

Oak Class Term 5 Newsletter

Class Teacher: Mrs Fitzsimmons

PPA: Thursday Mornings with Mrs Hobbs

Class TA: Mrs Hale

What are we been doing in class this term?

English

This term in English, we have been channeling our inner *Wallace and Gromit*, in developing our explanations. We have been developing our use of conjunctions, paragraphs and use of technical vocabulary to help build an effective explanation text based on a fictional machine of our own design!

Alongside this, we are reading and developing our comprehension skills with our new class book *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold: both an absorbing animal adventure and subtle commentary on climate change and the plight of endangered species, The Last Bear revolves around April, the daughter of an Arctic researcher, and her chance encounter with a lone polar bear.

Maths

Year 4 are currently coming to the end of a unit on decimals, including comparing and ordering decimals, as well as rounding decimals. They will next work on their skills working with money, including ordering and estimating amounts with money to help solve problems.

Year 5 have recently finished a large unit working on developing their knowledge of fractions. Most recently, working on multiplying fractions by integers and finding fractions of amounts. They are now focusing on decimals, including their first encounter with percentages.

Both years have been working extra hard in learning our times tables too! Year 4s will sit the new Year 4 Multiplication Check early next term – more information for parents to follow soon (This is a digital test – our Year 5s sat the trial test last year).

History

We have just come to the end of learning about how *Crime and Punishment* has changed throughout the ages. Following on from last year's learning, the children have found out about the legacy of the Roman justice system and crime and punishment through the Anglo-Saxon period. We have also enquired about the Tudor and Victorian periods. Pupils have deepened their historical awareness and understanding of how our past is constructed through studying the famous highwayman Dick Turpin. This has all culminated in comparing modern day crime prevention and detection methods with those from the past. Great fun!

Science

Our current Science topic is *Animals, including Humans*. In this unit, we are focusing on the digestive system in humans and animals and the functions of teeth. Children will learn more about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in the context of teeth, digestion and the food chain. We will also be extending understanding of food chains to using/creating more complex chains and food webs.

Other Subjects

In RE, we are recapping Judaism, strengthening a concept which was taught last lockdown. We explore the question *What is the best way for a Jew to show commitment to God?* in detail.

Our PSHE unit, which continues into next term is based on a case study of a fictional girl called Chiwa, who lives in Malawi. The children will explore different aspects of her life, using the idea that people's life experiences and opportunities differ throughout the world and that our actions can have both positive and harmful effects on people living in different countries. We will explore the concepts of inequality and stereotypes and encourages pupils to reflect on what they can do to help make the world a fairer place.

Next week, we begin to think about cookery, ready for Term 6. We will be thinking about seasonal foods and where, when and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed. Following on from this, next term, pupils will then have the chance to sample some spring seasonal food before designing their own balanced seasonal meal.

In French, we have started to develop intercultural understanding by being introduced to the sights of some typical French cities. Pupils will also learn to describe places in a town, count to 100 and give their address in French.