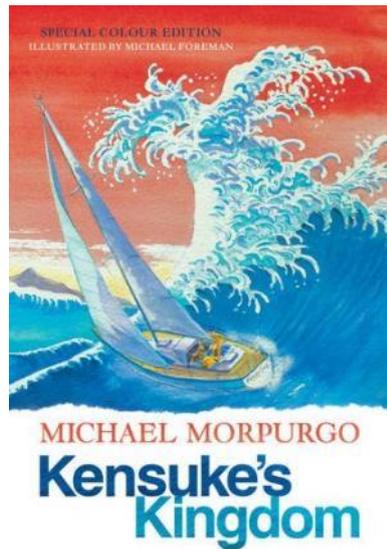


Adamson Class Newsletter

2017 Autumn 1: Explorers



I hope you have all enjoyed a fantastic summer break and are ready for an exciting term ahead, full of new experiences. I am thrilled to be teaching Year 3/4 and I am looking forward to getting to know each of you - children and parents.

The majority of our work this term is inspired by Michael Morpurgo's superb adventure story - Kensuke's Kingdom. We will travel as a class alongside 11 year old 'Michael' as he sails across the world with his family - crossing continents and oceans, in calm and stormy seas; finally arriving on a remote Japanese island where we will fight for survival with him and find that maybe we are not alone...

Here is a summary of the main focus for each subject this term:

English

We begin the term with a film strip called 'The Black Hat' which will put us in the mood for fantastical creatures, magical kingdoms and colourful creations. Once our creativity has been sparked and our basic grammatical understanding refreshed, we will tussle with the moral issues of keeping animals in captivity and will hold our own class debate. There are many opportunities for us to expand our descriptive vocabulary, build our knowledge of sentence structure and word classes as well as developing our skill of speaking and writing in the present and past tense, and in using persuasive language to put our point of view across.

We will then move onto our more focused study of our key text, Kensuke's Kingdom. The text will provide us with rich opportunities for discussion thus deepening our capacity for reflection such that we can explore the intricacies of building new friendships and learn about the give-and-take required for co-operative relationships, linking in with our PSHE studies.

Maths

Our mathematical journey begins with a refresher of place value and the number system before moving onto the big ideas behind calculations. We explore addition and subtraction,

multiplication and division, making discoveries about the intrinsic relationship between inverse operations. Our fluency with core number facts will be enhanced and thus our confidence to manipulate numbers in many different ways such that we can tackle increasingly complex tasks.

A core focus will be to ensure basic number facts (including multiplication tables) become second nature and that we can relate them as effortlessly as possible orally and in our written work.

Science and Geography

Rocks and Soils form the focus for our scientific work this term. We will build our observational skills to identify similarities and differences in different rocks; igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic as well as man-made and natural rocks. Closely linked to our work in geography, we will investigate the structure of Earth and how volcanoes are formed, how eruptions occur and the environmental impact of such events. As a class, we will simulate a volcanic eruption to observe the physical impact of lava flow upon lowlands surrounding them.

In relation to Kensuke's Kingdom, we will follow Michael's journey across the world's oceans, plotting his progress on our class map looking at the Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn, the Equator, then settling finally on the island he finds himself marooned on with his dog Stella.

Art and Design Technology

Kensuke's Kingdom forms the backdrop for our artistic and design curriculum. In art, we will replicate the fine Japanese artistic style echoed by Kensuke in Michael Morpurgo's story - Kensuke paints the infamous cherry blossom of Japan on the rocks he find on the island. We will study Japanese style with muted, understated tones and intricate sensitivity which is so identifiable in Japanese art.

In DT, we will design our own shelter to help us survive should we ever find ourselves in Michael's situation - marooned on a remote island. We will look at the main options for shelter structure and re-create models to evaluate which would be the most resilient to weather, insects and heat.

PSHE, SMSC and RE

Following on from our work on building relationships, we will look at the importance of reflection and learning from our experiences. We take this further in RE as we look at the importance of sacred places to different religions and how such places can form a focal point for reflection and affirmation of faith and beliefs.

And finally.....I look forward to a wonderful term with you all. We have much to learn and must ensure that we make the most of every learning opportunity.

With my best wishes,

Miss Bailey