



Desert Class: Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 1 2023

Welcome back to school and welcome to Year 6! 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.

Key Dates

Monday 18th September – Meet the Teacher meeting with Mrs Vail 3.20 – 3.40pm

Tuesday 26th September (Week 4) – Swimming lessons start. Some children will swim for the first 5 weeks. Some children will swim for the second 5 weeks. I will get a letter out asap with group information.

Monday 2nd October – Training for 4 new Sports Ambassadors. I will speak to you if your child is chosen to do this.

Friday 20th October – INSET Day. No children in school.

Looking forward...

Monday 13th – Thursday 16th May - KS2 SATs. All children in Year 6 will sit these end of year tests.

Friday 17th May – possible date for our day trip to WOEC. To be confirmed.

June 2024 – Year 6 two-night residential to Carey Camp. Dates to be confirmed.

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.

*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 exciting new topic: Dynamic Dynasties

This project teaches children about the history of ancient China, focusing primarily on the Shang Dynasty, and explores the lasting legacy of the first five Chinese dynasties, some of which can still be seen in the world today.

Our class novel that we will be studying is called 'Bronze and Sunflower'.

Sunflower has moved to the countryside in China with her father. As her father works all day, Sunflower feels lonely. She watches the river and the people across it who live in a village called Damaidi. She meets a boy called Bronze from Damaidi and the two become friends. When a tragic event brings Sunflower into Bronze's home, the two children must work together to survive the hardships of village life.





The Write Stuff

To enable our children to write effectively and coherently we are starting 'The Write Stuff' throughout the school. This approach is used from Reception to Year 6 and allows children to apply basic skills, vocabulary and grammar knowledge to write effective sentences, which are full of impact and keep the reader interested. 'The Write Stuff' brings clarity to the mechanics of teaching writing. It is introduced through the 'Writing Rainbow', using the three zones of

writing: **The FANTASTICs** (ideas), **The Grammaristics** (tools), **The Boomtastics** (techniques).



In Desert Class, our first unit is based on Hansel and Gretel, a traditional tale.

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 our Write Stuff lessons.

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 Year 6 should know all of their times tables up to 12 x 12. They should now be improving their speed of recall. The children in Year 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 Reception 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

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

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. We are doing much more whole class teaching this year and so work will be adapted for those children who need it. I will share this with you further during our 'Meet the teacher' meeting.

Maths Homework

Homework will be set on Sumdog 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. Some children are keen to complete further maths challenges at home which is great! These will be provided each week. 😊

R.E.

Mrs Higgs will be teaching R.E. on Thursdays. This half term's RE focus is 'Creation/ Fall' with our big question being 'Is Creation and Science conflicting or complementary?' The children will begin by creating their own timeline of the Big Bible Story to secure their understanding of the Bible Timeline. Thereafter we will look at the evidence in Genesis 1 and consider what it might mean and how Christians interpret it. The class will be taught to consider the scientific accounts of creation and be given the opportunity to hear the views of many scientists who are also now Christians. There will be lots of opportunities to discuss the evidence and debate their views.

Music



Mrs Higgs will be teaching music on Thursdays. Our Charanga unit this half term focuses on Music and Technology. The children will have the opportunity in many of their lessons to use our Yu Studio platform to compose music digitally. All children have a login in their reading records to enable them to practice further at home if they wish to. Our lessons will focus mostly on 'Soul' music this half term and the children will work in the key signatures of C Major (No sharps or flats), G Major (F sharp), and D major (F sharp and C sharp). They will continue to learn more about all the different musical elements and extend their knowledge of rhythmic patterns to semiquavers.

P.E.



Please can the children wear PE kits into school on Mondays and Tuesdays.

In week 4, we will be starting our swimming lessons. The children in Years 4, 5 & 6 will take part in swimming lessons 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 Dance lesson during the afternoon.

AUTUMN TERM 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY FRIDAY
Morning Exercise	Just Dance / Jump Start Jonny			Playground Fitness Track
Curriculum PE Lessons	Hockey	Dance or Swimming		
3.15 – 4.15pm After school club		KS2 Football with Prime Sports (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)		

Hockey

Hockey is an invasion game. In this unit pupils develop their understanding of the attacking and defending principles of invasion games. In all games activities, pupils have to think about how they use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition. In hockey pupils do this by maintaining possession and moving the ball towards goal to score. Pupils develop their understanding of the

importance of fair play and honesty while self-managing games and learning and abiding by key rules, as well as evaluating their own and others' performances.

Dance

Pupils learn different styles of dance, working individually, as a pair and in small groups. In dance as a whole, pupils think about how to use movement to explore and communicate ideas and issues, and their own feelings and thoughts. As they work, they develop an awareness of the historical and cultural origins of different dances. Pupils will be provided with the opportunity to create and perform their work. They will be asked to provide feedback using the correct dance terminology and will be able to use this feedback to improve their work. Pupils will work safely with each other and show respect towards others.

Languages - French

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

For the first half term, the focus will be

- * Revision of basics: my name is, where I live, age, birthday, like and dislikes
- * Different shops in France
- * I would like / I need to buy
- * Articles (difference between definite, indefinite, partitive)
- * Reading (introduce C.H.E.A.T)
- * Practice with C.H.E.A.T.
- * Reading for phonetical accuracy



PSHE - Jigsaw



Our first Jigsaw unit is 'Being Me in My World'.

In this Puzzle (unit) the children discuss their year ahead, they learnt to set goals and discuss their fears and worries about the future. The class learn about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and that

these are not met for all children worldwide. They talk about their choices and actions and how these can have far-reaching effects, locally and globally. The children talk about their own behaviour and how their choices can result in rewards and consequences and how these feel. They talk about how an individual's behaviour and the impact it can have on a group. They also talk about democracy, how it benefits the school and how they can contribute towards it.



Teaching Team in Desert Class

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class Teacher	Am - Mrs Vail Pm - Mrs Higgs	Mrs Vail	Am - Mrs Vail 2 - 3pm French teachers: Mr Gardiner / Miss Kellow	Mrs Higgs	Mrs Vail
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Greenland Mrs Suter	Mrs Greenland Mrs Suter	Mrs Greenland Mrs Suter	Mrs Greenland Mrs Suter	Mrs Greenland Mrs Suter

Mrs Greenland is working in Desert Class full time.

Mrs Suter is working in Ocean and Desert Class this year. Mrs Suter will be with Desert Class usually for the second morning session and for part of the afternoon session.

Homework Expectations

Please find on the next page.

We have got a busy half term with lots to look forward to! I look forward to seeing you all at our parent meeting next week.

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.

Homework

Year 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>Homework to be completed by the following Thursday each week.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please make sure homework books are back in school on Thursday.</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 You need to write your spellings in your neat, cursive handwriting in your homework book each week. • 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 Practice set times tables in Garage & Arena. 20 minutes minimum per week at home. • Sumdog Maths homework set linked to this week's focus in class. • Reading Write in your Reading Record (at least once a week), either an adult or yourself. • SPaG.com In year 6, the children need to consolidate their SPaG learning. To start with I will set this fortnightly. • Optional – Maths I know some children prefer to complete written maths homework. Activity sheets will be provided each week, linked to consolidation of previous maths learning. This can be completed instead of Sumdog.