



CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a wonderful Christmas break and wish you all a Happy New Year! Welcome back to the children's Spring term 1. Please don't forget, we post weekly website updates on our year group page too.

YEAR 5!

English	Reading	Maths
<p>In our English unit, <i>The Explorer</i>, children will immerse themselves in rich storytelling as they plan and write their own captivating narratives inspired by the book. They will experiment with varied sentence structures, building confidence in crafting both simple and more complex sentences to enhance clarity and flow. We will also explore techniques for creating atmosphere—using descriptive language, sensory detail, and thoughtful pacing—so that their writing feels vivid, engaging, and full of adventure.</p>	<p>In Reading, the children will dive deeply into <i>The Explorer</i>, 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 real-life explorers from history. This will help them make meaningful connections between fiction and the wider world.</p>	<p>In Maths, we will begin by completing our Fractions unit, ensuring children feel secure with key concepts before moving on. Next, we will explore Multiplication and Division B, where the class will learn efficient written methods for calculating and then apply these skills to real-life scenarios and reasoning challenges. After this, we will return to fractions, extending their understanding by multiplying and calculating with fractions, following the progression of the White Rose Maths curriculum to build confidence and depth.</p>
Science	History	Geography
<p>In Science, the children will be exploring Properties and Materials, developing a deeper understanding of how different materials behave and why they are chosen for specific uses. They will investigate mixtures and learn practical methods for separating them, including sieving, filtration, and evaporation. As the unit progresses, 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.</p>	<p>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!</p>	<p>In our Rainforest unit, children will explore the layers and physical features of these unique ecosystems. They will investigate how plants and animals adapt to survive and consider sustainability and human impact on the rainforest. The unit includes engaging activities to deepen understanding of biodiversity and conservation. As a highlight, the class will visit the Living Rainforest, giving children the opportunity to see rainforest plants and animals firsthand and connect their learning to real-world environments.</p>

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 explore the visual qualities of line, light, and shadow. They will study the work of artists such as Pablo Picasso and Rembrandt, learning a range of shading techniques. As part of the project, children will take black-and-white photographs and use pencil, pen, and ink wash to reimagine their images as detailed shaded drawings. This unit encourages creativity, careful observation, and experimentation with different artistic techniques to develop individual expression.</p>	<p>Our next DT unit will be taking place in Spring 2. This project teaches children about the meaning and benefits of seasonal eating, including food preparation and cooking techniques.</p>
Computing	R.E	PSHE
		
<p>In Computing, children will explore how the Mars Rover collects and transmits data back to Earth, considering the challenges involved. They will learn to identify input, processing, and output on the Rover and read numbers in binary up to eight bits. Using the column method, they will add two 8-bit binary numbers and connect binary signals to simple character-based language, such as ASCII. This unit develops computational thinking, problem-solving skills, and understanding of how data drives technology.</p>	<p>In RE, children will explore places of worship and their significance across different religions. They will investigate key features that make a place sacred and consider why these spaces are important to communities. As part of the unit, children will design and explain their own sacred place, reflecting on the elements that make it special. Through comparing sacred places around the world, they will develop an understanding of diverse beliefs and the meanings behind religious spaces.</p>	<p>In PSHE, children will explore the “Dreams and Goals” unit, focusing on future aspirations and career ideas. They will learn about motivation, setting personal targets, and developing the skills needed for success. The unit also incorporates mindfulness and emotional literacy, helping children build resilience, self-esteem, and a positive mindset. Through discussion, reflection, and practical activities, children will understand how to overcome challenges, stay motivated, and work towards their goals as part of a whole-school approach to PSHE.</p>

P.E AND OUTDOOR LEARNING

Every week, the children have two P.E. sessions with our sports coaches, Coach Jordan, Coach James and Coach Grace.

During the spring term, the children will be completing two PE lessons each week. The first will be Fitness and Circuit training where the children will build on their stamping and learn a range of fitness training techniques alongside knowledge.

P.E. kit:

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



The second will be Dance. The children will work on following and memorising a specific routine from week to week with high levels of coordination, control and balance. They will have opportunities to create their own dance patterns to rehearsed songs.

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



INSET Day:

Friday 30th January

Half Term:

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February

Living Rainforest Y5 Trip:

Thursday 5th March. More information on this to be released in Spring 1.

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