



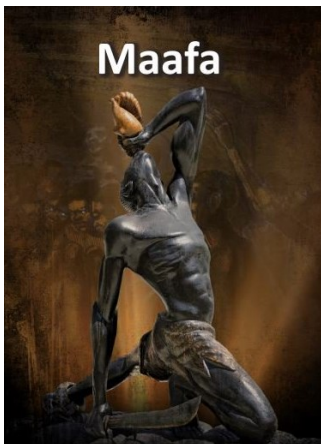
Desert Class: Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 1 2022

Welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing holiday and are now ready to start the new school year. We have had a great few days and it has been lovely getting to know our new Year 6s. Here is some information about our units of learning over this half term.

General Class Information

- *All of the children have now got their new reading books and Reading Records (monkey books). Reading Records will come home at the end of the school day and need to return to school the next morning.
- *The children have stuck their log ons for the online learning platforms in the front of their Reading Records. Please encourage them to use these at home as much as possible.
- *Homework will be set on a Friday and needs to be completed by the following Thursday. Please see the homework expectations set out below.
- *Children need to come into school in their PE kits on Mondays and Tuesdays, starting next week.
- *We will be using our Playground Fitness Track on the playground at various points throughout the week. Children are welcome to bring their trainers in their school bags ready for these sessions if they wish but do not have to.
- *The children brought home the new Home School Agreement this week. We have looked at this in school and the children have signed it. Please can you read it and sign it also.



Our exciting new topic: Maafa

This project teaches children about Africa past and present and the development of the slave trade. It also explores Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, the causes and consequences of the European colonisation of Africa and the worldwide communities that make up the African diaspora.

Our class novel that we will be studying is called 'Freedom'.

Synopsis: An enslaved Jamaican boy is separated from his family and taken to work in England. His owners, the Barratts, treat him cruelly but he is determined to escape and earn the money needed to buy his family's freedom. While in London, he attends the Zong slave ship's court hearing and learns about the horrors that took place on board.



Reading

The children in Years 5 & 6 are expected to read at home several times a week (if possible, on a daily basis). Some children may still enjoy reading to an adult and need this support, whereas others may be able and happy to read independently. However, to develop their comprehension skills it is still important that they read with an adult so that a discussion can take place. Here are some example questions which you may wish to use to help to develop your child's understanding of a text:

What has happened in the story so far? (summarise)

How is ? (a character) feeling? Why? How do you know?

Why did ? (a character) behave / act in that way?

What do you think might happen next?

Why is the book structured in this way?

Can you find a word/phrase which means ...?

Who would you recommend this book to? Why?

I am more than happy for the child or adult to write in their reading records. Reading records should be written in at least once a week (by the child or adult).

SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar)

The SPaG curriculum will be taught in discrete lessons and then these skills revisited and applied in any writing activities across the curriculum and the children's independent longer writing pieces.

The children will have spellings set each Friday which they must practise and learn at home. It is the children's choice how they practise these at home – some may find writing them down over and over beneficial whereas others may prefer to practise verbally. In school, they will complete activities to support them in learning these words also in our multi-sensory spelling sessions.

These are practical activities which could be used at home also.

Here are some examples:

- Using an empty washing up liquid bottle – fill it with water and the children squirt their spelling word onto the tarmac or patio
- Finger painting
- Writing their spelling words in playdough – using an old key or edge of a fork
- Running in the shape of the letters
- Using scrabble letters to create the word
- Over-write – writing the word over and over on top of each other in different colours

As long as the spellings are learnt, I don't mind how they do this!

They will have a spelling test each Friday to check they know these spellings words. Spelling is a large chunk of the SPaG curriculum and SAT tests so please support and encourage your child in learning their spellings each week. Once learnt, they must also keep re-visiting the spelling words to ensure that they retain them over longer periods of time.

Handwriting - please see the separate information provided.

Numeracy – Times Tables

All children in Years 5 & 6 should know all of their times tables up to 12×12 . They should now be improving their speed of recall. The children in Years 5 and 6 must practice their times tables at home regularly - in the car on the way to school or walking to school is a perfect opportunity for quick fire times tables questions ☺

They will have a times tables test each Friday. There are some really good websites available to support children in practicing their times tables. Every child in Desert class has a subscription on Times Tables Rock Stars. Please encourage your child to make use of this as much as possible to become even speedier at recalling them!

Here are some recommendations of other websites:

- ✓ www.timestables.co.uk
- ✓ <https://www.arcademics.com/games/>

This website is great and I have used this for many years. There are lots of different maths games on here but I have always used it for times tables practice. Some of the children's favourites are:

Grand Prix

http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/grand_prix/grand_prix.html

Meteor Multiplication

<http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/meteor/meteor.html>

Penguin Jump

<http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/penguin-jump/penguin-jump.html>

Space Race

<http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/space-race/space-race.html>

Swimming Otters

<http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/swimming-otters/swimming-otters.html>

Tractor Multiplication

<http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/tractor-multiplication/tractor-multiplication.html>

- ✓ Top Marks – Hit The Button activities (times tables and other number skills)
- ✓ Woodlands Primary School have links to some useful websites
<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>



Numeracy

Throughout the whole school (from Years 1 to 6), we follow White Rose maths. I have included below the unit headings as well as further information about the lessons within each unit for the Year 6 curriculum.

Autumn Block 2 – Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

Autumn Block 1 – Place Value

Step 1 Numbers to 1,000,000

Step 2 Numbers to 10,000,000

Step 3 Read and write numbers to 10,000,000

Step 4 Powers of 10

Step 5 Number line to 10,000,000

Step 6 Compare and order any integers

Step 7 Round any integer

Step 8 Negative numbers

Please note –

There are some children in the class who are not ready to follow the year 6 maths curriculum. I will speak to parents on an individual basis to discuss the learning most appropriate for your child. I will endeavour to do this within the first couple weeks of term.

Maths Homework

Homework will be set on Sunday every Friday for the children to complete at home by the following Thursday.

This work will link to the lessons taught during that week so is important to consolidate your child's learning from school.

Step 1 Add and subtract integers

Step 2 Common factors

Step 3 Common multiples

Step 4 Rules of divisibility

Step 5 Primes to 100

Step 6 Square and cube numbers

Step 7 Multiply up to a 4-digit number by a 2-digit number

Step 8 Solve problems with multiplication

Step 9 Short division

Step 10 Division using factors

Step 11 Introduction to long division

Step 12 Long division with remainders

Step 13 Solve problems with division

Step 14 Solve multi-step problems

Step 15 Order of operations

Step 16 Mental calculations and estimation

Step 17 Reason from known facts

R.E.

Mrs Higgs will be teaching R.E. on Thursdays. Our unit in RE this half term is based on the Gospel teachings. The children will be investigating 'What would Jesus do?' and learn to make connections between Gospel texts, Jesus' good news, and how Christians live in the Christian community.

Music

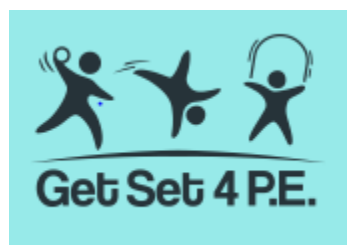


Mrs Higgs will be teaching music on Thursdays. In Music we are using Charanga's 'New Music Model Curriculum Scheme' and have an exciting new topic for the Year 5 and 6 children called 'Getting Started with Music Technology'. In this unit the children will learn about all the Foundational Elements of Music with a focus on music technology. They will also learn how Technology has always been a part of music and has played an important part in the way music has evolved over time.

P.E.

Please can the children wear PE kits into school on Mondays and Tuesdays, starting Week 2, Monday 12th September.

In week 3, we will be starting our swimming lessons. The children in Years 4, 5 & 6 will take part in swimming lessons this year in the Autumn Term at Bryanston School. These children will be split into 4 swimming ability groups. 2 of these groups will swim for the first 5 swimming sessions and the other 2 groups will swim for the second 5 swimming lessons. When the children are not going swimming, they will stay in school and take part in their PE lesson during the afternoon.



<u>AUTUMN TERM 1</u>	MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
Curriculum PE Block 1	OAA or Swimming	OAA	
Curriculum PE Block 2	Gymnastics or Swimming	Gymnastics	
3.15 – 4.15pm After school club			Football (Years 4, 5 & 6)

OAA = Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

Pupils develop teamwork skills through completion of a number of challenges. Pupils work individually, collaboratively in pairs and groups to solve problems. They are encouraged to be inclusive of others, share ideas to create strategies and plans to produce the best solution to a challenge. Pupils are also given the opportunity to lead a small group. Pupils learn to orientate and navigate using a map.

Gymnastics

In this unit, pupils create longer sequences individually, with a partner and a small group. They learn a wider range of actions such as inverted movements to include cartwheels and handstands. They explore partner relationships such as canon and synchronisation and matching and mirroring. Pupils are given opportunities to receive and provide feedback in order to make improvements on their performances. In Gymnastics as a whole, pupils develop performance skills considering the quality and control of their actions.

Languages - French

In Desert Class, French is going to be taught by specialist French teachers from Shaftesbury School, Mr Gardiner and Miss Edwards. They will be coming to our school on Wednesday afternoons to deliver these lessons.

For the first half term, the focus will be

- * Review greetings
- * Simple questions and answers
- * Numbers 1 – 20
- * Months / days of the week / birthdays
- * Shops in French town



Jigsaw



PSHE Education (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) is a planned programme of learning through which children and young people acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to successfully manage their lives – now and in the future. As part of a whole-school approach, PSHE Education develops the qualities and attributes pupils need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

Our first Jigsaw unit is 'Being Me in My World'. This unit covers a wide range of topics, including a sense of belonging, welcoming others and being part of a school community, a wider community, and a global community; it also looks at children's rights and responsibilities, working and socialising with others, and pupil voice.



Teaching Team in Desert Class

We warmly welcome Mrs Greenland to our Desert Class team.

The general structure of the teaching timetable is mapped out below.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class Teacher	Mrs Vail	Mrs Vail	Am - Mrs Vail Pm – (Mrs Vail - PPA) French teachers: Mr Gardiner / Miss Edwards Mrs Panther or Mrs Whitehouse-Sharpe	Mrs Higgs	Mrs Vail
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Wood Mrs Greenland	Mrs Wood Mrs Greenland	Mrs Wood Mrs Greenland	Mrs Wood Mrs Greenland	Mrs Wood Mrs Greenland

Homework

Year 5 and 6 children are expected to complete 15 – 25 minutes of homework each day to support, consolidate and extend their learning in school. Your support with homework is essential and plays a key part in your child's learning.

Reading at home Children should be reading books at home regularly – ideally every evening. This extends their vocabulary and imaginations enormously! They can borrow books from the school library or choose to read books from home.	Thursday	Friday <u>Spelling Test & Times Tables Test in school</u>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please make sure homework books are back in school on Thursday.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Homework to be completed by the following Thursday each week.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ New spellings set A copy is sent home in your homework book so parents can help you practice these words at home – ideally this would be 5-10 minutes every day. ❖ Handwriting Task linked to spelling words ❖ New times tables set Times table focus is noted in your homework book so parents know which times tables you are on and can help you practice at home. ❖ Use Times Tables Rock Stars to practice set times tables in Garage & Arena 20 minutes minimum per week at home. ❖ Sundog Maths homework set linked to this week's focus in class. ❖ Write in your Reading Record (at least once a week) ❖ SPaG.com In year 6, the children need to consolidate their SPaG learning on a regular basis.

We have got a busy half term with lots to look forward to! Please come and ask if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything in more detail. At the end of the school day is best.

Kind regards, Mrs Sarah Vail and Mrs Higgs.