

Leylands Class

Autumn 2

Half Term Curriculum Letter

The Nutcracker

### English

We will spend the first part of the half-term writing narratives, developing the plot, setting and characters using a picture book *Journey* and the fairy tale structure of *The Nutcracker*. We will extend our writing by creating our own narrative for the picture book and writing a script for *The Nutcracker*. We will conclude with writing a set of instructions for making Christmas decorations.

There will be a weekly spelling list included in the homework each week based on the NC requirements.

### Computing and PSHE

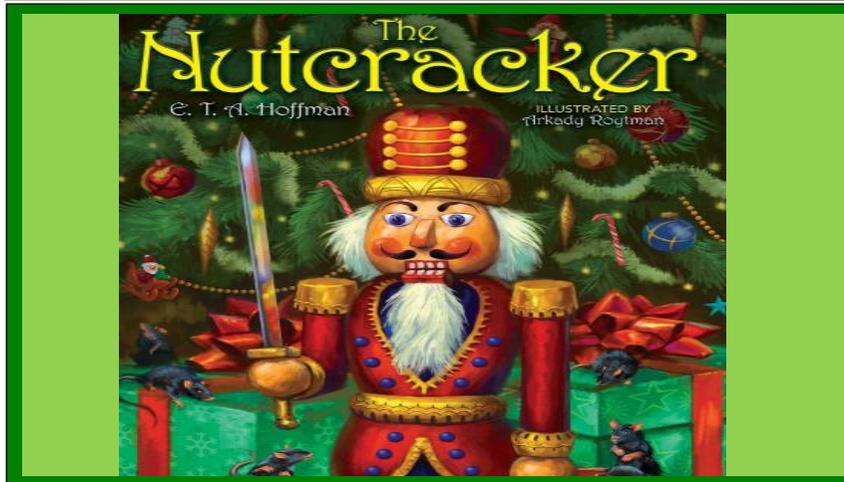
In computing we will continue working on E-safety topics, while learning to collect and organise data and produce a simple Power-Point presentation. In PSHE we will focus on; money management and budgeting, looking at anti-social behaviour, learning to recognise bullying and resolving disagreements.

### Maths

Times-tables mastery will be a focus throughout this year, with the onset of the Year 4 statutory test in the Summer Term. (Practising at home will be a must!)

This half-term, we will continue applying our mathematical understanding of number to representations for addition and subtraction. We will learn mental maths strategies and formal methods to calculate these operations.

We will end the half-term by linking our understanding to multiplication and division.



### Art/DT

We will be designing and building a shadow puppet screen and shadow puppets. Then, we will perform a shadow puppet version of *The Nutcracker*. We will also design and make posters for the performance.

### Music

We will be looking at instruments in the orchestra by listening and analysing *The Nutcracker Suite*. We will also focus on understanding pitch and melody.

### Topic

The topic will focus on *The Nutcracker*, introducing the children to classical music and ballet interpretations of the story. We will look at the story framework and analyse how it is represented in both music and dance. We will learn about Piotr Tchaikovsky and link key information of first performances to historic and geographic contexts.

The 'Hook will be an arts immersion day, followed by the 'Marvellous Middle' of designing and creating shadow puppets and a theatre. Our 'Fabulous Finale' will be a performance of *The Nutcracker* shadow puppet play, with music and script created by the children. This will also include lighting, sound and stage management roles.

### R.E.

We will be continuing to learn about Hinduism, focussing on places of worship and festivals that are celebrated. We will then learn about incarnation and discuss evidence that Jesus took on a human form. As Christmas approaches, we will prepare for the church service.

### Science

We will be investigating light and linking this to our topic, by applying our understanding to creating a shadow puppet theatre. We will be looking at light sources, shadows and how they are formed and the need to have protection from sunlight.