

# Oak Tree Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear families,

Welcome back to another term! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. We have some fantastic topics this term and we can not wait to see you all again!

A new term means a new topic! This term our topic will be '**Media makers**' where we will be exploring all the different roles the media has to offer! We have some very special visitors planned and we can't wait for the children to get stuck into all the fun we have this term!

Homework will be set on a termly based using the Topic Knowledge Organisers, as before. This homework will be celebrated in class near the end of term (date to follow). Thank you for your support with this.

Our musical opportunities continue to be on a Wednesday and PE is also on a Thursday! If you have any questions, please do send a message to the school office or on class dojo!

Thank you!

Miss T

### **Times tables and spelling homework**

Children will be sent home with new **spellings** to learn each week for their test on a **Friday**. They will bring their red spelling book home with their new spellings stuck in (on Friday) and you will be able to see their scores from the tests in the back. Please encourage your children to practise any incorrect spellings!

We will be taking a new approach to times tables this term, more information to follow! The “little and often” approach really helps to secure and embed their knowledge/recall!

### **Maths Homework:**

Each time your child completes a unit of work in Maths, they will bring a consolidation booklet home to practise the skills they have acquired. There will be a hand-in date on the booklet.

### **Reading**

In class, children can choose a book from the class library to read for pleasure. They also have a reading book to read with an adult which is matched to their reading level. Please read with your child at least three times a week to boost confidence and support progress with their reading skills.

### **Water bottles/snacks**

Please ensure your child has a water bottle in school on a daily basis. Children are able to bring a healthy snack for breaktime - please fruit/veg only.

### **PE**

We expect children to be coming to school in their PE kit on Thursday. Please can you ensure this is in line with our uniform policy.

### **Curriculum coverage for this half term**

the following list outlines the area of the curriculum we will be studying for each subject. There are Knowledge organisers available on the website where you can find additional details about the key information the children will be learning:

**Maths: Fractions, multiplication, shape.... and more!**

**English: Character analysis, Balanced argument/debating, Limerick poems**

**Science: Light!**

**Computing: Repetition in shapes (y3/4) and Variables in games (y5/6)**

**History: The Shang Dynasty**

**PSHE: Dream and Goals**

**DT: Making Purses (Joining fabrics)**

**PE: Gymnastics and dance**

**RE: (Y3/4) 'Why do people pray?' (Y5/6) 'If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?'**

**Music: Singing**

**French: Zoo animals**

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## **English:**

In English we will be writing limerick poetry!

We will also be working on character analysis and descriptions.

Our non-fiction will focus on writing a balanced argument and holding a debate.

## **History:**

As historians we will be transported back in time to study ancient China, focusing on the bronze age and the Shang Dynasty. We will be looking at artifacts, making links and exploring how historians and archaeologists discover the past.

## **PE**

In PE we will be doing gymnastics where the children will be learning the skills of forward and side rolls, vaults and linking movements to perform a sequence.

We will also be learning dance linked to our Science topic of 'Electricity', again performing a sequence of moves based on free style and contemporary dance.

## **Science:**

In science we will be learning all about light!

### **Years 3 and 4**

#### **Children will explore the concepts of:**

Recognise that they need light to see things and that dark is the absence of light.

- Notice that light is reflected from surfaces
- Recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes
- Recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object
- Find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change.

### **Years 5 and 6**

#### **Children will explore the concepts of:**

- Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye.
- Explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes.
- Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

## **Computing:**

Our computing topic this term will first recap our online safety skills as a class.

(Y3/4) Repetition in shapes

(Y5/6) Variables in games

### **Years 3 and 4**

This unit is the first of the two programming units in Year 4, and looks at repetition and loops within programming. Pupils will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language.

### **Years 5 and 6**

This unit explores the concept of variables in programming through games in Scratch. First, learners find out what variables are and relate them to real-world examples of values that can be set and changed. Then they use variables to create a simulation of a scoreboard. In Lessons 2, 3, and 5, which follow the Use-Modify-Create model, learners experiment with variables in an existing project, then modify them, before they create their own project.

## **Personal, Social, Health Education**

In Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) we will thinking about 'Dreams and Goals'.

### **Years 3 and 4**

#### **Children will explore:**

- hopes and dreams
- disappointment
- Creating new, realistic dreams
- Achieving goals
- Working in a group
- Celebrating contributions
- Resilience
- Positive attitudes

### **Years 5 and 6**

#### **Children will explore:**

- **Personal learning goals, in and out of school**
- **Success criteria**
- **Emotions in success**
- **Making a difference in the world**
- **Motivation**
- **Recognising achievements**
- **Compliments**

### **Picture news**

Each week we will learn about the British Values of:

Mutual respect and tolerance

Individual liberty

democracy

Rule of law

Through exploring the weekly news and learning about relevant local, national and international issues. This is our 'Picture News' curriculum.

## **Design and Technology**

In DT we will be exploring the technique of joining fabrics together. We will be designing, testing, making and evaluating coin purses.

## **Religious Education (RE)**

RE

Year 3 and 4 will be considering the question 'Why do people pray?'

Children will

- learn about the practice of prayer in Christianity, Hinduism and Islam
- Make connections between what people believe about prayer and what they do when they pray
- Describe ways in which prayer can comfort and challenge believers
- Describe and comment on similarities and differences between how Christians, Muslims and Hindus pray.

Year 5 and 6 will be considering the question 'If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?'

Children will:

- Make connections between how believers feel about places of worship in different traditions .
- Select and describe the most important functions of a place of worship for the community
- Give examples of how places of worship support believers in difficult times, explaining why this matters to believers
- Present ideas about the importance of people in a place of worship, rather than the place itself



### **Music:**

As musicians we will be preparing the songs for Young Voices and hope that extra practise is completed at home to allow us to give our best ever performance at Sheffield Arena very soon on the 9th February! We will be learning about how music is used in the news and we will understand what a fanfare is and learn to play one. After half term we will continue this and also consider the sounds that we hear in the country, learning about pentatonic scales and ostinato to compose a soundscape.

### **French**

As French linguists we will be securing our knowledge of animals at the zoo; in the jungle and our pets. We will use adjectives and colours understanding the grammatical rules using these. We will be able to tell people the name of our pets. Year 5 and 6 will revisit how to use future tense, I will... They will also learn time and past tense, I saw... and they were... Throughout the tasks we will be completing speaking, reading, listening and written activities.