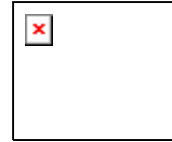




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Curriculum Newsletter for Oak Class

Autumn Term 2008

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new school term. I am pleased to tell you that all the children of Oak Class have settled down well during these early days of the new school year. The children in Year 5, who I taught last year, have continued where they left off and are working hard, setting a good example to their new Year 4 class mates. We have an exciting but busy term ahead, with some really interesting topics to study.

Literacy

Over the course of this term we will be covering a variety of writing genres. We are currently studying the classic narrative poem 'The Highwayman' and looking at a range of poetic styles, such as alliteration, onomatopoeia and figurative language. We have also been reviewing some previous work on similes and metaphors.

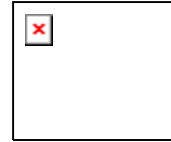
During the last four weeks of the first half term, we will be studying a unit relating to myths and legends. A lot of the work on this unit will be linked to our history topic on Ancient Greece. The children will be looking at some of the more well known myths of Ancient Greece and learning about the style of writing, the language used, characters, etc. They will then have an opportunity to write their own myth.

After half term, two units of work will be covered. The first will be linked to studying and writing instruction texts. By the end of this unit, the children should be clear about the main features and layout of this type of writing. In the final three weeks, our literacy unit will be linked to writing play scripts. For the year 5 children, this could be an opportunity to build upon some of the work they began last year relating to adverts.

Within class, the children will have opportunities to read a range of materials each week. I will be encouraging them to bring their reading books home each night and would appreciate it if you could try and hear them read for a few minutes twice each week.

Numeracy

Over the course of the term, the children will study most areas of numeracy. We are starting off looking at number sequences and place value, before moving onto the four rules, where the children will learn the standard methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. As the term progresses, we will be studying aspects of shape and space, measurements and data handling.



Science

Our current science topic is 'Friction'. The children will be building upon their existing knowledge of forces and will be learning that friction is a force which exists between objects moving across a solid surface and opposes motion. They will also learn about air resistance and water resistance as forces that oppose motion in these elements.

After half term, our topic will be 'Keeping Warm'. Through this unit children build on their ideas about temperature as a measure of how hot or cold objects are and learn about thermal insulators as materials which can help to keep things warm or cool.

ICT

During the first half term, the children will be looking at computers can be used to create music. The children will have opportunities to develop a piece of music using a piece of software which allows them to build up different layers of sound and beats. If all goes to plan, I hope to produce a CD of the children's work.

After half term, the children will be producing Powerpoint presentations linked to our Ancient Greece topic.

Design Technology

Our DT topic this term is 'Money Containers'. The children will learn our textile containers *ie purses, wallets, belt bags, etc*, are designed for different purposes and different users. They will evaluate a range of purses, etc, and learn some basic sewing stitches before designing and making their own money container.

History

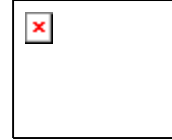
The children will be learning about what life was like in Ancient Greece. They will use a range of written and visual sources to interpret the way people lived during this period of history and record the information different ways.

Art

Trying to link a lot of the children's learning together, our art topic this term will be 'Talking Textiles'. In this unit, the children will explore how stories have been represented in textiles in different times and cultures. They work together to make a two- or three-dimensional work based on a familiar myth or legend from Ancient Greece. They will investigate and use a range of materials, techniques and textile processes to create surface patterns and textures and other visual effects.

Music

Our music topic will start after half term. The children will develop an understanding of how the sounds made on different musical instruments can be used expressively. They will have opportunities to explore how sounds can describe the moods stimulated by pictures and words and to create simple compositions combining rhythm and melody.



PE

Over the course of this term we will be covering a range of PE activities. This half term the children will be learning basic hockey skills and the principles of orienteering. After half term, we will be studying a unit of dance and a further unit where basic skills are developed.

RE

This half term, our RE topic is 'What is faith and what difference does it make?' The children will study two stories from the Bible to show individuals' faith in God. The children will be learning about the story of Abraham, focusing upon his response to God's promise on his great journey and his readiness to sacrifice his son Isaac.

After half term, the focus changes to Christmas Journeys, where the children will learn about and develop their understanding of some of the ways in which Christians celebrate Jesus' birth. They will also examine and reflect upon concepts of pilgrimages.

PSHE

'How do rules and laws affect me?' is the PSHE topic for this term. The children will learn about rules and how laws are made in a democracy. They should develop their appreciation of why we need rules to protect our rights and how they help us. They will also find out about the work of Parliament and MPs in creating and changing laws.

French

Madame Terry will be teaching the class French once a week.

I hope this letter gives you an outline of the work we will be covering this term. If you need to speak to me regarding any concerns you or your child may have, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Simon Martin
Oak Class Teacher