



Desert Class: Curriculum Letter

Spring Term 1 2023

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and are now ready to start our new term. We had such a productive first 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/>

General Class Information – Dates to share...

To support the children in feeling confident and able to do their very best, we will spend some time preparing for the Year 6 SATs tests during this term.

The official tests themselves fall in Week 4 of Summer Term 1:

Date	Exam
Tuesday 9 May 2023	Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling - Paper 1 Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling - Paper 2
Wednesday 10 May 2023	English Reading
Thursday 11 May 2023	Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)
Friday 12 May 2023	Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

I will be holding a meeting for parents on **Tuesday 17th January 3.20 – 3.40pm** to talk through the purpose and importance of these tests for your child and how we will be preparing for these in school and how you can support your child at home.

Monday 8th May – extra Bank Holiday for the King's Coronation – NO SCHOOL

Monday 22nd May - Year 5 & 6 Day Visit to Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre

I have already started making plans for this and it is very exciting to be able to share this! We will need to leave school promptly at 8.20am and will return for 5.30pm. This will enable us to fit in all that I have planned! The children will take part in several activities during the day:

Offsite activities from Castle Cove Sailing Club -

*Tandem kayaks (sit on top – in pairs)

*Mega SUP (stand up paddleboards – up to 12 people on!)

Onsite activities -

*Indoor tunnelling and caving

*Indoor traverse climbing wall

*Outdoor climbing tower

The cost is likely to be around £50 per child. More details to follow nearer the time.

Year 6 Residential Trip – 2 nights – To Carey Education Centre, Wareham

Monday 26th June – leave school around 9am

Wednesday 28th June – return to school in the afternoon

The children will sleep outside in bell tents (usually 3 – 6 children per tent) for the 2 nights and will take part in outdoor activities on site over the 3 days. I hope the activities will include tree climbing,

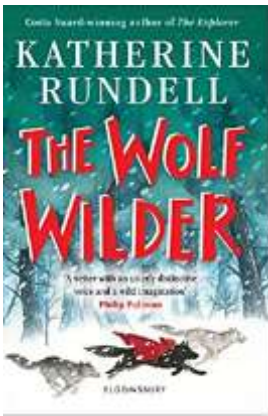
archery, tunnelling, low ropes and shelter building. The cost is likely to be around £170 per child. More details to follow.

Topic Learning – Frozen Kingdoms



This project teaches children about the characteristics and features of polar regions, including the North and South Poles, and includes a detailed exploration of the environmental factors that shape and influence them.

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



Novel Study – The Wolf Wilder

We will be reading and studying this book alongside our Topic, Frozen Kingdoms.

Synopsis -

Feo and her mother, Marina, live alone in the snowbound woods of Russia. They are wolf wilders (people who teach tamed wolves to live in the wild). When an infamous Russian general arrests Marina, Feo sets off on a quest to save her. With the help of her trusted wolves and a runaway Russian soldier, Feo travels across the frozen landscape and is swept up in the beginnings of a revolution.



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.

Spring Block 1 – Ratio

Step 1: Add or multiply?

Step 2: Use ratio language

Step 3: Introduction to the ratio symbol

Step 4: Ratio and fractions

Step 5: Scale drawing

Step 6: Use scale factors

Step 7: Similar shapes

Step 8: Ratio problems

Step 9: Proportion problems

Step 10: Recipes

Spring Block 2 – Algebra

Step 1: 1-step function machines

Step 2: 2-step function machines

Step 3: Form expressions

Step 4: Substitution

Step 5: Formulae

Step 6: Form equations

Step 7: Solve 1-step equations

Step 8: Solve 2-step equations

Step 9: Find pairs of values

Step 10: Solve problems with two unknowns

Spring Block 3 – Decimals

Step 1: Place value within 1

Step 2: Place value - integers and decimals

Step 3: Round decimals

Step 4: Add and subtract decimals

Step 5: Multiply by 10, 100 and 1,000

Step 6: Divide by 10, 100 and 1,000

Step 7: Multiply decimals by integers

Step 8: Divide decimals by integers

Step 9: Multiply and divide decimals in context

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.

R.E.

Mrs Higgs will be teaching R.E. on Thursdays. This half term we are learning about Judaism - Worship, pilgrimage, and sacred places. Our key question is "What is holiness for Jewish people: a place, a time, an object or something else?"

Music



Mrs Higgs will be teaching music on Thursdays. In Music, this half term, we are exploring key and time signatures. This Unit celebrates a wide range of musical styles as we learn about all the Foundational Elements of Music with a focus on key signatures and time signatures, while working implicitly with all the other elements of music as we go through the steps of the unit.

P.E.



<u>SPRING TERM 1</u>	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Yoga or Tag Rugby We will be finishing off these PE units and covering one more lesson for each activity - depending on the weather will depend on which one and when!		
Curriculum PE Lessons	Badminton	Football

Badminton

Pupils focus on developing the skills they need to play continuous rallies in badminton. They will learn about the ready position, racket control, serving and hitting over a net and how to use these skills to make the game difficult for their opponent. In all games activities, pupils have to think about how they use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition. Pupils will be given the opportunity to work collaboratively with others. They will understand the importance of abiding by rules to keep themselves & others safe. Pupils will develop character and control through engaging with coping strategies when exposed to competition and will be given the opportunity to take on the role of referee.

Football

Pupils will improve their defending and attacking play, developing further knowledge of the principles and tactics of each. Pupils will begin to develop consistency and control in dribbling, passing and receiving a ball. They will also learn the basics of goalkeeping. Pupils will evaluate their own and other's performances, suggesting improvements. They will learn the importance of playing games fairly, abiding by the rules of the game and being respectful of their teammates, opponents and referees.

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.

Our new focus will be on 'La Chenille Qui Fait des Trous', which is a translation of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. Through this story, which should be familiar to most, we will practice and refine key phonemes in French, as well as developing story telling vocabulary, as well as continuing to enlarge our general vocabulary and overall grammar. Year 6 will focus on dealing with the unknown, and how to learn vocabulary well for the future to prepare them for the demands of MFL in secondary school, and will write their own story in French at the end of the term. The overarching aim is to promote a love of reading and an intellectual curiosity for literature in a foreign language.



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 next Jigsaw unit is 'Dreams and Goals'. In this puzzle, the class talk about their own strengths and further stretching themselves by setting challenging and realistic goals. They discuss the learning steps they'll need to take as well as talking about how to stay motivated. The children explore various global issues and explore places where people may be suffering or living in difficult situations – whilst doing this they reflect on their own emotions linked to this learning. The class also talk about what they think their classmates like and admire about them as well as working on giving others praise and compliments.

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 / Mrs Higgs	Mrs Higgs	Mrs Vail
			Pm – (Mrs Vail - PPA) French teachers: Mr Gardiner / Miss Edwards Mrs Whitehouse- Sharpe		
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.

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.arcademickillbuilders.com/games/grand_prix/grand_prix.html

Meteor Multiplication

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

Penguin Jump

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

Space Race

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

Swimming Otters

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

Tractor Multiplication

<http://www.arcademickillbuilders.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>