



Desert Class: Curriculum Letter

Spring Term 2 2023

Welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing half term week and are now ready to start the second half of the school year! We had such a productive first Spring 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

*Children need to come into school in their PE kits on Mondays and Tuesdays.

During the last half term, we started our preparation for the tests in May. This is to support the children in feeling confident and able to do their very best. We will continue this during the next half term. Please encourage your child to revisit their test papers at home every now and again to practise answering these questions.

I can share more details about how your child is getting on during our parent/teacher consultation meetings which are planned for the start of March.

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)

More Dates for the Diary ...

Tuesday 7th March & Wednesday 8th March – Parent / Teacher Consultation Meetings

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

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

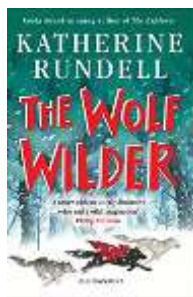
The cost is likely to be around £50 per child. More details to follow nearer the time.

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

We have finished the geography lessons linked to this topic and are getting through our class text, *The Wolf Wilder*. We will finish reading this text over this next half term.

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
ART	SCIENCE			DT	ART
					
Inuit	Electrical Circuits and Components			Engineer	Environmental Artists
This project teaches children about the Inuit way of life, including some of their cultural and artistic traditions.	This project teaches children about electrical circuits, their components and how they function. They recognise how the voltage of cells affects the output of a circuit and record circuits using standard symbols.			This project teaches children about remarkable engineers and significant bridges, learning to identify features, such as beams, arches and trusses.	This project teaches children about the genre of environmental art. They study how artists create artwork that addresses social and political issues related to the natural and urban environment.

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.

Spring Block 4 – Fractions, decimals and percentages

Step 1 Decimal and fraction equivalents

Step 2 Fractions as division

Step 3 Understand percentages

Step 4 Fractions to percentages

Step 5 Equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages

Step 6 Order fractions, decimals and percentages

Step 7 Percentage of an amount — one step

Step 8 Percentage of an amount — multi-step

Spring Block 6 - Statistics

Step 1 Line graphs

Step 2 Dual bar charts

Step 3 Read and interpret pie charts

Step 4 Pie charts with percentages

Step 5 Draw pie charts

Step 6 The mean

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.

Spring Block 5 - Area, perimeter & volume

Step 1 Shapes – same area

Step 2 Area and perimeter

Step 3 Area of a triangle — counting squares

Step 4 Area of a right-angled triangle

Step 5 Area of any triangle

Step 6 Area of a parallelogram

Step 7 Volume – counting cubes

Step 8 Volume of a cuboid

R.E.

Mrs Higgs will be teaching R.E. on Thursdays. Our focus in RE this term is Christianity. The children will be working on the first Salvation Unit of work where they will be considering the key question: 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?' In doing so they will try to explain what Christians mean when they say that Jesus' death was a sacrifice and try to weigh up the value and impact of ideas of sacrifice in their own lives and the world today.

Music



Mrs Higgs will be teaching music on Thursdays. In Music, this half term, we are continuing our work on 'Key and Time Signatures'. The children will learn how to play the scales of G major and F major on the Glockenspiels and learn what the difference is between different time signatures. In addition, they will practice composing and recording using digital technology through either a Graphic Score or Music Notepad.

P.E.



<u>SPRING TERM 2</u>	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Curriculum PE Lessons	Dance	Fitness

Dance

Pupils will focus on developing an idea or theme into dance choreography. They will work in pairs and groups using different choreographing tools to create dances e.g. formations, timing, dynamics. Pupils will have opportunities to choreograph, perform and provide feedback on dance. Pupils think about how to use movement to convey ideas, emotions, feelings and characters.

Fitness

Pupils will take part in a range of fitness challenges to test and record their scores. They will learn different components of fitness including speed, stamina, strength, coordination, balance and agility. Pupils will be given opportunities to work at their maximum and improve their fitness levels. They will need to persevere when they get tired or when they find a challenge hard and are encouraged to support others to do the same. Pupils are asked to recognise areas in which they make the most improvement using the scores they have collected.

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 Daily Routine and Time. This will include

- *Telling the time

- *Daily routines – school days and weekends

The children will develop their listening skills, paired speaking, extend their reading skills and their use of bilingual dictionaries.

- *Easter 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 next unit is **Healthy Me**. In this Puzzle, the children discuss taking responsibility for their own physical and emotional health and the choices linked to this. They talk about different types of drugs and the effects these can have on people's bodies. The class discuss exploitation as well as gang culture and the associated risks. They also talk about mental health / illness and that people have different attitudes towards this. They learn to recognise the triggers for and feelings of being stressed and that there are strategies they can use when they are feeling stressed.



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 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>