set 2 sounds in Phonics linked to Year 2 spelling rules. This exciting phonics journey will help build confidence and independence, ensuring the children are well prepared and ready to shine as they move into Year 2.

Core Books

Fiction:

On a Pirate Ship by Sarah Courtauld
Pirate Mums by Jodie Lancet-Grant
Hal the Pirate by Polly Dunbar

Non-Fiction:

100 Questions About Pirates by Simon Abbott

Reading

The children will develop their reading skills through engaging pirate-themed texts. Using Hal the Pirate, they will learn to read contractions and understand how apostrophes are used. They will take part in group discussions about stories read aloud, learning to listen carefully, take turns, and share their ideas. Drama and role play will be used to explore key events and the significance of story titles. Through On a Pirate Ship, children will discover the different jobs pirates have on board and will use the drama technique of hot seating to talk about a day in the life of a pirate. They will also listen to and discuss non-fiction texts beyond their independent reading level, learning the difference between fiction and non-fiction. Children will compare these text types and explore key features of non-fiction books, including contents pages, indexes, and glossaries.

Writing

In writing, children will learn to sequence sentences to create a short narrative, saying their sentences aloud before writing. They will practise using capital letters correctly for names, places, days of the week, and the personal pronoun I. The children will also begin to add prefixes and suffixes, using -ing, -ed, -er, and -est where no spelling change is needed. Using their plans, they will sequence a day in the life of a pirate, supported by time connectives such as first, next, and last. They will learn how to add the suffix -ed to verbs (for example, "I jumped off the plank") and will have plenty of opportunities to orally rehearse their sentences before writing, helping to build confidence and fluency.

Maths

As mathematicians, we will be developing our skills through fun and practical learning linked to our pirate theme. Children will learn to recognise and understand the value of different coins and notes while helping Captain Anne find her stolen treasure! We will also explore capacity and volume by comparing and describing different containers, using the correct vocabulary to explain how full or empty they are. Alongside this, we will be consolidating key maths skills, including careful number formation (checking for digit reversals), reading and writing number words from 0–20, counting forwards and backwards to 100 (particularly across the tens), and revisiting number bonds to 20. Children will practise adding by counting on and finding 1 more and 1 less than numbers up to 100, building confidence and fluency through engaging, hands-on activities.

Science

In Science, the children will learn to identify the difference between an object and the material it is made from. They will explore and classify a range of objects and materials using different criteria, such as what they are made of and their properties. Through hands-on investigation and discussion, the children will learn to identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock, helping them to better understand the world around them.

Art

The children will explore and collect colours, learn how to mix them effectively, and discuss the colour wheel, focusing on primary and secondary colours. They will also recognise, create, and talk about repeating and symmetrical patterns, developing their confidence and creativity. In Design and Technology, the children will investigate simple slider mechanisms by deconstructing and describing how they work before designing and constructing their own sea landscape. After exploring sliders, the children will combine their learning to design and make a sliding pirate ship picture, ensuring it moves smoothly across a seascape they have created by mixing suitable colours and adding patterns using oil pastels.

Geography

The children will develop key geography skills through practical and engaging activities. They will work together to build a classroom model using a bird's-eye view, helping them to understand perspective. The children will then create a simple classroom map, including a clear key, to represent features accurately.

These skills will be applied during an exciting pirate treasure hunt, where children will use positional and basic compass language to navigate and follow directions, reinforcing their understanding of place and location.

Music

In our last block of music, the children will combine all the musical concepts they have learnt throughout Year 1 to create an underwater-themed performance incorporating instrumental, vocal and body sounds.

The children will revisit musical concepts such as moving to the tempo, exploring dynamics of instruments, pitch and rhythm.

PE

Outdoor Games– Pirates- Static Balance One Leg

Develop and apply one leg balance with stability and control

The children will focus on Static Balances and will be leaning to balance on one leg. The children will then progress by trying a mini squat by bending their knee on one leg.

Sports Day Practice

The children will start practicing and preparing for their Sports Day! There are lots of team games involved where the children will need to show lots of Carlos Collaborating and Ethel Effort!

Indoor PE– Gymnastics- Toy Box– Rotational Skills

Develop and apply different rotations, rolls and spins.

In Gymnastics, the children will explore and practice a variety of rotations, rolls and spins starting by using the floor/mats only and progressing onto the larger apparatus.