

Owl Class

Welcome back!

Our learning theme for this half term is...

Desert Detectives: Can Anything Survive Here?

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

This half term, our English lessons will link closely to our desert theme. We will begin by writing explanation texts about how camels and other desert animals survive in extreme conditions. Later, we'll read *Magic Tree House: Season of the Sandstorms* to inspire our own desert adventure stories. Children will focus on building rich vocabulary, sentence variety, and clear structure in their writing.

In maths, children will explore prime, square, and cube numbers before developing their understanding of multiplication and division. They will also learn to compare, order, add, and subtract fractions, including mixed numbers and improper fractions. Our focus will be on using efficient methods and applying these skills to solve real-life problems.

Links to Prior Learning

As we study our theme this term, we will be using our previous knowledge from Year 2, where children learned about hot and cold places around the world. They will build on that knowledge by exploring deserts in greater depth, focusing on how people, animals, and plants survive in extreme heat.

Desert Detectives: Can Anything Survive Here?



Our science lessons will focus on materials and their properties, linking to survival in the desert. Children will investigate how clean water could be sourced, and how reversible and irreversible changes affect survival.

In geography, we'll explore deserts around the world, identifying where they are found and what makes them unique. They'll also discuss how deserts are changing and whether they are dangerous or full of life.

in DT, children will apply their scientific and geographical understanding to design and build a model of a desert shelter.

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.

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:

Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and After school Carol Concert – **Wednesday 17th December**

Last day of term – **Friday 19th December**