

The World Around Us

(Science, Technology, Geography and History.)



Our theme for this term is 'Dream Machines'.

This study will allow the children to research and find out about how machines of today were invented and why and by whom. This will include transportation, electrical equipment, phones, cameras, etc, and we will produce a time line of different machines, for example, the car, train, boat, aeroplane, comparing and contrasting 'old' and 'new' / then and now. The children will make a mini 3D model of their chosen machine and work in small groups to plan and execute an oral presentation of their research. A visit to Ballymoney library will assist them in their research.

The children will investigate, analyse and discuss the usefulness and ingenuity of 'everyday inventions'. We will therefore be grateful if any little 'gadgets' or 'clever inventions' (not electronic) that might be found around your home, could be brought in for group work.

We will also look at what types of products are produced by machines today and set up a production line in our classroom to create a card for Christmas to give the children an understanding of how factories work and how every single part of that line is essential and important.

The children will paint a robot with a focus on shading and shadow and invent a name for it, detailing its special features and abilities.

Our theme will also incorporate other creative and imaginative activities. The children will be asked to make up their own 'machine of the future' which can do something imaginative, spectacular and innovative. They will be given the opportunity to produce a design of their invention and present and explain their ideas to the rest of the class.

They will create a brand name and logo for a business and produce an advertisement to promote their product.

We will learn about mechanisms such as pulleys, levers, wheels, springs, hinges and cogs through scientific investigation, planning, setting up, carrying out fair tests and recording and analysing results.

In poetry writing the children will design and produce their own composition of 'Machine Mayhem'. They will use their previously learnt and practised skills of writing poems to complete this work in Literacy.

What else is happening in the curriculum?

ICT

Your child will be taking photographs and uploading them onto the computer for their project work. Pupils will create a leaflet using Microsoft Publisher to present their research and findings about their chosen machine.

Maths



Among the Maths topics we will be covering for this term, the children will be studying *Shape and Space (including 2D and 3D shapes, their properties and ways of sorting them using Handling Data)* and *Fractions, Decimals and Percentages* as well as *Money*. We will also take an in depth look into *Time*, including lengths of journeys within the 12 and 24 hour clock, and analysing timetables.

Literacy

The children continue to use cursive script in their handwriting. Here are some examples of this style of writing:

Sonny the slimy snake slithers and slides in the sun.

We are encouraging the children, alongside their Guided Reading and Accelerated Reading books, to read novels of their own choice for enjoyment and to help support the Guided Reading work undertaken in school.

World Around Us

The children will learn about keeping themselves safe while undertaking a Policing & Community Safety Partnership 'RADAR' workshop.

What's going on?

Dream Machines

We will visit Ballymoney Library as part of our research about machines of the past and of today. It would be beneficial for the children to have access to good research materials at home. This could be in the form of internet access, books or talking to people who have valuable information and experiences to share with the children.

We also hope to visit Waterways Ireland in Coleraine to learn about the River Bann, sluices and related mechanisms. The children will be making 3D models of different machines, so it would be good to begin collecting junk materials that would help in their art project. I will inform the children when it should be brought into school.

P.E.

Primary 7 have P.E. on a Thursday morning. Full P.E. gear will be required.

Homework

As well as learning spellings, the children will be expected to find out meanings of words and alongside their Friday spelling test they will be asked to use each word in the correct context within a correctly punctuated sentence. Reading homework is of paramount importance as this will have a positive effect on your child's formal skills of spelling, punctuation and grammar and also their creative writing skills. The focus on Monday and Tuesday nights will be Guided Reading and Accelerated Reading will be the focus of Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Primary 7 worked together to produce our Class Contract. We all contributed suggestions and ideas for useful and manageable guidelines for us to work and play by. Here is the final list that we all agreed on.

Our Classroom Contract



Take responsibility for our own learning

Follow the traffic light system

- **Red**- quiet work, no talking
- **Amber**- talking within group about task
- **Green**- free talking



Be a positive role model



Be true to ourselves-we are unique

Respect ourselves, each other, our classroom and resources

Hands up



Be a good friend – be kind, honest, patient and caring

Think before we say or do



Have fun!!

Our Playground Rule: **Watch Out! Younger Children About!!**

