



# Oak Class Newsletter

## Spring Term 2023

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. Time to put the mince pies and turkey behind you and start again with those New Year resolutions (I will do my homework on time, I will remember it is PE on Monday and Tuesday)!



The topic for this term is, ‘Dynamic Dynasties’. In Dynamic Dynasties, your child will learn about periods of ancient Chinese history. They will explore a timeline of the first five Chinese dynasties and learn about the legends surrounding the beginning of Chinese civilisation. They will take a deep dive into the history of the Bronze Age Shang Dynasty and explore evidence found in the ancient city of Yin. They will study oracle bones, learn about religious beliefs and explore bronze artefacts that set the Shang Dynasty apart from other civilisations. They will also study the hierarchy of the Shang Dynasty and discover who was powerful and who was powerless. They will look at warfare and find out how bronze technology gave the Shang Dynasty an advantage over their enemies. They will learn about the life of the great military leader, Fu Hao. The children will then look at significant aspects of life after the Shang Dynasty, including the work of Confucius in the Zhou Dynasty, the short but significant reign of Emperor Qin Shi Huang of the Qin Dynasty and the importance of the Silk Road created by the Han Dynasty. To end the project, your child will find out how ancient China’s lasting legacy can be seen in the world today.



<b>Dynamic Dynasties</b>	
English	Narrative poems; Biographies; Stories from another culture
Design & Technology	Moving mechanisms
History	Ancient China; Timelines and chronology; Shang Dynasty; Sources and artefacts; Oracle bones and religious beliefs; Bronze Age in ancient China; Historical enquiry; Significance of jade and silk; Power and social hierarchy; Everyday life; Warfare; Significant individual – Di Xin; End of the Shang Dynasty; Bronze Ages around the world; Life after the Shang Dynasty; Legacy
Science	The Solar System; Scientists of the past who discovered how the Solar System works; The Earth, Sun and Moon; Planets and stars are spherical; Daytime and night time; Sundials; Day length and the seasons; Times of the day around the world; The phases of the Moon; Lunar and solar eclipses; Working scientifically – Identifying and classifying, Research, Changes over time, Contact and non-contact forces; Gravity; Mass and Weight; Discovering gravity – important scientists; Friction; Air resistance; Water resistance; Mechanisms – levers, pulleys, gears; Investigating forces and mechanisms; Working scientifically – Identifying and classifying, Observing changes over time, Comparative tests, Research,
<b>Other</b>	
Maths	Working towards fluency and mastery in decimals and percentages followed by measurement and geometry
Music	Singing. Pop Ballads
PE	Gymnastics and Invasion Games
PSHE	Living in the Wider World
RE	Walk through The Bible
French	Jeux et Chansons (Games and Songs)

## Reminders:

PE will be on a Monday and a Tuesday and PE Kit should be worn to school for both those days. The kit is a green T Shirt, black shorts, PE Hoodie and suitable trainers.

- Any drinks bottles kept in class or taken to PE lessons should contain only water (at lunch your child can have whatever you provide). In Oak the children have their own Chromebook on their desk so we keep bottles on the floor to avoid damage.
- Reading books may be sent home from the reading scheme and children can take home a book from our class library (we do ask that these are returned and kept in good condition), our librarians will monitor any loans.

## Homework

There is a slight change to the timing for homework this term. It will now be sent home on a Wednesday but needs to be returned by the following Monday at the latest!

## Year 6 – T&DCA

All our Year 6 children will continue to work towards achieving the Torbay & Devon Civic Award. Most have already completed the section on the residential requirement and have started looking at their contribution towards life in and out of the school community.

## Year 6 - SATs

The Standard Assessment Tests are scheduled to take place between Tuesday 9 and Friday 12 May (they have been moved by a day for the coronation of the King). As usual we are offering booster sessions which will take place after school on a Thursday. We are drafting a letter with full details and you should receive that early next week.

## Year 5 – Bikeability

In March we will be organising sessions for Bikeability. This is a Department of Transport scheme designed to equip children with the skills and confidence to ride bicycles safely. Further details will follow nearer the time.



## HLC Youth Speak Competition

This competition aims to offer the opportunity for young children to share their ideas on a topical subject and become used to speaking in public. A team of 3 from Year 6 will be taking part on Wednesday 18 January (we know this is short notice but the children are keen). A team of 3 from Year 5 will be taking part on Wednesday 8 February. The topic we have chosen is pollution of the oceans and the children are all working constructively researching for information and writing dynamic texts to support their concerns.

## Exeter Cathedral Chorister Outreach Programme

The class will be taking part in this exciting opportunity which culminates in a performance in March in Exeter Cathedral – more information will follow.

As a Teaching Team we welcome constructive conversations and interaction and are always prepared to make the time to speak to parents either by email, phone or in person. If you, or your child, has any concerns or requires more information we are happy to help.

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Oak Teaching Team

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