

Parent information

Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum! Get ready to take to the high seas and set sail in search of treasure!

This half term, we'll visit a boat yard, river or harbour to find out about boats and ships of all shapes and sizes. We'll write about our visit, read information books, investigate amazing sea rescues and write postcards and poetry influenced by the sea. Our science skills will help us to understand how boats float and we'll design and make model ships using a variety of materials. We'll study paintings of boats and draw detailed pictures of our own. Our map reading skills will help us to identify different seas and oceans, and we'll learn about famous sea explorers. Stories of pirates will inspire us to make pirate flags, treasure maps and fact files. We'll even find out how to talk and sing like a pirate!

At the end of the project, we'll share our learning with you. We'll hold a special assembly, set up a maritime museum in our classroom and perform stirring sea shanties. Shiver me timbers; it's going to be good!

Help your child prepare for their project

The sea is fascinating! Why not take a trip to the coast? Visit the harbour, lifeboat station and beach and take plenty of interesting photographs. You could also make boats from plastic cartons, cardboard boxes and polystyrene trays. Add sails and cargo then see which boats sail around the bath successfully! Alternatively, sing along to some lively sea shanties performed by The Fisherman's Friends from Port Isaac in Cornwall. Visit their website to access free sample tracks.

Suggested text	The Troll – Julia Donaldson; The Adventures of Sinbad the Sailor – Katie Daynes; Grace Darling – Anita Ganeri
Memorable experience	Visit a marina, boat yard, RNLI station or boating lake
Innovate challenge	Find pirate treasure
English	Narratives; Information texts; Descriptions; Poetry; Postcards
Geography	Using and making maps; Locational knowledge; Directions
A&D	Observational drawing; Printing
Computing	Programming; Using presentation software
D&T	Mechanisms; Structures
History	Significant historical people – Captain James Cook, Grace Darling; Famous pirates
Music	Sea shanties
PSHE	Feeling positive
Science	Everyday materials; Working scientifically
Science investigations	Why do boats float? Can you find the treasure?

Home learning ideas - What will you choose to do?

- Search the web or non-fiction books to find out about a famous boat or ship. Make an information book by writing down interesting facts, downloading images or making drawings. Famous ships to choose from include RMS Titanic, the Santa Maria, the Cutty Sark or HMS Belfast.
- Design and make a boat to take part in a class boat race. What materials will you use? What shape will your boat be? What name will you give it?
- Visit a maritime museum, boat show, lighthouse or harbour with your family. Take lots of pictures to show and talk about at school. Maybe you could interview a family member who has worked at sea or has been on a cruise, to find out about their experiences.
- Take the pirate puppet home for a night. Write about all of his adventures in his pirate diary.
- Visit your local library to read and borrow story and information books about the sea. Write or film a book review about your favourite.
- Make a pirate treasure chest using a lidded box and other recycled materials. What will you keep in your treasure chest? Bring it to school to show your class and explain how you made it.
- Write a letter to Captain Longbeard to tell him what you have been up to at school and home. You might want to invite him to visit again!
- Make a map of your home and local area to show all the main features. Include physical landmarks such as beaches, hills or forests, as well as human features such as shops, farms or harbours. Where would be a good place to hide treasure? Can you plot a route to find it?
- Find and learn some pirate jokes. Practise reading them at home to perform in school and make your pirate friends laugh! Aye, that be funny!
- Look at holiday brochures or travel websites and talk about holiday destinations around the world. Which seas or oceans are close to each destination? Locate them on a world map, noting their location in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles. How does the location affect the weather? Where would you most like to go?

