

Oak Class

Autumn Term newsletter 2023

Welcome to the Autumn Term. It has been wonderful to welcome our new Year 5 children to Oak class; everyone is settling in well and becoming familiar with our routines.

We have got lots of exciting activities planned for the children. Our main text in Literacy is 'Boy in the Tower', written by Polly Ho-Yen. If you would like to purchase a copy for your child to use in school, that would be great, although there is no obligation. (If you wish to read other recommended books with your child, please see below, along with the main themes of learning so that you may encourage the children at home with their studies at home.)

Other links will be made across our Science topics. In the first half term, we will be learning about 'Earth and Space' in our 'Is there anybody out there?' topic. We have a planned visit to the National Space Centre (further details will follow) as well as an in-school visit from Professor Ed Copeland. Some of you may know Ed, who lives in Halam and is a Professor of Physics in the Faculty of Science at Nottingham University. In the second half of the term, our topic is 'Evolution and Inheritance' - 'Have we always looked like this?'

Our geography topic this half term is South America. We will be finding out about Brazil's economy and linking lots of the work in art.

Work in Mathematics will include for Y5: Place value, Addition and subtraction, Multiplication and division, Fractions, and for Y6: Place value, Four Operations, Fractions, Measurement. Mathletics is an excellent curriculum resource which I would encourage you to utilise at home with the children to complement work being taught in the classroom. Children can log on wherever they have use of the internet. All children have usernames and passwords in their reading diary. Please encourage your child to practise maths topics at home. We are working through times tables, which we practise most days in school. Again, it would be helpful if you could support your child by helping them to learn these. They need to be able to answer lots of quick-fire multiplication and division questions in a short time to be able to progress to the next level. Most of us know our tables quite well but need to get much faster at recalling the answers! 'Hit the Button' is a great online free resource.

Please keep reading diaries up to date when you hear your children read daily. Reading Eggs is another highly useful resource which can be assessed at home as well as in school. There is a huge selection of books to read and quizzes to complete to help improve your child's reading ages. The children are given new spellings every Monday, to learn for a test on the following Monday. These are the Y5 and Y6 recommended words, which the children all have a copy of in their spelling books and Reading Diaries. Please support the children by helping them to practise these at home. (Copies are available on the Class Pages on the website).

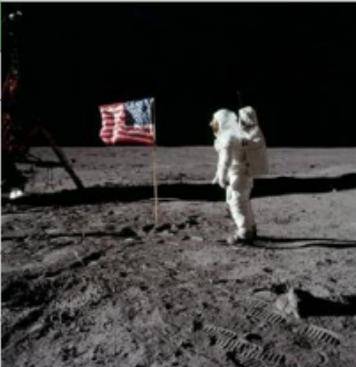
PE will be on Tuesdays (with Mr Mitchell) and Thursdays (with Miss Bateman). Children wearing suitable PE kits to school on both of those days is working well. Please ensure earrings are removed on PE days. Mr Nolan is supporting with DT lessons on Mondays over this half term; we will be attempting to make moon buggies!

Please see our 'Sticky Knowledge' grids below containing the main themes of learning so that you can support your children at home with their learning and see other recommended books to read.

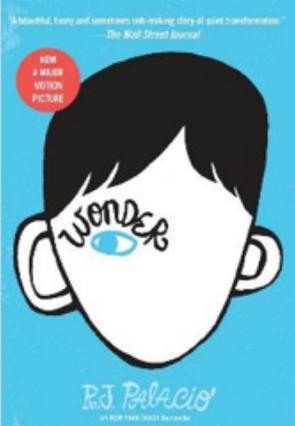
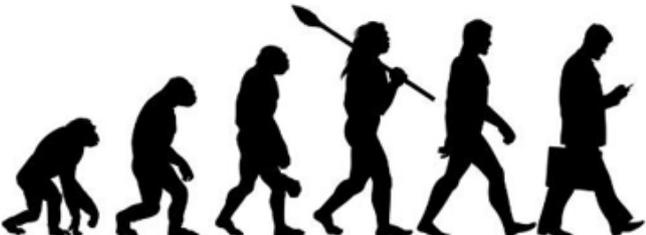
South America KS2 Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary			Exciting Books
street children	Street children are groups of children with no homes or parents who are forced to beg for a living.		
pampas	The pampas are fertile South American lowlands that cover more than 750,000 km ² .		
anaconda snake	Anacondas are semiaquatic snakes found in tropical South America. They are some of the largest snakes in the world.		
I am somebody	A poem which was used in a campaign to bring attention to the street children of Brazil.	Sticky Knowledge about South America	South American countries
Andes	The Andes are the world's longest continental mountain range. They lie as a continuous chain of highland along the western coast of South America.	<input type="checkbox"/> There are 12 countries in South America and almost 400 million people live there.	There are 12 sovereign states:
inhabitant	An inhabitant is a person or animal that is a permanent resident of a particular place or region.	<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil is the largest country and covers almost half the continent. It is only slightly smaller than the USA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil • Argentina • Chile • Venezuela • Colombia • Peru • Suriname • Bolivia • Uruguay • Paraguay • Guyana • Ecuador
sparsely populated	Sparsely populated means that there are few people scattered around the area.	<input type="checkbox"/> South America's largest river is the Amazon, which is the second longest river in the world. However, the Amazon carries more water than any other river in the world.	
Lake Titicaca	Lake Titicaca straddles the border between Peru and Bolivia in the Andes Mountains and is one of South America's largest lakes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sao Paulo is the largest city with more than 20 million people living there.	
Incas	The Incas, an American indigenous people, were originally a small tribe in the southern highlands of Peru.	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish is the most popular language in South America even though Brazilians speak Portuguese.	
Atacama Desert	The Atacama Desert is one of the driest places in the world. It has a stony terrain.	<input type="checkbox"/> The Incas were the largest group of indigenous people in South America when the Europeans arrived.	<small>Plus, a part of France (French Guiana) and a non-sovereign area (the Falkland Islands, a British Overseas Territory though this is disputed by Argentina).</small>

Year 5: Earth and Space Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary			Sticky Knowledge about Earth and space
orbit	An orbit is a repeating path that one celestial body takes around another.		
solar system	The solar system is made of the eight planets that orbit our sun; it is also made of asteroids, moons, comets and lots more.		<input type="checkbox"/> An asteroid about the size of a car enters Earth's atmosphere roughly once a year – but it burns up before it reaches us.
astronomical	Astronomy is the study of outer space, focusing on celestial bodies such as stars, comets, planets and galaxies.		<input type="checkbox"/> The sunset on Mars appears blue.
planet	There are 8 planets in our solar system, they are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.		<input type="checkbox"/> Earth is the third planet from the sun and the only world known to support an atmosphere with free oxygen, oceans of liquid water on the surface, and life.
rotation	Rotation is when a shape is turned around a fixed point.	Important facts to know by the end of the Earth and space topic:	
spherical	Something spherical is like a sphere in being round, or more or less round, in three dimensions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know about and explain the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the Sun. • Know about and explain the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth. • Know and demonstrate how night and day are created. • Describe the Sun, Earth and Moon (using the term spherical). • Know information about the planets. • Neil Armstrong was the first man to step on the moon. 	<input type="checkbox"/> There is no atmosphere in space, which means that sound has no medium or way to travel to be heard.
crescent moon	It is a sliver of the moon that is lit up and can be seen. It is less than half the moon.		<input type="checkbox"/> Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system and has an average surface temperature of around 450° C.
gibbous moon	The best way to describe a gibbous moon is that the moon is three-quarters lit up.		<input type="checkbox"/> The sheer size of space makes it impossible to accurately predict just how many stars exist.
eclipse	An eclipse occurs when an astronomical object is temporarily obscured. A lunar eclipse is when the Earth moves between the Sun and the Moon, therefore blocking the Sun's rays from striking the Moon.		
lunar	Is anything related to the moon.		

Year 6: Evolution & Inheritance Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary		Interesting Book	Sticky Knowledge about evolution & inheritance
off-spring	When living things reproduce they pass on characteristics to their offspring. All living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring are not identical to their parents		<p>Sticky Knowledge about evolution & inheritance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Evolution is a scientific theory used by biologists. It explains how living things changed over a long time, and how they have come to be the way they are. <input type="checkbox"/> We know that living things have changed over time, because we can see their remains in the rocks. <input type="checkbox"/> We know that the animals and plants of today are different from those of long ago. <input type="checkbox"/> Evolutionary questions are still being actively researched by biologists.
adaptation	Adaptation is the process by which animals, plants and other living things have changed so that they better suit their habitat.		
evolution	Evolution is the theory that all the kinds of living things that exist today developed from earlier types.		
inheritance	When living things reproduce they pass on characteristics to their offspring. This is known as inheritance.		
palaeontologist	A palaeontologist is someone studying the life of past geological periods, as known from fossil remains.		
Charles Darwin	Charles Darwin was an English scientist who studied nature. He is known for his theory of evolution.		
genes	Genes that are passed on to you determine many of your traits, such as your hair colour and skin colour.		
chromosomes	Chromosomes are tiny structures inside cells made from DNA and protein.		
syndrome	A syndrome is a genetic condition which can affect learning and physical features.		
genotype	A genotype refers to a particular gene or set of genes carried by an individual.		
			

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs T. Francis