

# 1001 Arabian Nights



## As LANGUAGE specialists...

Under the threat of losing her head, every night Scheherazade told her husband a new story, cunningly stopping on a cliffhanger so that the Sultan demanded the next instalment. As well as living to tell 1001 tales, her captivating stories of genies, flying carpets and Arabian nights continue to be translated and retold the world over. We will be honing our writing skills and retelling a selection of the 1001 Arabian Nights, understanding the importance of plot and well-chosen descriptive language. Year group specific grammar and punctuation techniques will support the development of writing and enable children to build on their understanding of terminology. Our production of Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits will introduce children to the performance and narration as well as providing a written script to study and explore. Extracts from the tales will underpin comprehension tasks, guided reading sessions and drama.

## As MATHEMATICIANS...

Baghdad was the centre of mathematics. The greatest thinkers from around the world were 'headhunted' to bring their brilliant minds to the House of Wisdom, where, collectively, they devised a system of Arabic numbers, saw the need for 'zero' and introduced the world to puzzling through algebra (or 'al jabr' – the phrase coined in Baghdad for explaining 'mathematical balance and completion'). Building on their experience of the number system thus far this term, every year group will consolidate their computation skills (appreciating the importance of zero!) and solve mathematical problems and missing number puzzles using 'al jabr' as a strategy. Captain Connection might also make a return visit... bringing challenge from his time travelling trip along the Silk Road. Tessellation and geometry are also explored in the detail of Islamic design.

## Across the curriculum

### As musicians

We will be working towards our end of term production, rehearsing percussion and song and performing with confidence. Different styles of music will be included and purposefully explored over the half term as we learn traditional carols and listen to classical seasonal pieces and learn about their composers.

### As expressive artists

The topic lends itself well to illustration and design. Using the inspiration of Jan Pienkowski and silhouette design, we will bring the tales we discover to life with pen and ink, paint and collage. Sketchbook ideas will build to finished pieces ready to showcase in classroom galleries. There will also be an opportunity to explore the intricacies of Islamic pattern and the stunning architecture of the ancient city of Baghdad.

### As theologians and thinkers

Each year group will continue to study an area of the RE syllabus. From 'words of wisdom and sacred texts', to understanding different journeys made in different religious faiths, Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Humanism will be explored and debated.

### As French speakers

Classes in our Key Stage 2 department will continue to engage with their Language Angels course to broaden their French vocabulary and develop an ability to understand and write new words and phrases.

### As fitness and wellbeing experts

We will continue to build on fitness skills and healthy lifestyles through active lessons and physical play. Dance comes to the fore during this half term as children devise and rehearse routines for the end of term production.

## As HISTORIANS and GEOGRAPHERS

The Primary National Curriculum for history invites us to study a *non-European society that provides contrasts with British history* and goes on to suggest *an early Islamic civilization, including a study of Baghdad c. AD 900*. The ancient Silk Road connected China to the Roman Empire and developed an impressive trade route and saw ideas, language, religion, medicine and culture being exchanged alongside the spices, materials, metals, jewels and books that merchants travelled to sell. The building of Baghdad, right at the heart of this Golden Age, saw elite scholars flock to be a part of the new knowledge and learning that thrived in this, the most advanced city in the world. We will be journeying in caravans along the Silk Road; designing the circular city; studying in the House of Wisdom and understanding how this fascinating civilisation changed the world.

Thanks to the ancient scholars and the rise of books, we have plenty of historical evidence to compare different geographical features with today's Iraqi capital and middle eastern culture.

## PSHE and Our School Ethos

During this half term, we will be marking Anti-Bullying week where the theme is *Make a Noise about Bullying*. Every class will be contributing to the school council's child friendly 'Anti-Bullying Policy' as well as wearing their odd socks to mark our Anti Bullying focus day. As is tradition, Willow Brook will be marking Remembrance Day and responding with respect and thought to the events that shaped more recent history. The school will be fundraising for Children in Need in November. This year the theme is all about challenge and positive relationships. All of the above will be explored as part of our My World lessons, during which children engage in age-appropriate debates and are asked to make considered responses that reflect their thoughts, experiences and ideas.