



Spring 2



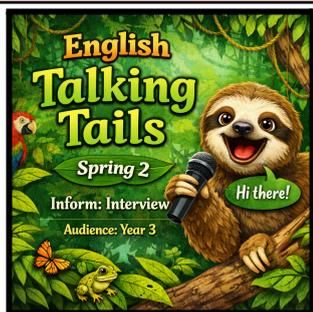
CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a wonderful half term break! Welcome back to the children's Spring term 2. Please don't forget, we post weekly website updates on our year group page too.

YEAR 5!

English



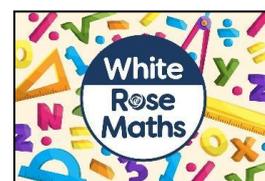
This half term, Year 5 will take on an exciting new English unit called *Talking Tails*. Using Andy Seed's animal interview books as inspiration, the children will learn how to write effective interview-style questions and answers. Throughout the unit, they will explore the characteristics and personalities of rainforest animals, thinking carefully about how each animal might speak and behave. They will then apply this knowledge by writing their own animal interviews, ensuring the responses clearly show character and personality. Writing skills will include using relative clauses, varying sentence structures, and experimenting with semi-colons and parenthesis to enhance meaning and improve the quality of their writing.

Reading



In Reading, the children will dive deeply into *Crater Lake*, uncovering the storyline step by step and discussing key events as they unfold. They will explore the characters in detail, using clues from the text to infer thoughts, feelings, and motivations. Alongside prediction and summarising skills, they will study additional texts to broaden their understanding, learning about a range of rainforest animals. This will help them make meaningful connections between fiction and the wider world.

Maths



In Maths, we will begin by completing our next Fractions B unit, learning how to multiply and divide fractions. Next, we will explore Decimals and Percentages, where the class will learn what percent means, how to work out percentage increases and decreases. They will then relate this to decimals to explore the relationship between the two. Throughout the unit, we carry out Flashback 4 questions at the beginning of lessons to recap on previous learning and ensure any gaps in learning are filled. It is a good chance for children to refresh their memories on procedures and run through learning again.

Science



In Science, the children will be continuing to explore **Properties and Materials**, developing a deeper understanding of how different materials behave and why they are chosen for specific uses. They will study reversible and irreversible changes, observing these through simple investigations. They will also use common indicators to identify irreversible changes, building strong scientific reasoning and confidence in explaining their findings.

History

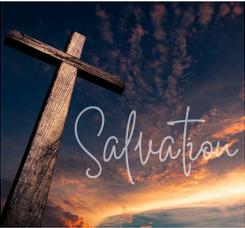


Having covered the Shang Dynasty last term, we will be taking a break from History during the Spring term. We will recap key historical information to refresh ourselves on the Shang in the meantime!

Geography



In our Rainforest unit, children will continue to explore the layers and physical features of these unique ecosystems. We explore sustainability and human impact on the rainforest. The unit includes engaging activities to deepen understanding of biodiversity and conservation. As a highlight, the classes will visit the Living Rainforest, giving children the opportunity to see rainforest plants and animals firsthand and connect their learning to real-world environments.

Music	Art	DT
		
<p>In Music, children will continue developing their ukulele skills by learning new chords for familiar songs. They will explore different strumming patterns and the “chuck” technique to add rhythm and texture to their playing. Children will rehearse and perform songs, including “You Are My Sunshine,” focusing on accuracy, timing, and expression. This unit encourages creativity, listening skills, and confidence in performance, while providing opportunities to experiment with musical techniques and develop a deeper understanding of rhythm and melody.</p>	<p>In Art, children will complete some lessons to recap over previous learning based on our assessment data. Our main focus for Spring 2 is the DT unit but we complete a range of Art sessions to ensure learning is not forgotten.</p>	<p>In Spring 2, the children complete their unit ‘Eat the Seasons’. In this unit, the children will learn about the importance of eating seasonally and how different foods grow best at certain times of the year. They will explore the nutritional value of food and understand why fresh, seasonal vegetables are healthier and better for the environment. The children will also learn about food hygiene, safe preparation techniques such as peeling, grating and dicing, and cooking methods including boiling and sautéing. They will apply this knowledge by designing and making their own soups using seasonal vegetables to demonstrate their understanding.</p>
Computing	R.E	PSHE
		
<p>Our unit is titled ‘Creating Media’. In this unit, the children will explore how different types of media are created and how they can be used to communicate messages effectively. They will learn about planning, storyboarding and designing content for a specific purpose and audience. The children will develop their skills in filming, photography and digital editing, while also learning how to use technology safely and responsibly. They will apply their understanding by creating their own media projects, using sound, images and text to present information clearly and creatively.</p>	<p>In RE, children will be completing a unit on ‘Salvation’. We start by exploring the meaning of <i>salvation</i> then put this into different contexts including the Christian Story. We will then use this learning to evaluate the value of salvation to Christians. Children will partake in a range of discussions to explore how they can apply salvation to their own lives and what they believe ‘being saved’ could look like in their own experience. Finally, we apply our learning exploring how salvation affects ours and others’ lives.</p>	<p>In PSHE, children will explore the “Healthy Me” unit. The children will explore ways to take care of their physical and emotional health. They will learn about making healthy lifestyle choices, including nutrition, exercise, sleep, and managing screen time. The unit also covers understanding and managing feelings, dealing with peer pressure, and making safe choices. Through discussion, reflection, and activities, children will develop skills to keep themselves healthy, build self-confidence, and understand the importance of looking after their bodies and minds in everyday life.</p>

PE AND OUTDOOR LEARNING

During the spring 2 half term, the children will be completing one PE lesson and one outdoor learning lesson each week.

The PE lesson will be Floorball in which the children learn to use extension with skill, control and coordination to overcome an opponent in a competitive team game. Children will also use tactical knowledge to make a plan to aid them in their game to achieve success.

P.E. kit:

- ✓ White t-shirt
- ✓ Black or navy jogging bottoms (winter)
- ✓ Plain dark-coloured hoodie or sweatshirt
- ✓ Plimsolls (for indoor P.E)
- ✓ Trainers
- ✓ Hair tied back
- ✓ Earrings out
- ✓ Waterproof trousers (for outdoor learning)

✓ Wellies (for wet outdoor learning)

Please note that if children do not come with the correct outdoor learning kit and suitable footwear then they will not be able to take part in these sessions.

Coming up...



Home Learning



Living Rainforest Y5 Trip:

Thursday 5th March. Please see email correspondence for details.

Parents' Evening:

Monday 2nd March
Wednesday 4th March

Maths homework:

Maths homework is up on Atom Learning every Monday and is due on Friday. The videos and slideshows that are attached to their homework assignments are there to support the children if they are stuck, however, we will only set work that we have already taught in our lessons.

English homework:

English homework is up on Atom Learning every Wednesday and is due on Tuesday. Again, the videos and slideshows are there to support the children if they are stuck, but we only ever set work that we have already taught in lessons.

Reading diaries:

The children are expected to read at least 3 times per week but are encouraged to read more than this, if possible. Reading diaries are due on Mondays and the Reading Hut is then available on particular days for children to read at these times if they haven't been able to read during the week. Children are also encouraged to visit the Reading Hut even if they have managed to record their reading at home, and many of the children in the year group choose to do this as they enjoy the peaceful and calming environment.

Contact us



How can you help?



If there is anything you wish to discuss with us regarding the information on this newsletter; or if you have any further queries or concerns regarding your child's experience at school, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

Class 9

Mrs Meghan Tamsett-Tate
m.tamsett@oakridge-jun.hants.sch.uk

Mrs Laura Oswald
l.oswald@oakridge-jun.hants.sch.uk

Class 8

Miss Natassia Brown
n.brown@oakridge-jun.hants.sch.uk

Class 7

Mrs Laura Gilchrist
l.gilchrist@oakridge-jun.hants.sch.uk

In order to help support your child at home, please consider the following:

Reading with your child:

Reading with your child at home is so important and helps support the work we are doing with them in school. Reading diaries are expected to be handed in every Monday to show their reading progress.

TT Rockstars:

Practice on TT Rockstars helps the children to learn and practice their times tables as well as improve their speed. Supporting the children to get on TT Rockstars and practice as much as possible is extremely beneficial for their progression in maths.

Homework:

Homework is set each week so please ensure your children are completing this. It shows them the teaching through videos and diagrams so the children can learn and practice the skills we have already covered in class.

As always, we thank you for your continued support. Our door is open should you have any queries or concerns.

Best wishes,

The Year 5 Team