

Oak Curricular Letter

Spring 1 2022 – Shang Dynasty

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back and I hope that you all have had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break and may I wish you all a Happy New Year! Thank you very much for all the lovely Christmas cards and gifts that the team and I received. After all the excitement of the Christmas activities it is good to get back to our familiar routines. I am sure everyone who watched the Christmas Performance - Baubles - will agree that the children were little stars and a real credit to the school. Both Staff and Children are looking forward to what promises to be a busy and exciting Spring half term.

This curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this half term. All the children in Oak Class will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. Our topic is called 'The Shang Dynasty' and many of our activities will relate to this.

Reading books should be sent into school each day children will be given the opportunity to change these daily. We aim to read with children several times a week and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school each day, **filled with water**. I have noticed some children have juice or flavoured water and school policy is water, in line with Change for Life initiatives.

Lunches must come in either a carrier bag that can be binned daily or a small lunch bag/box that can be cleaned easily.

All PE kit and school uniform must be **labelled**, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.

Thank you once again for your continued support. The relationship between school, parent and child has never been more crucial and by continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in the whole school, will have an exciting, enjoyable and memorable half term. If you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message.

Many thanks,

Mrs Antonella Greenhalgh

Head of School

Days to Remember

Monday

PE

Chorley SSP -
Cheerleading

Tuesday

*After school club –
Garage Band*

Wednesday

PE

Thursday

*After school club –
Young Voices Choir*

Friday

Forest Friday

*After school club –
Book/Film Club*

TOPIC

Our History topic driver this half term is, 'Shang Dynasty? The children will learn who the Ancient Shang people were, where and when they lived, using maps and atlases to locate Shang cities. They will also learn about the role of the king, the religious beliefs and rituals of the Shang people and how oracle bones were used in divination ceremonies. The children will also examine a range of Shang artefacts and draw conclusions about what they can teach us. The unit ends with a close look at the remarkable discovery of the first intact Shang tomb which belonged to the military general and high priestess Fu Hao.

In Science, we will be answering the question 'How might diet and behaviours affect your circulatory system?' The children will identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood. They will recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function. And finally describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.

In Art, children will learn what anime is and explore how artists use large, expressive eyes to show emotions such as happiness, sadness, or surprise. They will also learn how other facial features like eyebrows, mouths, and facial shapes help communicate different expressions. Children will discover how to draw themselves as anime characters and how digital tools, such as Keynote, can be used to create their own anime-style self-portraits.

Please take some time to talk to your children about the topics, read books and stories, watch programmes and think of some questions they can explore in class.

MATHS

All children should continue to practise their times tables on Timestable Rockstars.

Year 3 Unit 10 Place value, addition and subtraction, Unit 11 Multiplication, Unit 12 Fractions, Unit 13 Division, Unit 14 Volume, capacity and mass

Year 4 Unit 10 Place value, addition and subtraction, Unit 11 Multiplication, Unit 12 Fractions, Unit 13 Division, Unit 14 Volume, capacity and mass

Year 5 Unit 10 Place Value and Negative Numbers, Unit 11 Addition and Subtraction, Unit 12 Multiplication, Unit 13 Measures (Length, Mass and Capacity), Unit 14 Geometry

Year 6 Unit 9 Place Value, Negative Numbers and Number Sequences, Unit 10 Coordinates and Geometry, Unit 11 Calculation, Unit 12 Fractions

LITERACY

Writing

In English, we will begin with a unit based upon 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman – *Can we write a quest story for our families to enjoy? (Stories from other cultures)*. This planning sequence takes the children on a journey, when the main character, Lila, decides that she wants to become a dangerous firework maker and risks her life to source the ingredients. In grammar, we are learning about –ed openers. For example, "Amazed by what she heard, Mrs Greenhalgh praised the class for their contributions." You could help at home by practicing these sentence starters.

We will then complete a non-fiction unit - *Could I become a magazine journalist?* Using an information text hybrid. This will provide the children with a valuable career opportunities and a purposeful writing focus as it links closely to our topic work, as the children will be writing instructions on how to make a firework and a diary entry for Chinese New Year.

We will continue to look at year group appropriate spelling patterns and rules and I will upload the weekly spelling patterns on Seesaw, using the 'Spelling Shed' resources.

Reading

The children in Oak Class will take part in Guided Reading each week. The focus this half term are non fiction texts about China and the Shang Dynasty. During this time, they will complete a range of reading activities responding to reading and reading for enjoyment. In Guided Reading, children have the same text as their group which they read independently and to the adult. We then discuss the text and work on a reading objective – VIPERS (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Summary).

As well as Guided Reading sessions, the children have opportunity to read their home reader to an adult. Every child has been given a school reading book, which continues the whole school system for colour bands.

As a Junior, your child has the responsibility to change their own book when finished or when they are ready for a change. Please encourage your children to write the books they have read into their reading record, so that they can be proud of their reading achievements and even achieve one of the reading challenge certificates!

Children should continue to read aloud to an adult as much as possible. They should focus on reading for meaning – predicting what will happen in the story and why and also thinking about the character's feelings. Naturally, the focus changes and you are no longer working on building up fluency and expression but looking at prediction, deduction and inference. Questions such as 'What do you think . . . will do next?' 'What could happen here?' 'Why is . . . behaving like that?' will help children to develop their higher order reading skills.

Please could you continue to sign and comment in the reading journal – it really helps! Please make sure your child has their reading journal in school every day.

Homework

Following your feedback, we have made some changes to the homework menu to make it simpler to follow, with fewer tasks overall and a balance of online and practical activities.

The 'Main Course' is to be completed weekly and includes:

Reading three times a week

Completing the spelling sheet

Learning spelling words for the weekly test

Practising times tables on Times Table Rockstars (Oak Class) or Numbots (Acorn Class)

In addition, children should choose at least one activity from the 'Starter' and one from the 'Dessert', to be completed by the homework hand-in date.

Homework can be uploaded to Seesaw, completed in the homework book, or a combination of both — whichever works best for you and your child.

The children have been introduced to the new menu and understand how it works, as well as the expectations. While homework is not statutory for primary-aged children and no consequences will be issued if it is not completed, we do strongly encourage participation. Homework helps to reinforce learning, build independence and responsibility, and develop positive habits that support progress in the classroom.

To celebrate effort, raffle tickets will be issued for each piece of homework completed, with prizes drawn regularly as a reward for engagement and perseverance.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Monday, 9th February

Many parents ask if they can help with activities and projects such as this and the answer is most definitely a resounding 'yes'! There is nothing more motivating for a child than an interested adult. The Homework menu has been sent home.

Oak Spring 1

The Heartbeat of the Shang Dynasty- History Driver

| English | Maths Red Rose Maths | | Science | History |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p><u>Can we swap quest stories with Class 9 at St. George's?</u> Stories from other cultures.</p> <p><u>Could I become a magazine journalist?</u> Information text hybrid</p> | Year 3 | Year 4 | <p><u>How might diet and behaviours affect your circulatory system?</u></p> <p>Topic: circulatory system and transportation of nutrients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do we already know about the circulatory system? - What happens inside our body? How do our hearts and lungs work? - Can I explain the function of the heart and the process of blood circulation? - What is in our blood and how does it move around our bodies? - Can I recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way my body functions? | <p><u>Who was Fu Hao and how did she defeat her enemies?</u></p> <p>Topic: Shang Dynasty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was life like in Ancient China? - What evidence has been found to help us learn about the Shang Dynasty? - Can I describe how the social hierarchy of the Shang dynasty was organised and what life was like for different people? - Can I explain some of the religious beliefs and practices of the people from the Shang dynasty? - Can I examine a range of artefacts to find out about life in the Shang dynasty? - Can I explain who Fu Hao was? |
| | Year 5 | Year 6 | | |
| | Unit 10 Place value, addition and subtraction Unit 11 Multiplication Unit 12 Fractions Unit 13 Division Unit 14 Volume, capacity and mass | Unit 10 Place value, addition and subtraction Unit 11 Multiplication Unit 12 Fractions Unit 13 Division Unit 14 Volume, capacity and mass | | |
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| Art | RE Lancashire Agreed Syllabus | Music Lancashire Music Service | French Language Nut | Computing |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p><u>What do I look like as an anime character?</u></p> <p>Topic: Digital Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is Anime? - How do you use the eyes to show emotion in Anime? - How can you use other facial features to show expression in Anime? - Can I draw myself as an anime character? - Can I use keynote to draw myself as an anime character? | <p><u>How do people decide what to believe?</u></p> <p>Religion: Christianity - Church</p> | <p>Ukulele</p> <p>Charanga</p> | <p><u>À quoi je ressemble? (How do I look?)</u></p> <p>Unit 3: How I look</p> | <p><u>How can I keep myself safe online?</u></p> <p>Topic: Online safety using Purple Mash unit 3.2 and Purple Mash unit 5.2 Think before you click! (from PSHE Coram</p> |
| | | <p>PE (Chorley SSP)</p> | <p>PSHE Coram Life Education</p> | |
| | | <p><u>What makes a good performance?</u></p> <p>Topic: Chinese Dance</p> | <p><u>How do I keep myself safe?</u></p> <p>Topic: Keeping myself safe</p> | |