GODWIN JUNIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 5
AUTUMN 2 2026
CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

ENGLISH

This half-term's English unit will be Shakespeare, with a focus on Macbeth. The children will begin by reading the play and delving into the dilemmas and feelings of the characters. They will then investigate Shakespearean language and how it differs from late modern English, while performing and writing in the same style. Our Shakespeare unit will be enriched by a workshop delivered by the Globe Theatre Company. Pupils will then create their own narrative based on elements of the play. They will be expected to include examples of Shakespearean language in their work, as well as effectively describe setting, characters and emotions.

MATHEMATICS

Pupils will learn about negative numbers and how they are commonly used in real-world situations, like measuring temperatures below freezing. Pupils will then begin to develop their understanding of multiplication through the use of Dienes apparatus and unitising language, before looking at partial products and how these can be used to find the total product. Division will then be explored, looking at informal strategies before moving on to formal methods and remainders. Children will use their knowledge of the time tables to support their learning of division. Homework for maths is set weekly through www.lbq.org/task to develop and embed learning at home.

GEOGRAPHY

In geography, children will explore urban and rural life in England, comparing these settings and examining historical land-use maps to trace local landscape changes. They will revisit human and physical features, using atlases and Google Earth to locate UK cities and counties.

PE

Children will continue to develop skills in gymnastics this half-term. They will also work on making the routines and balances they create increasingly complicated. In hockey, pupils will learn how to play effectively in a team and develop skills to play in a defensive position.

COMPUTING

This half-term, pupils will have the opportunity to learn how to create short videos in groups. As they progress through this unit, they will be exposed to topic-based language and develop the skills of capturing, editing and manipulating video.

RE

In RE lessons, pupils will learn about how Christmas is celebrated in different parts of the world. The children will look into things like 'Why do Christians celebrate Christmas?' and 'How do people in different countries celebrate this festival?'

PSHE

During this half-term, children will think about the theme 'Celebrating Difference.' They will talk and work together to discuss cultural differences, how they feel about different people and how they can all stand up to different kinds of bullying.

MUSIC

Year 5 will continue to develop their hand coordination and learn to play more complex musical notation and rhythm on the xylophone. Children will focus on playing different parts of a musical piece to foster listening and group-playing skills.

ART

Children will explore the work of William Morris and learn how nature inspired his famous designs. They will develop their own motifs through observational drawing; create prints using foam printing techniques and experiment with colour layering. Pupils will learn how to build up patterns with fine detail and repeat them to produce their final decorative piece.

SCIENCE

Pupils will be studying the topic 'Changing Materials' this half-term. They will learn what a solution is and decide how to separate mixtures by filtering, sieving and evaporating, as well as choosing the most appropriate equipment. We will explore whether all materials can be recovered from a solution. Children will also conduct experiments to demonstrate their understanding of soluble and insoluble materials.

FRENCH

This half-term's topic is shopping in France. Pupils will develop food-related vocabulary and build on their understanding of sentence structure through games.