



Autumn 2 Term – Year 3 Curriculum Overview

This term in Year 3, we are learning about:

English

This half-term, pupils will explore *Taking Flight*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *A Christmas Carol*, developing their narrative and descriptive writing skills. They will adapt stories, describe characters and settings using rich vocabulary and figurative language, and learn to build suspense to engage the reader. Throughout the term, pupils will continue to improve their punctuation, sentence structure and vocabulary choices, building confidence and creativity in their independent writing.

Mathematics

This half term, pupils will strengthen skills in addition and subtraction, applying number bonds and working with 1s, 10s and 100s. They will add and subtract across 10 and 100, use inverse operations, estimate answers, and solve problems using 2- and 3-digit numbers. Children will then move on to multiplication and division, using arrays, sharing and grouping, and learning the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times-tables alongside related division facts.

Science

The unit of learning for this half-term is 'Cycles in Nature' and begins with children learning about the natural changes the environment goes through as the seasons change. They will learn that this happens because the Earth is tilted as it makes its journey around the sun, begin to understand that we have seasons because of the Earth's movement, and they will learn about how plants can change through the seasons. They will develop further understanding of plant life cycles by looking at how they reproduce, and explore the effect seasons can have on animal migration. During this unit, they will learn about the life cycle of a frog.

History

This half-term, children will explore Ancient Egypt, learning about its social hierarchy and the roles of pharaohs, viziers, craftspeople and slaves. They will investigate daily life, including food, clothing, homes, jobs and religious beliefs, comparing the lives of rich and poor people and men and women. They will also develop their understanding of chronology and the ancient world.

Art

During the unit of 'Still Life and Form' children will learn about the history of still life as an art form and explore the work of artists, Andy Warhol, Paul Cézanne, Giorgio Morandi and Mary Moser. They will learn about how artists use tone to create form and work on recreating still lifes of their own using these techniques.

Design and Technology

This half-term, children will research, design, make and evaluate a cushion inspired by a famous work of art. They will explore fabrics, decorations and sewing techniques, learning how to join textiles and use fastenings such as buttons, zips and Velcro. Finally, they will create their own cushion and cover, evaluating it against their design specification.

Religious Education

The unit of learning for this half-term is 'Jesus as an inspiration in Christianity' and it builds on their knowledge of Jesus' timeline and significant figures and events that took place. They will focus in this unit on exploring how and why Jesus is viewed as an inspirational figure in Christianity. They will learn about

the significant symbols of the dove, fish and bread for Christians and know that there are many different types of crosses. They will learn about the terms, 'salvation', 'humility' and 'symbolism'.

PSHE

Within PSHE lessons, children will learn to identify some key risks from and effects of cigarettes and alcohol, define the word 'drug' and understand that nicotine and alcohol are both drugs and understand what the term 'social norms' means. They will recognise and discuss their own talents and skills as well as those of their peers. They will explore why rules are important and why age is important, looking specifically at internet-based activities and platforms. They will learn about possible consequences of not following rules and further develop their understanding of secrets and surprises, identifying people that are trustworthy and reliable to them should they feel unsafe or uncomfortable. During **Anti-Bullying Week 2026** (16–20 November), themed *Break the Silence*, children will learn how to speak up, support others, and promote kindness in their community.

Computing

Our unit for this half-term focuses on *Creating Media* using Stop Frame Animations. By the end of the unit, children will have used a range of techniques to create stop-frame animations using tablets. They will also apply these skills to create story-based animations, adding media such as music and text to their final products.

Physical Education

Our unit for this half-term focuses on *Tag Rugby* and *Gymnastics*. In Tag Rugby, children will learn how to evade and tag opponents, follow the rules of the game, and pass while moving. In Gymnastics, children will explore different methods of travelling, learn to jump safely, and practise solo and partner balances to create their own routines.

Spanish

Our unit for this half-term focuses on *Dates and Numbers*. Children will develop their phonics and learn to discuss their age, dates, and days of the week. They will also learn to ask others how old they are, practise numbers 21–31, and learn that days and months in Spanish do not start with a capital letter.

Music

The unit of learning is 'Pachelbel's Canon' where children will listen to Pachelbel's Canon, identifying the ostinato within which is played by the cello. They will learn about what 'canon' means in music and use xylophones and glockenspiels to create their own, before they explore the pitch difference between cellos and violins, both of which are stringed instruments. They will then use hand signals, words and symbols to represent pitch and learn about the letter names that are used to represent the scale of pitch.

Things you can do in your Local Area to support this?

- Visit **Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology** based in Bloomsbury to help imagine how people lived, worked and dressed during ancient Egyptian times.
- Take a trip to **Woodberry Wetlands** where you can spot birds, observe seasonal changes and explore changing habitats while making observations about how plants change during seasons.
- Take a visit to **Horniman Museum and Garden** to observe how different instruments make sounds.
- Explore the **Young V & A Museum** to find out more about how objects are designed and how materials are used to help bring toys and characters to life.



KEY VOCABULARY

still life

a picture of something that **does not move**

form

form means the **3d shapes in art**: in a drawing or painting an artist can create the illusion that an object is 3d rather than flat

tone

how **dark or light something is**: tones are created by the way light falls on a 3d object

shade/shadow

the parts of an object that are **darker**

highlight

the parts of an object where the **light is strongest or lightest**

mid-tone

tones **between the highlights** and shadows

cast shadow

where an **object makes a shadow** on something else e.g. a table underneath it

cross hatching

a technique of creating tone by drawing **lines which cross over each other**

tints/shades

a tint is the mixture of a colour with white (**increases lightness**), and a shade is the mixture of a colour with black (**reduces lightness**)

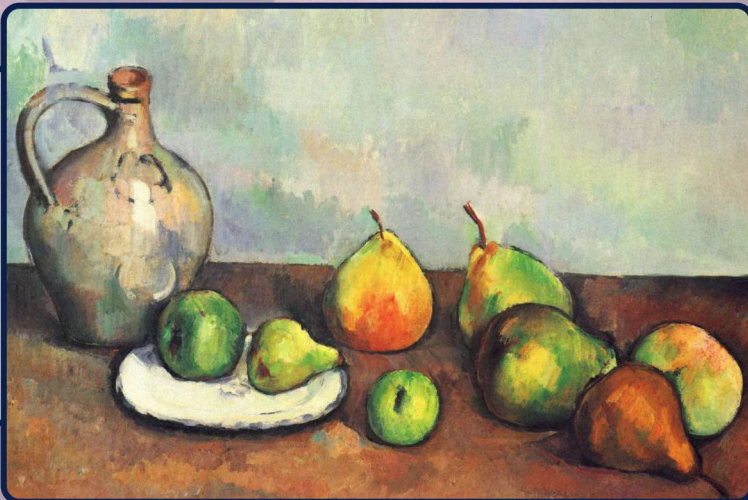
From Herculaneum



Still Life with Peaches and a Glass
(50 CE)

Still Life, Pitcher
and Fruit (1894)

Paul Cézanne



Still Life with Five
Objects, (1956)

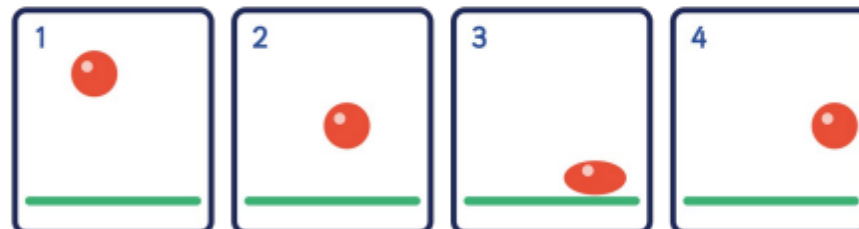
Giorgio Morandi



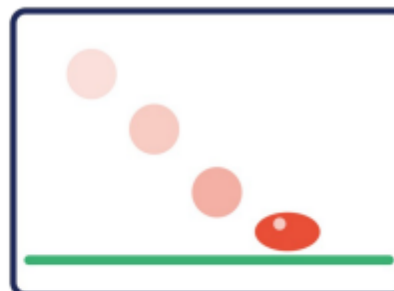
key vocabulary

animation	moving pictures made from lots of still pictures
frame	one picture in an animation
flip book	a book of drawings that move when you flip the pages quickly
stop-frame animation	take a photo , make a small change , take another photo
onion skinning	seeing a faint copy of the last frame to help you line things up
movement	a small change in position from one frame to the next
consistency	keeping things the same in every frame, e.g. the camera and light
character	a person , animal or object that moves in the animation
setting	where the animation takes place
media	extra things you add, e.g. music , sound and titles
playback	watching the animation you have made

a flip book: one picture per frame



onion skinning



faint frames show where the ball was before

how to make it

- 1 take a **photo**
- 2 move it a **little**
- 3 take **another** photo
- 4 **repeat**, then **play** it back!

top tips

keep the camera **still**make **small** moveskeep the **setting** the sameadd **music** and **titles**



key vocabulary

cushion	a pad to sit or lean on for comfort or decoration
fabric	a thin, soft material made from woven or knitted threads
seam	a line made by sewing two pieces of fabric together
overstitch	stitching over the edge of fabric to join it and stop fraying
cross-stitch	two stitches sewn to make a cross (x)
embroidery	using needlework to sew designs on cloth
applique	decorating fabric by adding cut-out pieces of material
fastening	something that joins fabric for a while, e.g. a button
stuffing	material used to fill a cushion or soft toy
thimble	a small cup that protects your finger when sewing
annotate	adding notes to a sketch to give more detail
client	the person who will buy or use the product



Arty Cushions

Materials and textiles



stitches



running



cross



overstitch

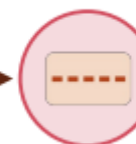


button

making a cushion



cut two pieces using a **pattern**



sew **three sides**



turn it **inside out**



fill with **stuffing**



overstitch the last side

calico



tough fabric; great for **fabric paint** and **printing**

felt



soft and **colourful**; good for **applique**

inspiration



our designs are based on a **famous work of art**



key vocabulary

Tag Rugby and Gymnastics

Specialist PE: Tag Rugby and Gymnastics | In Class PE: Fundamentals



tag	a ribbon on a belt that is pulled off instead of tackling
try	scored by placing the ball down over the try line
pass backwards	in rugby, the ball must be passed sideways or backwards
evade	dodge past a defender without being tagged
marking	staying close to an opponent
outwit	trick an opponent to get past them
travelling	moving in different ways, e.g. hopping or rolling
points of contact	the body parts touching the floor
solo balance	a balance done on your own
partner balance	a balance done with someone else
sequence	moves linked together in order
landing	coming down softly with bent knees

tag rugby rules


pass **sideways** or **backwards**

run **forwards** with the ball

pull a tag and shout **"tag!"**

score a **try** over the line

gymnastics shapes



star



pencil



jump



balance

in class PE: fundamentals


run, **dodge** and **stop**

balance on one foot

jump, **hop** and **land** softly

move with **speed** and **agility**



KEY VOCABULARY

settlement

a place **where people live**

urban

an area **where a large number of people live** near to each other: urban areas have lots of buildings and roads

rural

an **area located outside of towns and cities**, sometimes called the countryside: people often live far apart in rural areas

suburban

an area **on the edges of towns and cities** where people live: suburban areas often have green space and homes often have gardens

population

the **number of people** living in an area

dense population

many people living in an area, homes are close to one another

sparse population

few people living in an area, homes are spread out

conurbation

an urban area that has developed when the **suburban areas of several towns or cities merged**

urban area



rural area



hamlet



a small settlement with a very small number of homes and no services

village



a group of houses in the countryside, sometimes with a church and small shop

town

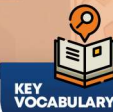
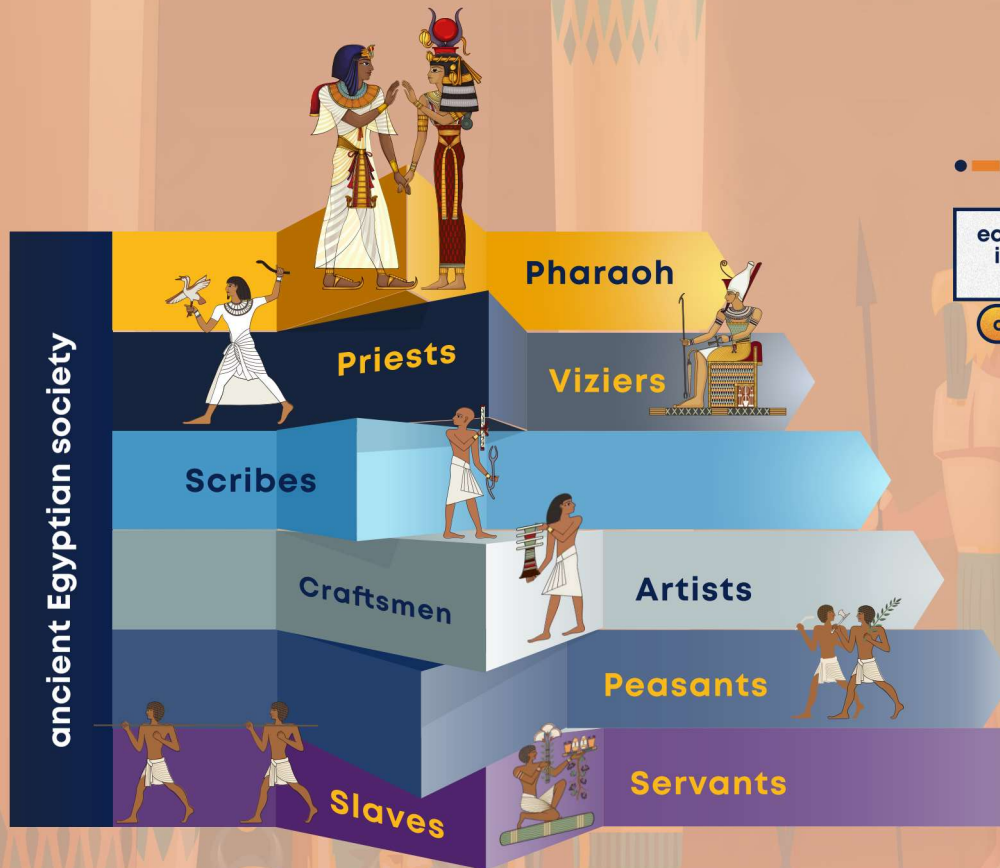


a place where there are lots of houses and shops: a town may have a local council that makes decisions for the people who live there

city



a city is a large urban area where lots of people live close to each other: there are often lots of shops and services in a city



River Nile

a river, which flows through the continent of Africa: it is the **longest river in the world**

Black Land

the **land either side of the River Nile**, which is black in colour: it is full of rich nutrients to help plants grow

irrigation

the **supply of water**, which helps land or crops grow

archaeologist

scientists who **study the history of humans** by looking at what has been left behind, e.g. objects buried underground or graves

Pharaohs

Pharaohs were the **kings or queens of Egypt**: a Pharaoh was the most important and powerful person in the kingdom

artefacts

an object made and **used a long time ago**

hieroglyphics

an ancient Egyptian **writing system**

mummification

the process used by ancient Egyptians to **preserve a person's body for the afterlife**

pyramid

a **huge stone tomb** build by ancient Egyptians

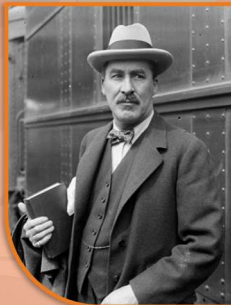
Tutankhamun

ancient
Egyptian
Pharaoh



Howard Carter

archaeologist
who discovered
Tutankhamun's
tomb in 1922





KEY VOCABULARY

saviour

a person who saves someone from harm or difficulty – for Christians, Jesus is a saviour who saved them from the things they had done wrong

inspire

to fill someone with a feeling or idea – Christians are inspired by Jesus to do good things

humble

being humble is the opposite of showing off – when you are humble you help others before yourself and you do not boast

symbol

a picture used to represent something

messiah

a person who is considered to be the saviour – Christians think of Jesus as the Messiah, sent by God to save them

The Bible tells stories about Jesus that show he was humble – these stories act as lessons for Christians

Jesus washed his disciples feet



Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples



Symbols linked to Jesus in Christianity

cross



the cross reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice – some Christians will choose to wear the symbol of the cross.

dove



often used as a symbol of peace and purity, the dove can also represent the Holy Spirit

bread

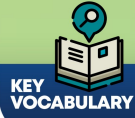


this is also a symbol of generosity and sharing for many Christians – Jesus shared bread with his disciples

fish



early Christians used a fish symbol to identify themselves – the Bible tells Christians that Jesus performed a miracle to share fish with 5,000 people



KEY
VOCABULARY

cycle

a series of events that **repeats in the same order**

seasonal cycle

the **repeating of the seasons**; spring, summer, autumn, and winter

deciduous

a type of tree that **loses its leaves during autumn** and grows new leaves in spring

evergreen

a type of tree that **keeps its leaves all year long**

dormant

alive but **not actively growing**, appears to be resting or in a deep sleep

nutrients

a substance that provides food, **essential for life and growth**

decay

to rot or **break down after death**

metamorphosis

a huge or **complete change** in a living thing

frogspawn

a soft, jelly like substance that **contains the eggs of frogs**

tadpole

the **offspring of a frog**: tadpoles have a round head and a tail

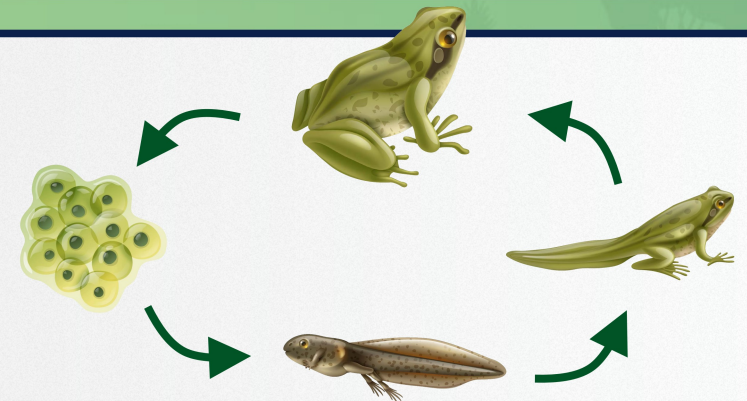
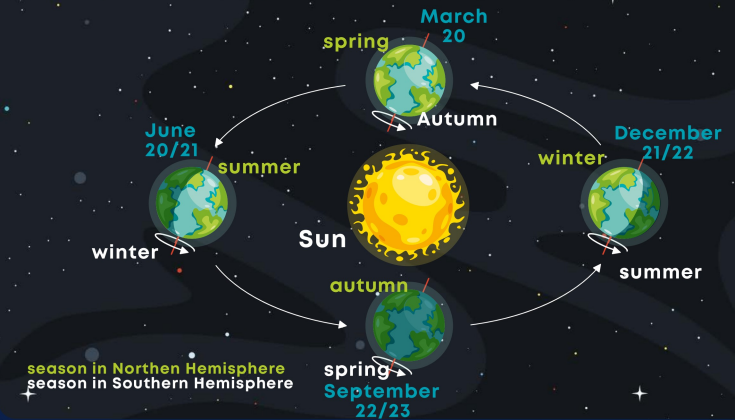
pollen

a **fine powder produced by flowering plants** essential for reproduction

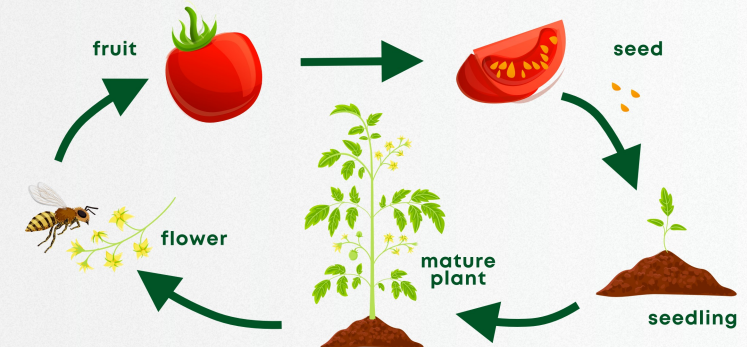
seed

a **tiny developing plant**, covered in a protective coating

our planet's journey around the Sun creates our seasons on Earth



life cycle of a frog



life cycle of a tomato plant



KEY VOCABULARY

ostinato

a **short phrase** which is **repeated throughout** a piece of music

bassline

the **lowest part** of the music

canon

where a **melody** is played and then **imitated** shortly afterwards by **another part**

part

a **musical line** which can be played by **one or more players**

texture

where music has **parts layered on top of each other**

round

a **simple canon**

stave



a **frame** which we can put dots on to show pitch

scale

when pitch is **ordered to go up and down in steps**

note

a **dot** on a **stave** which shows a musician what **pitch** to play

Image: NuclearVacuum (CC BY-SA 3.0)



Pachelbel was from Germany (shown in red).



A violin – a high stringed instrument, played with a bow that is played resting on the player's shoulder

Image: Georg Feltcher (CC BY 3.0)



A cello – a low stringed instrument, played with a bow, upright between the knees