



Desert Class: Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 2 2022

Welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing half term week and are now ready to start our second Autumn half term. We had such a productive first half term and covered so much in our lessons! Please check our class page regularly – I always share our celebrations on a Friday as well as other bits too. <https://www.shillingstone.dorset.sch.uk/classes/desert/>

Here is some information about our units of learning over this half term.

General Class Information

Our current two swimming groups (groups 2 & 4) have 3 more swimming sessions left. We will then switch over to the other two groups (groups 1 & 3).

Groups 2 & 4	Groups 1 & 3
Autumn Term 1 – Monday 3 rd October ✓ Monday 10 th October ✓ Autumn Term 2 – Monday 31 st October Monday 7 th November Monday 14 th November	Autumn Term 2 – Monday 21 st November Monday 28 th November Monday 5 th December Tuesday 6 th December Tuesday 13 th September

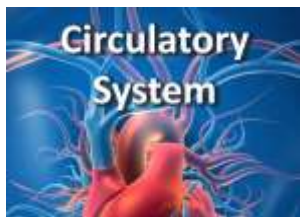

*Children need to come into school in their PE kits on Mondays and Tuesdays. If they are in the swimming group, they may choose to come to school in their school uniform instead (up to you, whichever is easier).



Topic Learning - Maafa

We have finished the history lessons linked to this topic and are over half way through our class text, Freedom. We will finish reading this text over the next few weeks.

During this second half term, we will be following the companion projects which focus on other subject areas. I have mapped out below my initial plan. We will see how we get on – there is a lot to fit in!

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7 (4 days)
Art & Design 	SCIENCE 		Design & Technology Food for Life 	GEOGRAPHY 		Art & Design Tints, Tones and Shades 

For each project, there is a Knowledge Organiser, detailing the information the children will be expected to learn during this unit of work. I will post these on our class page. Please read through these with your child at home and discuss the information provided.

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 3 – Fractions A

We have a few lessons left to cover before we move onto our next unit.

Step 6	Add and subtract any two fractions
Step 7	Add mixed numbers
Step 8	Subtract mixed numbers
Step 9	Multi-step problems

Autumn Block 4 – Fractions B

Step 1: Multiply fractions by integers

Step 2: Multiply fractions by fractions

Step 3: Divide a fraction by an integer

Step 4: Divide any fraction by an integer

Step 5: Mixed questions with fractions

Step 6: Fraction of an amount

Step 7: Fraction of an amount - find the whole

Please note –

There are some children in the class who are not ready to follow the year 6 maths curriculum. At parent evenings, I spoke to parents on an individual basis to discuss the learning most appropriate for your child. Your child's homework set on Sumdog will link to their learning in school.

Maths Homework

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

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

Autumn Block 5

– Measurement: Converting Units

Step 1: Metric measures

Step 2: Convert metric measures

Step 3: Calculate with metric measures

Step 4: Miles and kilometres

Step 5: Imperial measures

R.E.

Mrs Higgs will be teaching R.E. on Thursdays. This half term we are learning about the Islamic faith. Our key question is 'How does tawhid create a sense of belonging to the Muslim community?' The Muslim concept of TAWHID, which is the central belief that there is only ONE God, will be explored so that the pupils understand a Muslim's key beliefs about Allah. They will also learn about the five pillars of Islam and how the practice of each pillar makes a Muslim feel that they belong to their community (Ummah).

Music



Mrs Higgs will be teaching music on Thursdays. In Music, this half term, we are very fortunate to have some visiting musicians joining us to help us learn some festive songs in readiness for a Village Schools Choir Concert to be held at 'The Exchange' in Sturminster Newton on Sunday 6th December. We hope many children from both Arctic and Desert Classes will be able to join us for the event. Further details to follow shortly. In addition, the children will continue working on our previous half term's Charanga unit and develop their skills of improvising along to the music.

P.E.



<u>AUTUMN</u> <u>TERM 2</u>	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Curriculum PE Lessons	Gymnastics or Swimming	Yoga or Tag Rugby We started our first Yoga lesson in the last week of last half term. We will switch between these two units, depending on weather.

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.

Yoga

Pupils learn about mindfulness and body awareness. They learn yoga poses and techniques that will help them to connect their mind and body. The unit looks to improve well being by building strength, flexibility and balance. The learning includes breathing and meditation taught through fun and engaging activities. Pupils will be given the opportunity to work collaboratively with others and be given the opportunity to create their own flows and lead others.

Tag Rugby

In this unit pupils will develop key skills and principles such as defending, attacking, throwing, catching, running and dodging. When attacking, pupils will support the ball carrier using width and drawing defence. When defending, pupils learn how to tag, how to track and slow down an opponent, working as a defensive unit. They will play collaboratively in both uneven and then even sided games. Pupils will be encouraged to think about how to use skills, strategies and tactics to

outwit the opposition. They develop their understanding of the importance of fair play and honesty while self managing games, as well as developing their ability to evaluate their own and others' performances.

Languages - French

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

For the second half term, the focus will be

*Shopping for gifts:

Money / Shopping for gifts for Christmas / Shop vocabulary e.g. I would like ...

Can I have ... Do you have ? / Role plays & Listening activities

*Christmas in France



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 second Jigsaw unit is 'Celebrating Difference'. The children will learn about racism and how cultural differences can cause conflict. We will discuss how there is both direct and indirect bullying and discuss ways to encourage children who use bullying behaviours to make other choices.



Teaching Team in Desert Class

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 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. (Some children will have a SPaG task stuck into their homework books to complete instead of using SPaG.com)

As always, 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.

General Class Information from initial letter – to re-read if you missed anything ...

*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.

*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.



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 on our class page on the school website.

Numeracy – Times Tables

By the end of Year 4, all of the children should know all of their times tables up to 12 x 12. They should now be improving their speed of recall. The children 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>