

# What's on this term... Iota Class

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Welcome back to Autumn Term 2024! All of the students in our new class - called Y9l - have settled in really well to their new class and routines and we are well set for a busy and exciting term full of learning opportunities. Here is an overview of what we will be learning in class this term. If you have any questions about any of the proposed learning, please feel free to contact me and I will be very happy to explain in greater detail. There will be so much more happening each week as we move through the year so, please do regularly check Seesaw for updates pictures and notices about what we are planning each week. Also, just as a reminder, we are not using Class Dojo any more so can all messages please be sent through Seesaw as well. Many thanks in advance! Jan Bosence

**English:** We are starting with an excellent book 'Oliver and the Seawigs', by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre - a very funny story about a boy whose parents get lost and need rescuing from living islands that roam the seas. The wackiness of the story is immediately appealing and will allow the class to develop their own creative writing, descriptions and story structure. After half term, we will study another funny book 'How Santa Really Works' by Alan Snow. He also wrote 'How Dogs Really Work' and explains how the tasks Santa must complete during Christmas Eve are achieved in hilarious and inventive ways. This will be a fun way for the children to explore explanatory texts and use their imagination as they create their own.

**Reading:** Our reading will be split into different sections to maximise coverage. The children will all have their own books from our Library, linked to their own reading age - these will be used at the start and end of the day and I will ensure that children are heard reading regularly by an adult. We will also have whole-class reading sessions where we will read at the same text as a group and study it carefully to analyse, and learn from, the story. We will explore vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval & summarising to deepen children's knowledge of the text.



**Project Based Learning** PBL has a Geography focus this term, answering the question: *What landforms are nearby and how have they changed over time?* We will explore local landforms on field trips and use research methods to develop knowledge of how the land has changed over time, what forces are responsible for the changes and how they may continue into the future. We will also look at how we can create Art & study Science within the project.

**Science:** Linked to our PBL, we will be studying the formation and composition of different types of rock. We will begin by finding and analysing the most common type of rock in this area, granite. We will compare and contrast with other types of rock and explore their uses. We'll learn about where different rocks are found in the UK and the world, the differences between igneous, sedimentary & metamorphic rocks and how fossils are made.

**Maths:** we'll start by learning about Straight Line Graphs, Forming and Solving Equations, Testing Conjectures, 3D Shapes & Constructions and Congruency. There is lots of challenge for the children as we tackle some of these big topics, but it will be delivered in small steps and with appropriate support to ensure all students make good progress.

**Forest School:** In weekly Friday sessions, children will continue to develop their own abilities to cook, play & explore safely around the site. Each week there will be food included, as well as chances to develop their teamwork, risk assessment and safety skills. There will be some sessions when Forest School will be offsite, such as a Scavenger Hunt or exploring other outdoor locations. We'll ensure parents are aware of when this will happen and if extra clothing may be required. Do please ensure that children are sent in with coats and suitable footwear on Fridays as Forest School will happen in (almost) all weathers!

## Food Tech & Nutrition:

We'll begin with basic skills, exploring different ways of making bread and different types of bread, such as dinner rolls, sourdough bread, garlic bread & different flatbreads. We'll experiment with fillings & dips to accompany the fresh baked goodies!

**Computing:** we're starting the AQA Awards scheme, a fantastic way to develop new skills and gather evidence to gain awards for different skills on the computer. Our first sessions will work towards an award for key Microsoft Word skills. As we move through the year we will cover touch typing, using Excel, PowerPoint, Internet Safety & even possibly a unit on Minecraft!

**PSHE:** we'll start with Personal Strengths, Skills for Learning, Prejudice & Discrimination and Managing Pressure. After half-term we'll look at: Feeling Unwell, Feeling Anxious, Accidents and Risk, Keeping Safe Online, Emergency Situations, Public & Private and Gambling. This sounds like a lot but we highly value PSHE learning, and lessons will be happening most days of the week.

**PE - Cycling:** we will learn the basics of road safety, ensuring the roadworthiness of our bikes and basic puncture repair skills, building towards a class bike ride & picnic when we are all ready. The children are at different levels with their confidence so will need different levels of support as we work towards a whole class expedition.