

SPRING 1 TERM

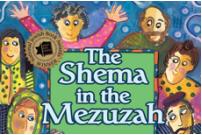
CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Welcome back!

Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed some quality family time. The children have returned full of energy and have quickly settled back into school life. This half term is full of exciting learning, including geography, magnets in science, and a creative DT project. As always, thank you for your continued support – we're looking forward to a fantastic start to 2026!

Year 3

English	Reading	Maths
		
his half term, the children will be using the book <i>The Great Bear</i> as inspiration for their non-fiction writing. They will learn technical vocabulary and explore life in the Arctic to help them write an engaging recount from the perspective of a polar bear. Through this unit, children will focus on developing sentence structure, organising ideas into paragraphs, and using time adverbials and conjunctions to sequence and connect their writing. The unit supports both creative thinking and factual writing, helping children to inform and engage their reader with clarity and detail.	The children will continue to follow the Little Wandle reading programme, reading books matched to their current level. As the term progresses, many children will begin to move beyond Little Wandle books, accessing longer texts and placing more focus on reading comprehension. They will explore a range of genres while developing key skills such as fluency, prosody (reading with expression), and understanding of more complex texts. Children will continue to read in small, adult-led groups three times a week. Regular reading at home remains vital in supporting your child's confidence, vocabulary and love of reading.	This half term, the children will continue building on their multiplication and division knowledge in our <i>Multiplication and Division B</i> unit. They will focus on related calculations, problem solving and understanding how to use known facts to work out new ones. Later in the term, we'll begin our <i>Length and Perimeter</i> unit, where the children will learn how to measure, compare and calculate length in metres and centimetres, and use this to solve perimeter problems. These units help develop their fluency, reasoning and confidence when working with numbers and measurements
Science	French	Geography
		
This term, the children will be exploring the exciting topic of <i>Forces and Magnets</i> . They will begin by investigating how objects move, focusing on pushes, pulls, and the effect of friction on different surfaces. As the unit progresses, the children will explore the fascinating world of magnets – identifying magnetic materials, experimenting with magnetic strength, and observing how magnets attract and repel without touching. This half term, we will complete the first part of the unit, with the remaining lessons continuing after the break. Hands-on investigations will support the children in developing curiosity and key scientific skills.	This half term in French, the children will be learning vocabulary for ten common fruits. They will practise saying and recognising each fruit through games, repetition and listening activities to build accurate pronunciation. As the unit progresses, they will learn how to change fruit words from singular to plural and begin forming simple sentences. The children will also learn to share their opinions by saying which fruits they like using <i>J'aime...</i> and which they do not like using <i>Je n'aime pas...</i> Towards the end of the unit, they will take part in short speaking tasks where they ask and answer questions about their fruit preferences.	This half term, the children will begin our exciting new geography unit <i> Rocks, Relics and Rumbles</i> . They'll start by learning about the Earth's structure, identifying the different layers and how tectonic plates shape the surface of our planet. The children will explore the types of rocks and soils found in different environments and begin to understand the processes behind earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. We'll complete up to Develop Lesson 4 and the mid-point assessment this half term, with the remainder of the unit continuing after the break.

Music	Art	DT
		
<p>This term, the children will be exploring <i>The Carnival of the Animals</i> by Camille Saint-Saëns. They will respond creatively to the music, listening closely to how different instruments represent animals through timbre, tempo, and dynamics. The children will enjoy following an imaginative story that brings each animal to life, helping them to build musical vocabulary and deepen their understanding of how music can be used to tell a story and create mood.</p>	<p>This term, the children will continue their <i>Colour Theory</i> unit by exploring how artists use colour in different ways. They will compare famous artworks and discuss the effects of colour choices, developing their ability to use artistic vocabulary. Following this, they'll choose a painting to study more closely, identify the types of colours used, and practise mixing and recording similar shades in their sketchbooks. These lessons help the children build their understanding of colour, improve their painting skills, and prepare them for future creative challenges where they'll apply what they've learned in their own artwork.</p>	<p>This term, the children will be exploring movement and mechanisms in our engaging DT unit <i>Making it Move</i>. They will learn how simple mechanical systems like levers and linkages can be used to create motion in a design. After looking at real-life examples, the children will design and build their own moving picture or scene using card, split pins, and carefully positioned joins. This will involve experimenting with different ways to strengthen their structures and ensure they move as intended. Throughout the process, they'll be encouraged to problem-solve, test, and improve their designs – <i>developing both creativity and resilience</i>.</p>
Computing	R.E	PSHE
		
<p>This half term, the children will begin an exciting new unit on emailing. They will learn how email works, practise writing and responding to messages safely, and understand the importance of online etiquette. As part of this unit, the children will access the school's Gmail system – but only during lesson time and with supervision. They'll explore how emails can include attachments, recognise how to stay safe online, and begin to understand how digital communication supports everyday life.</p>	<p>This term in RE, the children will be exploring the concept of Identity through the Jewish traditions of the Shema and the Mezuzah. They will begin by thinking about their own identity and what helps make them who they are. The children will then learn about how Jewish people express their identity through their faith, particularly by displaying the Mezuzah at home and reciting the Shema. As they move through the unit, they'll compare their own experiences with those of others and reflect on why it's important to respect and understand what different people value and believe.</p>	<p>In PSHE this half term, the children will explore the theme <i>Celebrating Difference</i>. They will reflect on what makes each person unique and learn to appreciate the importance of kindness, respect and empathy. Through discussion and activities, the children will consider how to challenge unkind behaviour such as bullying and recognise the strengths in themselves and others. The unit encourages children to value difference and understand how to build positive relationships both in and out of school.</p>

<p>Each week, the children take part in two PE sessions with our sports coaches – Coach Jordan, Coach James, and Coach Grace.</p> <p>During the autumn and summer terms, one of these sessions takes place in our outdoor learning area, where children develop important skills such as teamwork, resilience, and strategic thinking.</p> <p>This half term in PE, the children will focus on Dance. They will use movement patterns with control, coordination and balance, working both individually and in groups. As the unit progresses, children will build confidence performing sequences in time with music and develop a short routine. They'll be encouraged to express themselves creatively, exploring how movement reflects rhythm, mood and storytelling. The unit supports physical development and teamwork, helping children to perform confidently alongside their peers.</p>	<p>P.E kit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White t-shirt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black or navy jogging bottoms (winter) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black or navy shorts (summer) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plain dark coloured hoodie or sweatshirt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plimsolls (for indoor P.E) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trainers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hair tied back <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Earrings out <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterproof trousers (for outdoor learning) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wellies 
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Coming up...



Home Learning



Monday 5th January
Sports clubs begin this week.

Monday 12th January
Teacher-led clubs start this week.

Please continue to check Arbor messages and emails for any updates or additional events throughout the half term.

Maths homework:

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

English homework:

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

Reading diaries:

The children are expected to read at least three times per week and are encouraged to aim for five. Reading diaries should be handed in every Monday. The reading hut will be open on set days for children to read if they haven't completed their diary or would like extra time to enjoy books in school.

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 1
Mr Cameron
s.cameron@oakridge-inf.hants.sch.uk

Class 2
Miss Davies
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Class 3
Miss Cryer
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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.

Many thanks for your continued support,
Year 3 team