



During this half term our enquiry is:

Who is George Stephenson and why is he so special to Darlington?

This half term focuses on the history of railways and the impact the past has had on our lives today. We choose to learn all about the life of George Stephenson due to him being such an important local figure and his national and international achievements. The children will be hooked into our topic through exploring different modes of transport and creating their own paper airplanes to race outdoors. Throughout the enquiry, children will compare their lives to those in the Victorian times, learning all about school then. They will delve into the life of George Stephenson and get a feel for what life would have been like for him growing up. As we learn more about his life, we will continue to put this onto a timeline along with events and well-known figures learnt previously and milestones in our own lives. Whilst exploring the past, we will look into what transport was like in the past and the impact locally and nationally of the Darlington to Stockton Railway and Locomotion 1. In computing, children will use PowerPoint Presentations to apply their learning and present to others. To end the topic, the children will learn how to safely use a glue gun in DT, understand how wheels and axles work and use this knowledge to create their own vehicle to race.

Homework: Homework will be sent home on a Friday, to be returned on a Wednesday.

Reading books: Reading books will be changed on a Monday.

PE days are Monday's (outdoor) and Tuesday (indoor).

Subject	Activities / areas to be covered in school	Possible learning at home
English	<p>This half term the children will be engaged in a number of texts. To begin the half term we will be focusing on the book Little Red. This is an alternative version of the traditional tale Little Red Riding Hood which will encourage the children to compare and make comments about the text. We will focus our non-fiction writing on influential men and women of the past; including Amelia Earhart and George Stephenson.</p> <p>We will be looking at how to extend our sentences, using the conjunctions 'and', 'so', 'because' and 'but'. The children will use these conjunctions to share facts on the significant historical figures.</p> <p>The children will practise keeping their writing consistently in the past tense and look at how we change verbs into the past tense by adding -ed to the base word or making other changes. They will apply these skills,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practise letter formation. - Learn the Year 1 and 2 common exception words and apply these in sentences. - Enjoy reading a range of different texts for pleasure. - Read the school reading book each day and answer questions about what has been read. - Explore using a thesaurus to choose different vocabulary.



	along with the use of adjectives and exciting vocabulary to write a description based on the picture stimulus of a steam train.	
Maths	In maths this half term we are moving on to multiplication and division. We will begin by ensuring children are secure with the Year 1 learning, making and adding equal groups and using arrays. They will start by representing equal groups using practical objects, pictures and repeated addition calculations such as $2 + 2 + 2 = 6$. Once they have a secure understanding, they will then learn to use the multiplication symbol and make links between multiplication and division, grouping and sharing. We will then move on to the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, which we will continue to practise throughout the year to ensure fluency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Practise counting in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s.- Start to learn the 2, 5 and 10 times tables fluently.- Use objects at home to make equal groups.- Practise fluency using Numbots
Science	This half term the children will develop their knowledge of the properties of materials. We will begin by exploring a range of everyday objects, identifying the material it is made from and then describing the physical properties of each. We will then move on to identifying and comparing the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Encourage your child to think about different materials around them. This can include what their clothes are made out of and what other materials are used to make objects strong and reliable.
History	In history this half term, the children will learn the key vocabulary 'past' and 'present' and be able to describe different events using this language. To develop their understanding of chronology, the children will create timelines of their own life and the life of George Stephenson and make comparisons between the two. As part of our enquiry linked to the life of George Stephenson, the children will explore what transport was like in the 19 th century before the opening of the Darlington to Stockton Railway and understand how and why George Stephenson was such a significant figure and how his Locomotion 1 had an impact nationally and internationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Look at photos of yourself as a child from the past.- Create a timeline of significant events that have happened in your life so far.- Research a type of transport from the past and learn about how it has been improved over time.- Play some Victorian games such as jumping rope and hoop and stick.

Year 2

Spring 1 Overview



Computing	The children will be introduced to early programming concepts. Children will explore using individual commands, both with other children and as part of a computer program. They will identify what each floor robot command does and use that knowledge to start predicting the outcome of programs. The children will also be introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Linked to previous learning, use your iPad/tablet/phone to capture photographs. How do they look portrait/landscape?- Can you take some seasonal photographs to show how seasons affect your environment? You can even share them via dojo.
Design Technology	In DT we will be focusing on mechanisms and become engineers like George Stephenson. In class we will disassemble toy cars and explore how wheels and axles work. They will be learning how to safely use a glue gun to join materials and will apply these skills when designing and making their own vehicle to race. They will evaluate and test as they go, solving any problems they come across with their teams. Once they have raced their vehicles they will do a final evaluation, reflecting on what worked well and what could be improved in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explore toy vehicles at home and how they work.- Use recycled materials to make a vehicle of your choice.
Physical Education	During PE this half term the children will be taking part in gymnastics for indoor PE and Hockey for outdoor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Yoga- Have a go at creating your own gymnastics sequence.
PSHCE	In PSHE this half term the children are going to spend time learning about different jobs in the local community and the value of money. The children will learn about how money can be spent on wants and needs. The children will be encouraged to explore and answer the question 'Where does money come from?' We are also going to spend time thinking about what strengths and interests lead into certain jobs. This will promote discussions about future aspirations and what jobs the children may want to consider in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speak to your children about what your job role is or explore jobs within our local area.- Maybe when you go to the shop your child can use the coins to pay for some of your groceries!- What would you like to be in the future?
Music		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Listen to a variety of genres of music. Listen for the beat and rhythm.

Year 2

Spring 1 Overview



The children will also create a simple soundscape using dynamic changes. The children will use their voice to create sound and offer ideas and suggestions for making sounds.

- Clap along to your favourite song.