

Oak Class

Spring Term Newsletter 2026

Welcome to the Spring Term. We have got lots of exciting activities planned for the children. Our main text in Literacy is 'Pig Heart Boy', written by Malorie Blackman. If you would like to purchase a copy for your child to use in school, that would be really helpful, although there is no obligation. (If you wish to read other recommended books with your child, please see below, along with the main themes of learning so that you may encourage the children at home with their studies at home.)

Other links will be made across our Science topic; 'How does your heart work and why is it so important?' topic. Our history topic explores, 'Who were the Maya and what did we learn from them?' Geography work is linked to map skills. In Art, we explore the work of Georgia O'Keefe, concentrating on sketches and in DT, we will be sewing.

Work in Mathematics will include for Y5: Multiplication and division, Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Perimeter and Area and Statistics, and for Y6: Ratio, Algebra, Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Area and Perimeter, Volume and Statistics. Mathletics is an excellent curriculum resource which I would encourage you to utilise at home with the children to complement work being taught in the classroom. Children can log on wherever they have use of the internet. All children have usernames and passwords in their reading diary. Please encourage your child to practise maths topics at home. We are working through times tables, which we practise most days in school. Again, it would be helpful if you could support your child by helping them to learn these. They need to be able to answer lots of quick-fire multiplication and division questions in a short time to be able to progress to the next level. Most of us know our tables quite well but need to get much faster at recalling the answers! 'Hit the Button' is a great online free resource.

Please keep reading diaries up to date when you hear your children read daily. Reading Eggs is another highly useful resource which can be assessed at home as well as in school. There is a huge selection of books to read and quizzes to complete to help improve your child's reading ages. The children continue to be given given new spellings every Monday, to learn for a test on the following Monday. These are the Y5 and Y6 recommended words, which the children all have a copy of in their spelling books and Reading Diaries. (You can also find the lists on the website.) Please support the children by helping them to practise these at home.

PE will continue to be on Tuesdays (with Mr Mitchell) and Thursdays (with Miss Bateman). Children wearing suitable PE kits to school on both of those days is working well. Please ensure earrings are removed on PE days.

Please see our Knowledge grids below containing the main themes of learning so that you can support your children at home:

History Years 5/6 Knowledge Organiser

Main Learning: Civilisations – The Maya

Key knowledge
Know about the Maya and what they gave society
Know what was happening in Britain when the Maya were at their most powerful
Know how different the Mayan and the Egyptian pyramids were
Know how the Mayan belief in Gods created a culture of sacrifice
Understand how the pok-ta-pok Mayan game could be described as the earliest football match
Understand why the Mayan civilisation died out

Vocabulary	
Chichen Itza	The most well-known Mayan pyramid
Itzamna	The main god of the Maya, Itzamna was the god of fire who created the Earth
codices	Books, made of soft bark and folded like a fan, created by the Maya
ahau or ahaw	The main king or lord of a Mayan city-state
batab	A lesser lord, usually ruling over a small town
Kukulcan	The serpent god of the Maya. One of the primary gods, especially to the Itza peoples of Chichen Itza



	Prior Knowledge–
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Science Years 5/6 Knowledge Organiser

Main Learning: Circulatory system

Key knowledge
Know about the function of the heart and the importance of blood in keeping us alive
Identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system
Know the function of the heart, blood vessels and blood
Know the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on health
Know the ways in which nutrients and water are transported in animals, including humans
Know who William Harvey was

Vocabulary	
atria	The two uppermost chambers of the heart. Blood is pushed from the atria to the ventricles.
cardiovascular	The blood circulatory system (cardiovascular system) delivers nutrients and oxygen to all cells in the body
capillaries	Are very thin blood vessels. They bring nutrients and oxygen to tissues and remove waste products
pulse	Your heart has to push so much blood through your body that you can feel a little thump in your arteries each time the heart beats
ventricles	The two lower chambers in the heart
blood vessels	A series of tubes inside your body. They move blood to and from your heart



	Prior Knowledge–
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Geography Years 5/6 Knowledge Organiser

Main Learning: Mapping

Key knowledge
Know how to find my way around
Know what Digimap is and use it to know more about our area
Use Google Earth to help us know more about the Earth's continents
Know what an Ordnance Survey map is and what the symbols stand for
Know how to use a six-figure grid reference system
Know how to conduct a survey and present my findings appropriately

Vocabulary	
Ordnance Survey	An Ordnance Survey map is a detailed map produced by the mapping agency of the United Kingdom (UK)
grid reference	Numerical grid references consist of an even number of digits. Eastings are written before Northings
aerial photograph	Aerial photography is the taking of photographs of the ground from an elevated/direct-down position
time zones	Time zones give specific areas on the Earth a time of day that is earlier or later than the neighbouring time zones
map symbol	Used to represent real objects. Both shapes and colours can be used for symbols on maps
cartography	The study of maps and map-making. Someone who makes maps is called a cartographer



	<p>Prior Knowledge—</p>
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If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs T. Francis