

Year 3/4 Curriculum Highlights 2024-25

At Botley C of E Primary we take great pride in our fantastic curriculum, which enables children to make great progress alongside undergoing many engaging learning experiences. Please enjoy this summary of our curriculum highlights from this academic year.



Autumn 1 – Potions

The Potions theme began with an engaging Hook day where children came to school dressed fitting the theme: we enjoyed welcoming a variety of wizards, witches and mad scientists! The children investigated the properties of different mysterious potions and created their own art which fizzed, sparkled and popped!



During the theme, children carried out a variety of science activities where they learned about the states of matter and how various scientific processes could alter a material's state. Their artwork was inspired by the study of well-known illustrators, such as Quentin Blake, and the exploration of body movements and positions associated with the art of potion-making. This enabled the children



to develop their drawing and painting skills. The historical concept of significance was reinforced as the children evaluated why certain medical scientists (Edward Jenner and Marie Curie) are remembered and considered the impact of their discoveries on the world. In computing, children learned about computer networks and how data is used in the modern world.

Autumn 2 – Scrumdiddlyumptious

Following a presentation by the Year 3/4 teachers who shared their experiences of visiting Italy—particularly the region surrounding Naples—the children had the opportunity to enjoy traditional Italian snacks and share their existing knowledge of the country. They were also encouraged to compare their favourite locally sourced meals with traditional Italian dishes and to investigate the reasons for any differences. This task required them to develop their atlas skills while also analysing information from various maps and charts.



They identified similarities and differences between the physical and human features of the Italian region and those of the South Coast, considering the influence of climate and land use on both

areas. In History, children focussed on the eruption of Vesuvius and the resulting destruction of Pompeii.

In Design and Technology, the children enhanced their food preparation skills, as well as their ability to design and evaluate, through the creation of their own pizzas which they then served to their approving customers (their parents!)

In Art lessons, children developed their observational drawings and applied their skills to creating fruity clay tiles. In Science, they studied the components of the human digestive system, including the functions of different types of teeth.



Spring 1 – Swords, Shields and Settlers

This theme started with some intense archaeological work: children carefully uncovered the chocolate from chocolate chip cookies without damaging the biscuits before looking at the grave of an Anglo-Saxon king carefully considering what effects he was buried with.



Throughout the topic, children learned about the Anglo-Saxons and their invasion of Britain, exploring the question: *Were Saxon times truly the Dark Ages?* They studied the Anglo-Saxon invasions, as well as aspects of their daily life and religious beliefs. The children also examined the use of illuminated letters and created their own versions. In music, they developed their ability to maintain a steady beat and

rhythmic pattern, while gaining an understanding of musical notation.

Additionally, they explored the topic of light and shadows, investigating sources of light, the potential risks associated with sunlight, and the formation of shadows.



In this topic, we also enjoyed a memorable trip to Winchester Cathedral.

Spring 2 – Raiders or Traders!

During this theme, the children were visited by a real-life Viking for a brilliant, engaging and funny workshop with Mr Dilly, the history expert. In History lessons, the children studied the Vikings and their invasion of Britain, considering the question: were the Vikings raiders or traders? They explored Viking invasions, their reputation, as well as their raids and trading activities. The children reached a conclusion about whether they believed the Vikings were primarily raiders or perhaps did not deserve such a fierce reputation.

In Geography, they examined various Viking settlements by identifying Viking prefixes and suffixes in place names across the UK.

In Design and Technology, the children learned about the use of Viking flags and created their own flags featuring personal motifs, applying different stitching techniques. In Music, they learned to play mini-accordions, focusing on folk music within the tradition of sea shanties.



Summer 1- Tremors

The children were introduced to the topic of volcanoes through an engaging episode from BBC Earth focused on volcanic activity. They studied the geography of volcanoes, including the structure of the Earth, volcanic eruptions, and earthquake zones. Biscuits were used to represent tectonic plates and golden syrup represented the lava! We finished our geography learning by creating and erupting our own volcanoes.



In Science, the children explored sound and vibrations creating their own instruments from cardboard boxes and elastic bands, as well as straw oboes. We were lucky to have Mrs Turner from Deer Park come in to present a workshop on sound using lots of exciting equipment that she brought along.



In Computing, they created their own maze game using Scratch, developing their understanding of algorithms and enhancing their ability to debug programs independently.

In Art, the children produced volcano collages, experimenting with colour, shape, and size of collage materials to create effective representations of erupting volcanoes.

We were also delighted to have Hampshire Music Service come in to teach us how to play the Gamelan – traditional Indonesian Folk music which built on our learning from Spring 2 and linked to our English driver text *The Firework Maker's Daughter*.



Summer 2 – Mother Earth

This theme began with a trip to Hillier's Arboretum in Romsey which was fascinating! In geography this half term, the children learned about the planet they live on, gaining knowledge of the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. They studied various national parks within the UK, with a particular focus on the South Downs. The children developed their confidence in essential map skills, including the use of grid references on Ordnance Survey maps.

We spent a lot of time in the school gardens this half term. This outdoor learning supported their understanding of plant biology, as they explored how plants grow, what they need to thrive, and how they reproduce. They observed changes in plants when essential growth factors were withheld, deepening their understanding of plant needs. In Art and Design, the children explored sculptures inspired by nature and worked with wire and Mod Roc or papier-mâché to create flower-like sculptures. Finally, in Computing, they used photo editing software to enhance their digital skills.

