



Oakwood Primary Academy


Learning Journey for this term and how you can support your child


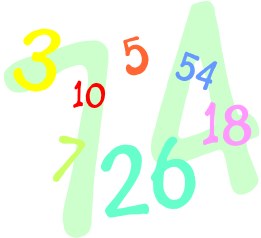
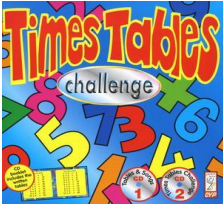
Autumn Term 1 and 2- 2021	Year Group Year 4	Theme Shang Dynasty and A Journey Through North America.
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Dear Parent and Carers,

Please find attached the programme of learning your child will be doing this term. There are many ways in which you can help your child at school, but the most effective way is to show an interest and to encourage your son or daughter to talk to you about what he or she is learning in school.

This year we are continuing to develop our thematic approach to learning with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. Each of our themes will have a STEM focus which will drive the learning through the rest of the topic.

English 	<p>In English this term we will be looking at a range of fiction and non-fiction writing. The beginning of the term will be based on stories from other cultures, looking at ancient Chinese tales linked to our Shang Dynasty topic. Initially, we will be using 'The Magic Paintbrush' by Julia Donaldson as our inspiration and we will be planning and writing our own ancient Chinese tale all about a magic object of our choice. Later in the term, the children will look at explanation texts and their key features; developing their understanding of non-fiction writing and linking their understanding of the Shang Dynasty into their writing outcome. As we move into our second topic 'Journey Through North America', we will look at writing some of our own river inspired poetry. In grammar lessons, children will focus on using fronted adverbials, conjunctions and correctly punctuated speech to make their writing more interesting and exciting; as well as learning the statutory spellings for the Year 4 National Curriculum. We will also be working on some independent writes each week which will link to our topic.</p> <p>This academic year, handwriting and high expectations on presentation is a whole school focus. Children will continue to learn how to write fluently in cursive script. There will be short daily handwriting sessions in order for children to practise their cursive handwriting.</p> <p>This term presents us with lots of exciting texts in our Reading lessons; from 'The Willow Pattern Story' by Allan Drummond, to 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman linked to the Shang Dynasty and 'The Rhythm of the Rain' by Grahame Baker-Smith and 'Floor' by Alvaro F Villa linked to North America. The children will be immersed in a range of exciting and engaging stories to boost their love and engagement in reading. Regular reading comprehension sessions and activities will</p>
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	<p>ensure the children are showing a strong understanding of the texts they are reading. Alongside this, the children will continue to follow the REN reading scheme and they will be tested on their understanding of each book they read, gaining rewards related to their success.</p>
<p>How you can help</p> 	<p>Reading to and with your child is one of the most important aspects of their learning and provides them with the skills and confidence to fully access their learning across the whole curriculum. Explaining and discussing new vocabulary and asking questions is especially helpful, this encourages your child to think about word meanings and deepen comprehension skills. Please try to read with your child every day and when reading the school reading book with your child to record your comments in their reading diary. Encourage your child to read a range of texts as well as their school reading books and encourage them to work towards their next target for the Reading REN reading scheme.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>In Maths this term, children will be focussing on Number: Place Value, Addition and Subtraction. To begin this term, our focus will be on reinforcing learning from our previous year group and consolidating understanding of Place Value. Children will explore this using a range of manipulatives to aid their learning including: base ten, place value grids and Cuisenaire rods. The children will start to develop their understanding of numbers beyond 1,000 and will use number lines to estimate numbers and round to the nearest 1,000. When looking at Addition and Subtraction, children will begin to add two four-digit numbers together using the formal written method as well as developing their mental maths techniques. Times Tables will be a core focus for the children this year in Year 4 and they will be practicing daily to improve their fluency and speed.</p>
<p>How you can help</p> 	<p>We cannot emphasise enough the importance of your child learning their times tables. Please practise these at home. If possible, encourage the children to use Times Tables Rockstars; www.trockstars.com/login. Children can play a variety of times table games. In the Garage game children can play using times tables set by their teacher whereas, the Studio section will go up to 12x12. Children can earn certificates by playing in the Studio section these achievements are shared at our Celebration Assembly.</p> <p>Take the opportunity with your child to discuss maths in the everyday world, such as getting your child to use money and tell the time using both an analogue and digital clock. Help your child to confidently count in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s. Encourage rapid recall of number bonds to ten and twenty.</p> <p>Additionally, please encourage your child to add and subtract numbers both mentally and using columnar methods (the method most adults would have learnt at school). Please keep an eye on newsletters and on the website for maths updates and links.</p>

THEME- Shang Dynasty

Following a thematic approach, we will be covering the following aspects of the curriculum...

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics



Our curriculum will be driven from a STEM focus. We will focus on developing STEM Skills across all areas of the curriculum: problem solving, creativity, inquiry skills, observation, flexibility and collaboration.

In Science this term, we will be looking at irrigation systems and their importance within the Shang period. As a year group, we will be designing our own irrigation systems and predicting the effectiveness of them based on their design. Having carried out tests, we will evaluate the design of our irrigation systems and make suggestions for improvements. We will explore the role of rivers in greater detail in our North America topic in term 2 with a specific focus on the water cycle.

Within our Design and Technology learning in term 1 we will be looking at food within the Shang Dynasty; how it was grown and processed and exploring some of the raw ingredients within food. The children will even get the exciting opportunity to make their own Shang inspired dishes later in the term.

History/Geography



Our History and Geography learning this term will focus on China as a country and its rich and diverse background. The children will be developing their atlas skills: locating countries on a map and learning the names of the continents. Children will look at the importance of the Yellow River and will develop a deeper understanding of the role rivers play in the natural world. We will also be researching life in the Shang period and will look at the hierarchy of society during the time of the Shang. Later on, we will move across to North America to explore the rich and diverse cultures of the indigenous tribes and their life on the continent.




Within our learning this term, children will also consider the similarities and differences between ancient religions and religions today. Throughout our History and Geography learning this term, the children will continually be encouraged to develop their inquiry skills and will delve into their topic with inquisitive minds; looking for answers to a variety of questions.




Art and Music



In Art and Music this term, we will be linking our learning to our wider theme of the Shang Dynasty.

In Art, we will be designing and creating sculptures of Shang gods. Exploring a range of materials such as clay and wire, the children will make their own Shang inspired sculptures; using true Shang techniques and based on examples found through research conducted as a class. In term 2 we will explore artists such as Turner and Monet and will research physical or human features to inform a piece of art work.

	<p>For Music this term, the children are extremely fortunate to be having weekly brass lessons with an external tutor. They will be exploring brass instruments and developing their skills in playing and reading music. Alongside this, we will also be exploring traditional Chinese music and how music within the Shang period was strongly emotive and storytelling. Children will eventually compose and perform their own piece of Shang inspired music.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>Many of our computing sessions this term will be linked to the History and Geography theme. We will be collecting and presenting data using various IT programmes.</p> <p>As well as using technology to research and present, the children will also be creating their own photo story which will portray the rise and fall of the Shang Dynasty. They will look at using transitions and text on images to create an exciting and engaging publication. Children will also use their skills in computing to create an animation of the water cycle later in the term.</p> <p>As always, children will be reminded regularly of staying safe online and will complete a National Online Safety lesson on 'Self Image and Identify' throughout the term.</p>
<p>PSHEE</p> 	<p>To begin the year of PSHEE learning, the children will be looking at what strengths, skills and interests they have. Children will be encouraged to identify their own skills and within that, develop their self-worth. We will be looking at what self-worth looks like and how we can grow in our self-worth and sense of belonging.</p> <p>Also this term, as in line with Government guidance, the children will begin looking at Relationships and Sex Education. This topic will be supported by previous learning and will have an emphasis on the changes the body goes through during puberty as well as what healthy relationships look like.</p>
<p>RE and Collective Worship</p> 	<p>Our Collective Worship Programme will include links to multi-cultural festivals, reflection about ways to be ready, respectful and safe in school along with celebration of achievement.</p> <p>Within our RE lessons we will be focusing on the Christian faith this term and will be looking at the question: 'What is the Trinity and why is it important to Christians?'</p> <p>Additionally, we will look at the role of gods during the Shang period and the impact they had on the culture and lifestyle at the time. As well as this we will be exploring what Hindus believe God is like.</p>
<p>PE</p>	<p>This year, children will need to bring their PE kits into school on their PE days and change in class. Please ensure your child's PE kit is clearly labelled and in school each week. In PE this term, children will develop their fitness and stamina through a variety of sessions which will focus</p>

	<p>on spatial awareness, agility and teamwork. In class, children will have opportunities to be active by taking part in wake and shake, Jump Start Jonny and GoNoodle activities. Additionally, they will be completing the daily mile in the afternoon.</p>
<p>French</p> 	<p>In French, children will be developing their vocabulary meeting and greeting others, as well as recalling numbers from 0-30. The children will use this French number knowledge to complete maths equations and be able to say the date in French. The children will develop their speaking and listening skills and will be able to hold conversations about themselves with their peers.</p>
<p>Ready, Respectful, Safe</p> 	<p>Our school rules are based on Ready, Respectful, Safe. Please refer to the 'Managing and Supporting Positive Behaviour Policy' for additional information about behaviour expectations at Oakwood.</p> <p>In class, teachers will be using the Recognition Board to promote positive behaviour. This is a great way to reinforce the behaviour and actions expected in the classroom, and provides an opportunity to celebrate the children's positive actions.</p>

Parent information for this term

Teachers in the Year 4:



Miss Kelly
Lagan Class



Miss Hoppins
Trent Class

What to bring to school each day:

Your child should bring their reading books, reading diary and book bag to school each day. We aim to change your child's book once a week, they can also take a library book home. Please note that no new library book will be allocated until the previous one has been returned to school.

Water bottle:

Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school every day.

Homework:

We will be focussing on reading for the start of this term so please read with your child regularly. We will also be sending weekly spellings home with your child each Friday which they will be tested on in the following week. Please ensure these are practiced daily alongside their times tables.

Communications on the School Website

Please keep informed about dates, events and information by visiting our school website regularly. If you go to the school website and select the **Parent** tab at the top, this is the place where you will find all the newsletters, letters, forms and school dinner menu.

Contacting your child's teacher

At the start of the day your child's teacher will be supervising the safe entrance of all children into the class, if you have information to pass on, please email or call the school, and someone can deal with your query or question as soon as possible.

We are extremely excited for the year ahead and can't wait for all of the successes we will be sharing with your children in school. If you need any support with any of your child's learning or have any questions, please do contact us and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support.