



Desert Class: Curriculum Letter

Summer Term 1 2023

Welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing Easter break and are now ready for the new term. 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

Homework

Our homework changes focus this term in the lead up to the SATs tests. I am not setting new spellings or times tables each week. The children are encouraged to become responsible for their own revision at home. Please support them with this.

These are my suggestions for revision over the next few weeks:

*Spelling Revision

Every morning in class, the children are recapping some of the statutory spelling words. They will bring home a copy of these each day. Please can they continue to practise these at home. For those who find spelling tricky, I have suggested choosing two or three of these words and work on these.

*Revisit test papers – SPaG & Maths

The children have been bringing home test papers that they have completed in school. It would be useful for them to revisit questions on the SPaG and Maths papers in particular and have another go at these.

*Make use of website subscriptions – Maths.co.uk / SPaG.com / Sumdog / TTRS

Maths.co.uk is a new one which I can set revision activities linked to different areas of the maths curriculum.

SPaG.com – I will continue to set activities on here each week.

Sumdog – I am using this to set revision activities for spelling, SPaG and Maths.

TTRS – keep practising times tables recall.

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

The Year 6 SATs tests are fast approaching. They are in Week 4 of this half term.

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)

During this week, doors will open as normal at 8.30am. The children are welcome to join me in the hall for a welcome breakfast each morning before the tests. I have organised this every year that I have taught in year 6 and it is a lovely start to the day.

Dates for the Diary ...

Thursday 27th April – MAF Money Raising

Children will be doing their sponsored event to raise money for MAF.

Friday 5th May – King's Coronation celebrations in school

Parents welcome to join us from 2.30pm.

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

I sent a letter out earlier this week with more information. Please make payment and return the medical form to school. I know the children are looking forward to having a go at these activities planned!

Tuesday 23rd May – Desert Class Art Workshop

In the afternoon, an art teacher from Bryanston School is coming to our school to lead an art workshop with our children.

Summer Term 2

Tuesday 6th June at 3.20pm – Parent Meeting

Parent Meeting about the Year 6 Carey Residential. Please can every parent/carer try their very best to attend this meeting as it is essential for me to share further details and expectations for this trip. If you cannot attend, please let me know beforehand.

Thursday 18th June – MAF plane visit

MAF activities during the day and the plane visit ☺

Monday 26th June - Wednesday 28th June

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

The planning for this is well under way. See meeting date above.

Tuesday 13th June - Transition meeting for those children transferring to SNHS

Gemma Payne (Year 7 lead) and Rachel Barbet (Inclusion Lead) will be coming to our school to meet the children and lead a Question and Answer session with them.

Tuesday 4th July – Sporting Challenge Day at SNHS

All children in Year 5 & 6 will participate in a sports day at Sturminster Newton High School.

Thursday 6th July – Transition Day

Those children transferring to SNHS will attend their new school on this day. I am waiting to hear from other schools about the dates of their transition events.

Wednesday 19th July – Last day of term

2.30pm End of term Leavers' Service at Holy Rood Church

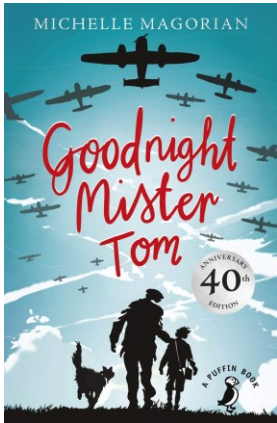
Back to our plans for this half term...



Topic Learning – Britain at War

This project teaches children about the causes, events and consequences of the First and Second World Wars, the influence of new inventions on warfare, how life in Great Britain was affected and the legacy of the wars in the post-war period.

There is a Knowledge Organiser, detailing the information the children will be expected to learn during this unit of work. This is posted on our class webpage. Please read through this with your child at home and discuss the information provided.



Our class novel for this term is Goodnight Mister Tom, which is linked to our second world war section of our topic.

A shy and quiet World War II evacuee is housed by a disgruntled old man, and they soon develop a close bond.



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.

Summer Block 1 – Shape

Step 1 Measure and classify angles

Step 2 Calculate angles

Step 3 Vertically opposite angles

Step 4 Angles in a triangle

Step 5 Angles in a triangle — special cases

Step 6 Angles in a triangle — missing angles

Step 7 Angles in quadrilaterals

Step 8 Angles in polygons

Step 9 Circles

Step 10 Draw shapes accurately

Step 11 Nets of 3-D shapes

Please note –

There are some children in the class who are not ready to follow the year 6 maths curriculum. Their maths learning in class may link to a different year groups curriculum.

Summer Block 2 – Position and Direction

Step 1 The first quadrant

Step 2 Read and plot points in four quadrants

Step 3 Solve problems with coordinates

Step 4 Translations

Step 5 Reflections

R.E.

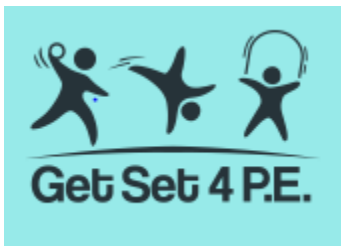
Mrs Higgs will be teaching R.E. on Thursdays. In RE this half term we are continuing with our Understanding Christianity units and will be acting as detectives to determine why Christians think Jesus was resurrected. Our key question is 'What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?' The children will look for evidence in the Gospel of Luke. They will be asked to offer and justify their own responses to what difference belief in Resurrection might make to how people respond to challenges and problems in the world today.

Music

Mrs Higgs will be teaching music on Thursdays. Our Music topic this half term focuses on 'Introducing Chords' and has a social theme of how music teaches us about our community. In this topic, the children will continue furthering their knowledge about key and time signatures. This half term they will be introduced to the Key Signatures of D minor and E major.



P.E.



<u>SUMMER TERM 1</u>	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Curriculum PE Lessons	Handball	Tennis

Handball

Pupils will develop key skills of attacking and defending such as throwing, catching, dribbling, intercepting and shooting. Pupils use these skills to maintain possession of the ball and to create scoring opportunities in attack. They will develop defending principles such as gaining possession of the ball, denying space and stopping goals. They will be encouraged to work collaboratively to develop strategies and tactics in both attack and defence. They develop their understanding of the rules and the importance of fair play and honesty whilst self-managing matches. They will improve their ability to evaluate their own and others' performance.

Tennis

In this unit pupils develop their competencies in racket skills when playing Tennis. They learn specific skills such as a forehand, backhand, volley and underarm serve. Pupils are given opportunities to work cooperatively with others and show honesty and fair play when abiding by the rules. Pupils develop their tactical awareness, learning how to outwit an opponent.

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.

This coming half term, Desert class will be focussing on the theme of holidays.

They will start with exploring metropolitan France, talking about common attractions and historical sites before learning how to express things that they would like to see and do. We will also talk about interpreting maps, theme parks and understanding/giving directions in French. Following this, we will expand our horizons world-wide, talking about previous holidays and experiences using the past tense (with is something that is usually introduced in Year 8!). The term will end with a reading assessment where students will reflect on their learning and think about their next steps with the French language.



PSHE Education (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) - Jigsaw



Our next unit is **Relationships**. In this Puzzle the class look at mental health and how to take care of their own mental well-being. They talk about the grief cycle and its various stages; they also discuss the different causes of grief and loss. The children talk about people who can try to control them or have power over them. They look at online safety, learning how to judge if something is safe and helpful as well as talking about communicating with friends and family in a positive and safe way.

Teaching Team in Desert Class

	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

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.