



# Desert Class: Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 2 2023

Welcome back to school. I hope you all had a relaxing half term break and are now ready to start the second Autumn half term. Here is some information about our units of learning over this half term.

## Key Dates

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Parent/Teacher Consultation Evenings

Looking forward...

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

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 Day trip to WOEC. Outdoor Adventurous Activities.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 two-night residential to Carey Camp.

## General Class Information

\*We have one more week with the current swimming groups (Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October) and then we will switch to Groups 2 & 3 for the following 5 weeks, starting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Groups 1 & 3	Groups 2 & 4
<b>Autumn Term 1 –</b> Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September ✓ Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October ✓ Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October ✓ Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October ✓ <b>Autumn Term 2 –</b> Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October – cancelled Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Autumn Term 2 –</b> Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December

\*Tuesdays - When children are swimming, they should come to school in their school uniform. If they are not swimming, they should come into school in their PE kit on Tuesdays.

\*All children need to come into school in their PE kits on Mondays.

\*We will be using our Playground Fitness Track on Thursdays and Fridays. Children are welcome to bring their trainers in their school bags ready for these sessions if they wish but do not have to.

## Class Novel

We are still reading our class novel 'Bronze and Sunflower'.



## The Write Stuff

Our next unit of work is based on the book and film, 'Varmints'. This is a mysterious tale of a threatened natural world, and a hopeful new start.

Once, the only sounds to be heard were the buzzing of bees in the grass, the murmuring of moles in the earth, and the song of birds in the sky. These warmed the hearts of those who cared to listen - until the others came to fill the sky with a cacophony of noise. With dramatically lit artwork and a spare, intriguing text, Varmints tells of a pastoral world in need of protection and of the souls who love it enough to ensure its regeneration.



## Our exciting new topics

Autumn 2						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
 Earth & Space	 Investigating Our World	 Forces & Mechanisms	 Moving Mechanisms	 Tints, Tones and Shades		
<p>This project teaches children about our Solar System and its spherical celestial bodies. They describe the movements of the Earth and the other planets relative to the Sun, the Moon relative to Earth, and the Earth's rotation to explain day and night.</p>	<p>This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children about locating map features using a range of methods. They learn about the Prime Meridian, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), and worldwide time zones. Children learn about human geography and capital cities worldwide before looking at the UK motorway network and settlements.</p>	<p>This project teaches children about the forces of gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction, with children exploring their effects. They learn about mechanisms, their uses and how they allow a smaller effort to have a greater effect.</p>	<p>This project teaches children about pneumatic systems.</p>	<p>This project teaches children about colour theory by studying the colour wheel and exploring mixing tints, shades and tones. They learn about significant landscape artworks and features of landscapes before using this knowledge to create landscape paintings.</p>		

We have lots of mini units of work to cover over this next half term.

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.

### Reading



The children are expected to read at home several times a week (if possible, on a daily basis). It is amazing the influence reading has on their writing skills.

*'Reading gives your imagination wings'*

We have a huge range of books in school for the children to borrow but they are also welcome to read books from home and the local library too. This website may be useful if they are stuck what to read next.

<https://www.whatshouldireadnext.com/>



— WHAT SHOULD I —  
**READ NEXT?**

### 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. They will have a spelling test each Friday to check they know these spellings words. Once learnt, they must also keep re-visiting the spelling words to ensure that they retain them over longer periods of time.



## 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 3 – Fractions A

**Step 1** Equivalent fractions and simplifying

**Step 2** Equivalent fractions on a number line

**Step 3** Compare and order (denominator)

**Step 4** Compare and order (numerator)

**Step 5** Add and subtract simple fractions

**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

### Autumn Block 5 – 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

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.



## Numeracy – Times Tables

Times tables are so important! Please keep practising at home. The quicker the children can recall these the better. Here are some fun sites to visit:



<https://www.laughalongandlearn.co.uk/>

There are lots of pop song versions too. This is one of my favourites - a cover of Cheerleader by OMI for the 6 x tables ☺

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9os1VUUUp5io>



## R.E.

Mrs Higgs will be teaching R.E. on Thursdays. Our RE topic this half term is INCARNATION. In this topic we consider the key question 'Was Jesus the Messiah?' The children will look at Gospel and prophecy texts and work as detectives to examine the written evidence. They will look at how Christians put their beliefs about Jesus' incarnation into practice in different ways in celebrating Christmas and be asked to weigh up how far the idea that Jesus is the Messiah (a saviour from God) is important in the world today.

## Music



Mrs Higgs will be teaching music on Thursdays. Our Charanga unit this half term continues to focus on Music and Technology. The children will learn a Pop song 'It's all about Love' and learn to play and compose using the G major scale. They will then use the D major scale to play along to 'Sunshine on a rainy day'. They will have the opportunity to use our Yu Studio platform to compose music digitally. They will continue to learn more about all the different musical elements, including the technical vocabulary associated with dynamics and extend their knowledge of rhythmic patterns to semiquaver.

## P.E.

<u>AUTUMN TERM 2</u>	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY FRIDAY
Morning Exercise	Just Dance / Jump Start Jonny			Playground Fitness Track
Curriculum PE Lessons	Basketball	Dance or Swimming		
3.15 – 4.15pm After school club			KS2 Sports (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) Led by Mr Harris	

### Basketball

Basketball 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 basketball 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, for an hour on Wednesday afternoons.

For the second half term, the focus will be

\* Shopping topic continued

- souvenirs and things to buy from shops
- numbers and paying
- gift vocabulary e.g. I would like ... Can I have ... Do you have ?
- revision of opinions
- paying roleplay

\* Speaking and listening skills and development



## PSHE - Jigsaw



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	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. 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.

<b>Reading at home</b> 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 <b><u>Spelling Test &amp; Times Tables Test in school</u></b>
	<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"> <li>• <b>New spellings set</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Handwriting</b> You need to write your spellings in your neat, cursive handwriting in your homework book each week.</li> <li>• <b>New times tables set</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Use Times Tables Rock Stars</b> Practice set times tables in Garage &amp; Arena. 20 minutes minimum per week at home.</li> <li>• <b>Sumdog</b> Maths homework set linked to this week's focus in class (children may choose to complete the written maths tasks instead – see below).</li> <li>• <b>Reading</b> Write in your Reading Record (at least once a week), either an adult or yourself.</li> <li>• <b>SPaG.com</b> In year 6, the children need to consolidate their SPaG learning. To start with I will set this fortnightly.</li> <li>• <b>Optional – Maths</b> 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.</li> </ul>