

Topic - The Victorians

<p>Essentials for Learning (E4L) Our whole school focus for this half term is Relationships. Our classroom and school community will be provide the children with the opportunity to explore and extend their relationships with each other to support their learning. Being able to take advice and comments from peers is a key skill that can often take practice, along with being able to recognise when a classmate needs some support or help on a topic. It is also important to learn about working with others and stretching relationships beyond the comfort of friendship groups. This term will enable the children to practice all these skills.</p>	
<p>English: Writing this half term will have a Victorian theme as we explore the contrasts in Victorian life. The children will be looking at ways to engage the reader through creative and descriptive vocabulary. Guided reading will continue with reading responses being completed at home. Please work with the children on this and sign their books.</p>	<p>Mathematics: We will be extending our work on the use of columns to aid solving calculations. Fractions will be covered from recognising fractions when objects and shapes are equally divided, to working out the fractions of quantities in maths problems. Mental maths remains a hot topic and the children will be encouraged to extend their mental skills.</p>
<p>History, Geography and Citizenship: History will provide our main focus for this half term, with our study of the Victorian era. There is lots to cover, so feel free to add to the school input with Victorian trips around the Island.</p>	<p>Science: Science will focus on growing and moving as we explore the skeletons and muscles of animals - including humans. We will be looking at how joints move and how to develop healthy bones and muscles.</p>
<p>PE: MSR coaching will focus on cricket this half term, with some outdoor sessions, so please ensure children have suitable footwear. Swimming has now stopped for the year and an additional PE lesson will take place on Friday afternoons - exploring movement, muscles and joints -circuit training.</p>	<p>ICT: We will be using ICT to help us research our topic and present our findings, using images in our work and learning how to resize and crop pictures to make them effective for our use.</p>
<p>RE/PSHE: We will be looking at the SEAL unit 'All about me' taught by Mrs Ashley.</p>	<p>Design Technology & Art and Design: Art will focus on the Victorian artist and designer William Morris. We will attempt to recreate some of his designs in class.</p>
<p>P4C: We will be using P4C to develop our thinking and communication skills. Being able to listen and question appropriately can significantly help across the curriculum.</p>	<p>Music, Dance & Drama: The Victorians were famous for their 'melodrama' so we will be attempting our own silent play.</p>
<p>Visits & Visitors: 11th May - Grove Museum (a.m.) Workshop on Victorian Housing</p>	<p>Significant Dates and Events: Small Schools X-country - Friday, 26th May Sports Day - Wednesday, 31st May Break up for TT - Thursday, 1st June Children back to school - Monday, 12th June</p>

How can I help my child at home this half term?

English	Please try to make sure that your child has completed their home reading for Guided Reading lessons. They are asked to read a relatively small amount at home each week. They should also be actively encouraged to read for enjoyment. Encourage your child to practice using joined up writing.
Maths	Maths games in the car are an excellent way to practice mental maths skills, as well as break up journeys! Play shopping games with simple amounts - I bought an apple for 47p and paid with a pound/50p, how much change would I get? Throw random tables questions around - start easy and work up. It's amazing how your own tables knowledge will improve, too! Time question - It's 2.00pm now, if it takes 35 minutes to drive to Douglas, what time should we get there? And so on. The children also have Sumdog accounts, which can be accessed at home.
General	<p>The Isle of Man has a rich Victorian heritage. If you are able to go on visits to one or two of the key Victorian attractions, please take photos and email them to the school. I will be happy for children to recount their exploration to the class. A mini project on these lines will be set as a learning log task.</p> <p>Information on Victorian attractions can be found online.</p>

What is Essentials for Learning?

The Manx Curriculum and the curriculum at Andreas School is now based around the 6R's (Readiness, Relationships, Resourcefulness, Resilience, Remembering Skills and Reflectiveness). We feel it is incredibly important to equip our children with 'skills for life' rather than just factual knowledge. The knowledge, skills and attitudes that pupils will need, in the twenty-first century, are not the same as they were in the past and so school experiences need to evolve to reflect this.

Central to the design of the curriculum are the 6R's. These are dispositions which pupils need to develop in order to learn better. As a school we are developing the 6Rs so that we have:

- an explicit commitment, at all levels of the organisation, to the development of personal capabilities, alongside academic achievement
- a clear articulation of what learning means for all stakeholders
- an agreed definition of intelligence not as a fixed entity, but as capable of expansion
- provision which routinely supports the development of the 6Rs
- regular opportunities for pupils to exercise control over their own learning
- a common "vocabulary" used to discuss learning, prevalent throughout the setting
- opportunities for reflection and the evaluation of personal qualities, built into routines.

If you have any questions about this, please contact school and staff will be happy to talk to you about our provision.