Titanic: 'Queen of the Ocean'

YEAR 2 TERM: Summer 1
YEAR GROUP: 2
2026

Rationale: A class set of books have arrived at school for the attention of Year 2! The title is 'Samson's Titanic Journey' by Lauren Graham. The books also arrived with a letter from the Sea City Museum with a challenge for the children. The challenge is to read the book about Samson the Mouse and identify if it is a historical fiction text that is based on an accurate retelling of the sinking of this famous ship. Does the story give enough information about the structure of the vessel? What was it like on board? What were the different roles that people had on the ship? Finally, what happened on its maiden voyage? Our visit to the Sea City Museum will be a starting point for our research. The children will need to present what they have discovered using their factual writing skills as well as providing drawings of the ship to add to their collection.

Lead Subject: History
In order to think like successful historians, the children will develop their skills of using historical sources to gain information about the Titanic and what it would have been like to work or be a passenger on board. They will use timelines to identify the year in which the journey took place and the more specific chronology of these famous events. Significant features of this historical period such as the differences between first, second, and third-class travel will also be explored. Comparisons between 'then' and 'in living memory' will also be made. Most importantly, we will consider the legacy of this event for our local history.

Lead Subject: English
The historical fiction story entitled 'Samson's Titanic Journey', by Lauren Graham will be used to develop the children's understanding of how these texts are written whilst exploring different comprehension strategies. This will be supported by our non-fiction writing focussing on sentence structure, spellings and handwriting whilst describing the Titanic and its famous events. Children will be using new vocabulary specific to the historical period of the Titanic and focussing on words and sentences to link ideas together.

Lead Subject: Art
As part of our investigation into this famous event, we will explore how the Titanic was represented at that time through advertisements and drawings. We will explore the techniques of using different lines, patterns and dots to show texture and pattern. We will also explore the work of Van Gough and how he used lines to express his ideas.

School Values: Resilience
We will be focussing on resilience as we problem solve and use our existing knowledge and skills to help us move our learning forward in all our activities.

Applied Subject: Geography
We will be applying our knowledge of continents and oceans to identify the planned route of the Titanic. We will also identify the local features of Southampton and the links of this real-life event to the local areas.

Maths:
This half term we will be developing our fluency skills of known number facts and learning new strategies of adding and subtracting two-digit numbers.

Applied Subject: Computing
The children will be continuing to use their word processing skills and attaching images to their work through Busy Things. They will develop their use of font, colour and organisation of their text choices.

PE:
Gymnastics: Curling, stretching and arching
Games: Invasion games

Home learning:
To either create a model of the Titanic, a poster advertising the Titanic or write about a day in the life of a passenger or crew member aboard the Titanic. Due in Monday 18th May.

R.E: Special Books from Jewish and other religions

Outcome: Children will share their findings with Miss James, our History Lead Teacher, focussing on how changes have been made since the Titanic events.

PDL: Being My Best