



Oak Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2023

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Welcome back and welcome to the Year 5 children for their first term in Oak Class. We hope your summer holidays have been restful and that parents and children are now ready for another term of learning.

Our first topic is 'Britain at War'. Your child will learn about the main causes of the First World War and which countries were the major players. They will investigate why so many men volunteered to fight and then sequence the events at the start of the war. Using various sources of evidence, the children will learn about life in the trenches and the consequences of new weaponry. They will listen to first-hand accounts of life on the home front and evaluate the impact of war on everyday life. They will also discover the events that led to the Allied Powers' victory and the consequences of the Treaty of Versailles. The children will also learn about the causes and main events of the Second World War. They will find out how Britain prepared itself for war and the war's impact on civilian life. They will learn about the Battle of Britain and how it proved to be a key turning point for the Allied Powers. They will also hear about Anne Frank and discover what her story tells us about the treatment of Jewish people by the Nazi Party. The children will research the causes and consequences of the end of the Second World War and investigate the legacy of the wars in Britain. This is a challenging topic which we will ensure is handled sensitively taking opportunities to show human resilience through music and dance.



Britain At War – Our studies will include:	
English	Letters; Persuasive posters; Narrative dialogue; Figurative language
History	Causes of both World Wars; Weaponry; Life in the trenches; Key events; End of both World Wars
Design & Technology	Wartime Food; making wire poppies for Remembrance Day
Geography	Mainly focussed on WWII and the Axis and Allied Powers
Science	Light Theory
Music	Sounds of the war. War time songs.
Other	
Maths	Number and Place Value – working towards fluency and mastery
PE	Dance based around war; invasion games; cricket
PSHE	Health and Wellbeing
RE	Hinduism

House-keeping notes:

- Our gate/door opens at 08:35. We take the register at 08:45 and will start work straight after that with a Maths lesson. It is important therefore that all children are in class by 08:45.
- 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, plain black shorts/joggers, 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.
- Packed Lunches: We encourage children to take home any uneaten food so parents have a clear indication of how much is being eaten.
- An outline weekly timetable is attached – these do change but it will give you an idea of what happens

- 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 (see details below) will monitor any loans.

In Oak Class we have 'positions' we need to fill, as follows:

- House Captains (Year 6 only) – we have four House Captains, two for Anning and two for Attenborough. Your child will need to write a letter to the Oak Teaching Team setting out why they would like to be a House Captain and what they feel they can bring to the role. Closing date for this letter will be **Thursday 14 September**.
- Librarians (Year 5 and Year 6). We usually appoint four class librarians who take responsibility for replacing books on the shelves, keeping the area tidy, ordering books from the library, going on the mobile library and any other book related tasks that arise. Again, your child will need to write a short letter to the Oak Teaching Team letting us know why they would like to be a librarian (**deadline Thursday 14 September**).
- Playground leaders (Year 6 only) will also be needed to devise games to play with the younger children in KS1 and the EYFS. We will explain this in class.

Torbay & Devon Civic Award

Year 6 are also encouraged to undertake the Torbay & Devon Civic Award. This Award aims to encourage Citizenship amongst ten and eleven year olds. The inspiration behind it is Karen Thomson, a teacher from South Devon who felt compelled to create the award by a deep belief that education needs to be broader and more futures-driven. At Offwell, we agree that leaders in education have a moral responsibility to develop children's attitudes and values as well as transferable skills to equip them for a future that has yet to be imagined. Participation in the Award also provides a healthy balance to the SATs-driven curriculum with a human, selfless aspect to help children become well-rounded, confident and caring individuals who strive to make a difference in their various communities and are prepared to take responsibility for change. The Year 6 children who undertook the Award last year reported that it was worthwhile and felt it gave them a rounded education. We will issue further information and talk to the children in more detail within the first two weeks of term – working for the Award will require parental support and we encourage all Year 6 to enter.

Homework – we are trialling a slightly different way of allocating homework.

Your child will have a notebook to record their daily reading (both at home and at school). Learning spellings will be done mainly in class but children should be encouraged to practice daily – the spellings will be available on Google Classroom and a sheet will be sent home. Homework will be set during the week and there will be different deadlines for completion (it may need to be returned the next day or within 2/3 days – this will be made clear at the time. The work will be mainly on Maths and English and will be reinforcing the current learning in class.

Apologies for the length of this letter – we usually try to keep things short and sweet but at the beginning of a new academic year it is a good time to put out a few reminders to existing class children and provide information for new members. 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.

Oak Teaching Team