

Owl Class

Welcome to Owl Class!

Welcome to Year 5! Our learning theme for this half term is...

Who were the Maya and where have they gone?

Most of our learning will be linked to our main theme, although some subjects i.e. Maths, will continue to be taught separately.

In English, we will explore the *Popol Vuh*, a collection of Maya myths and legends. We will read and discuss the stories, identifying characters, settings, and events. We will also write our own version of a Maya myth, using similar characters, settings, and events.

For instructional writing, we will follow and write a recipe for making chocolate. We will focus on clear, step-by-step instructions, using imperative verbs, time connectives, and illustrations to support understanding.

In maths, we will focus on place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We will read and write numbers up to 1000, recognise the value of each digit, and count in multiples of 4, 8, 50, and 100. We will practise adding and subtracting numbers mentally and using formal written methods. We will recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4, and 8 times tables, applying these to solve problems. We will also estimate answers, check calculations, and use reasoning skills in a range of word problems.

Links to Prior Learning

As we study our theme this term, we will be using our previous knowledge of timelines to gain an understanding of when the Maya period happened in relation to historical events we have learned about.

Some of the children have prior knowledge of other historical events during this time period and we will use them to compare and contrast.

Reminders:

Please can your child bring their reading book to school every day. We will spend a little time reading on most days and the pupils will be able to change their books when needed.

PE will be on Fridays, we will continue to develop swimming techniques and water confidence. We will work on improving stamina and skills, both individually and in group activities, building on previous learning.

As part of our healthy eating approach, we do not allow squash or flavoured water in school, so please ensure your child has only water in their bottle. If your child would like a snack at break times we ask that you send them to school with fresh fruit or vegetables to promote a healthy diet.

Who were the Maya and where have they gone?



In history, we will learn who the Maya were and where they lived. We will explore daily life, including food, religion, and culture, and compare Maya society to modern life and UK history.

In science, we will study living things and their habitats, linking to the tropical environments of the Maya. We will compare the life cycles of animals such as jaguars, frogs, butterflies, and toucans.

Our focus in Art will focus on the importance of birds in Maya culture and design our own bird whistle. We will sculpt our design using clay or a similar material and decorate it with patterns inspired by Maya art.

How to support your child at home:

Working in partnership is important to us and makes such a difference to your child's progress. We would like to make sure that all children are completing their 'home learning'

- Reading each day - recording their reading activity in their reading journal.
- Practise your current set of spellings and or the statutory spellings.
- Practise times tables frequently - focus on any your child struggles with. You can use Timetable Rock Stars or Hit the Button for this. You can also use any other methods your child enjoys.

Your class teacher will send home any information you need. Please ask if you have any questions

Dates for your diary:

Meet the Teacher session – **Monday 8th September 3.30pm**

Parent's Evenings – **22nd and 23rd October**

End of half term – **Friday 24th Oct**