

Locomotion and Mighty Metals

For the second Autumn half term, Y3/4 will be doing two related themes: *Locomotion*, based on George Stephenson and the development of the railways, and *Mighty Metals*, based on the book *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes and a Science focus on Forces.

The English focus for **Locomotion** will centre on the poem *Night Mail* by WH Auden. We will compare how people communicated in the 1930s to now and explain which we prefer (and why). We will choose and then perform an excerpt from either *Night Mail*, *Junk Mail* or *Through a Railway Carriage* to practise rhythm and pattern, before writing our own performance poetry using what we have learnt.

We will have a short look at the local history associated with **George Stephenson**, the **Stockton to Darlington Railway** and how the arrival of the railways changed lives and impacted on Geography.

We will have two **Art and Design** projects this half term. We will analyse art work by **Ann Todd** based on **Through A Railway Carriage** (by Robert Louis Stevenson) and use this as a start point to imagine, sketch and paint what we might see through our own window. This will also link well with our English, as we will be basing our poetry writing on the same idea. After that, we will use our design talents to create a **friend for The Iron Man**, which we will then develop into a 3D sculpture. By using Modroc or clay, we will need to think carefully about how we will support the figure with an armature and how we will make sure that it balances and stands. Some of us will be given the extra challenge of how we will make our model 'poseable' without compromising its overall performance as a sculpture!

Our **Mighty Metals** Science focus is on the two forces of **Friction** and **Magnets**. We will learn what friction is and how we can overcome it. We will get hands-on with magnets to discover their properties and the appropriate vocabulary to describe them. For both, we will develop and run **short investigations** to test and extend our understanding of what they can do and the factors that will affect this.

In French we will cover two areas: **Les Couleurs**, which will link to our painting in Art, and **Vive le Sport**, which will link to our Football lessons with Mr. Windwood.

In our Computing lessons, we will be learning how to track down and repair glitches in simple computer programs so that we can call ourselves **Bug Fixers**.

In **Mighty Metals**, we will base our writing on *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. We will develop character descriptions and write our own Science-Fiction adventure story using powerful vocabulary choices and experimenting with different sentence structures. Then we will flex our persuasive muscles, writing a job advert for our ferrous friend using exaggeration and superlative to impress.

With Mr Form, we will look at how modern pop songs are structured through the song '**Locomotion**' and, in our dance lessons, we will experiment with shape, form and pace to match to create a dance for the same track.

Our RE lessons will cover the important and **special stories** of both the **Christian and Muslim faiths**. Obviously, an important story in the Christian calendar is that of Christmas and we will focus on this in the lead up to celebrating Christmas in school.

Our **Metacognition** lessons will focus on analysing our successes and failures alike and how to express our **learning responses**.

This half term, our learning of the **times tables** will play an important role as we will be looking at the core operations of **multiplication** and **division**, learning to use both written and mental methods. Our understanding of division is also key to another focus for this half term: **Fractions**. We will end the half term by re-visiting and extending Y2 and Y3 learning on Geometry and Statistics.

STARTING THIS HALF TERM:

Times Tables Rock Stars **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**.
Will your class be Rock Legends or One-Hit-Wonders?

DIARY DATE:

Y3/4 visit to **The National Railway Museum**
York
Tuesday, **5th December**