



“Success for Every Child”



How We Express Ourselves

This document is designed to inform you of the learning planned for your child's next unit of inquiry. In addition we offer you some optional ideas for supporting your child at home.

In their fourth unit, the Year 4 students will inquire into the Visual Arts strand “Creating and Responding. The students will investigate the concept of *inspiration* through the central idea, “**The natural world inspires creative expression.**” In this unit the students will gain knowledge and skills associated with creating art through a variety of mediums and look at how nature can inspire the creation of different forms of art. Students will begin by looking at inspiration, and what that means for them through different perspectives. They will spend time looking at how artists use a creative cycle when making and sharing their artwork. Students will also look at the many different forms of creative expression and focus on the area they are most interested developing their skills in. Students will develop their thinking skill of **metacognition** as they gain ideas and inspiration from various sources, make their thinking and processing visible to others and expressing what inspires them through their own masterpieces. The communication skill of **viewing** will also be explored and developed as students gain new vocabulary that can be used to interpret and discuss works of art. Through these inquiries students will develop their understanding of what it means to be **creative** as they find out about and use the creative cycle throughout the unit. Students will become more **reflective** as they begin creating their own works of art, stopping at various points to carefully consider their next steps in the process. Through all of these skills students will be focusing on the disposition of being **open-minded**, particularly when viewing the artistic inspirations of other artists.

You may wish to support your child at home in the following ways:

Developing vocabulary



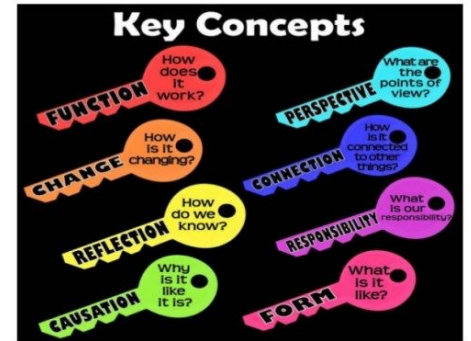
Key vocabulary used in this unit will be:

Inspiration, nature, metacognition, open-minded, technique, creativity, viewing, interpretation, synthesis, pattern, rule, line, tone, texture, shape, colour, form, regular, irregular, inverse, simile, metaphor, visible thinking, audience

Please consider using your Mother Tongue to develop your child's understanding of these words.

Conceptual Questions

This unit will be addressed through the lens of **form**, **function** and **perspective**. Through the lens of form we will look at what are the forms of creative expression? How do artists express themselves? Through the lens of function we are exploring the creative process – the different stages an artist goes through from inspiration to completed piece. We will also look at different skills and techniques used. Finally through the lens of perspective we will look at how the elements of the natural world inspire artists to communicate their creative expression and how different viewers interpret works of art in different ways.



Fun things to do together



Be investigators together and look out for different forms of creative expression - drama, dance, music, creative writing and visual arts (including photography). What types of creative expression do you like the most? Look at what's on at the theatre and go and see a show. Visit an art gallery. Look out for the different forms of art you see around where you live – eg. sculptures, paintings, creative writing. Why not create something together? If they see anything that inspires them, have them snap a picture to share with us back in class.

Taking Action!

ACTION is a key element of the Primary Years Programme. We are always looking to see how children take their learning and apply it independently. This can take many forms - from discussion about the Unit of Inquiry at home initiated by your



child, role-play or even a request to bring a book or artifact in to school because it relates to the work we have been doing in school. Now that you know what the unit is all about please keep your eyes open for evidence of action and let us know! **Any action that you tell us about will be kept as part of your child's records.**