



Oak Newsletter – Autumn Term 2026

Welcome back!

We hope you have all had an amazing summer break and are feeling well-rested and ready to start the new school year. We are so excited to begin the year in Oak and to work with your lovely children. In this newsletter, you will find information about what we will be covering during the Autumn Term, as well as some useful information for the school year ahead.

Our topics for this term are:

'Hola Mexico!' and 'Ancient Maya'

We will start the year by making sure the children have a smooth transition into their new year group and are settled into their new routines. We will use this time to help the children get used to their new classroom, build friendships with their new classmates and strengthen those already in place.

History and Geography

We will begin our History learning by discovering where and when the Maya lived and how their civilisation developed. We will explore how they used natural resources to build, farm and solve problems, while examining artefacts and other evidence to find out about Maya society, leadership and daily life. We will compare the Maya with the Ancient Greeks, considering similarities and differences in how their societies were organised and ruled.



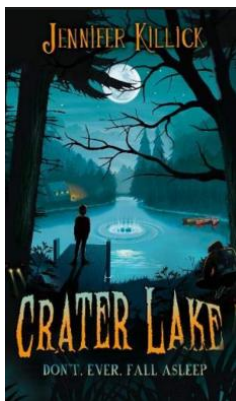
In Geography, we will locate Mexico and Central America, using maps, atlases and coordinates to identify key Maya sites, countries, cities, seas and geographical features. We will explore the different landscapes of the region and compare life in Mexico with life in the UK. The children will use their geographical skills to plan a journey to Mexico and create a tourist leaflet to showcase the country.

Spelling

We will continue to develop children's spelling knowledge by actively teaching morphology - understanding how words are built and how parts of words can help us understand their meaning and spelling. Words linked to this learning will be sent home each week. Some spellings may appear easier than in previous years, but this is an important part of embedding a strong understanding of the English language and how words are formed.

Each Friday, children will be given a word list to learn at home, which will also be available on EdShed. They will be tested on these words the following Friday. Regular practice at home will help children to become more confident and accurate spellers.

English



The first half term will be spent consolidating the important foundations needed for high-level writing, including grammar, punctuation, vocabulary and sentence structure, before moving on to extended writing pieces. We will then explore a wide range of engaging, high-quality texts suited to the children's interests, using these to inspire and develop their writing.

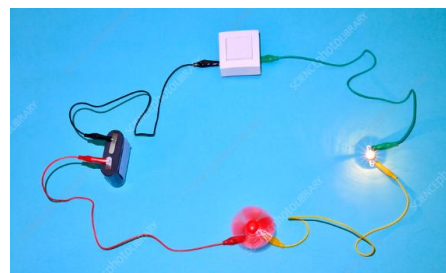
We will begin with *Crater Lake*, which will provide the inspiration for atmospheric setting descriptions and recounts. Throughout the term, children will continue to develop their vocabulary, sentence construction and ability to write effectively for different purposes and audiences.

Maths

In Maths, we will begin the year by exploring place value. This involves counting, writing and ordering numbers correctly. Year 5 will explore numbers to 1,000,000, while Year 6 will focus on consolidating their understanding of numbers to 1,000,000, as well as working with negative numbers. We will then move on to developing our long and short division skills, with Year 6 focusing on applying these skills to reasoning problems. As we move towards Christmas, we will work on fractions and shape.

Science

In Science, we will begin by consolidating and building upon the children's previous knowledge of space. We will revisit the Earth, Moon and Sun and develop our understanding of the solar system, including the movement of the planets and how these relate to Earth. We will use engaging activities and investigations to help children develop their understanding and curiosity about space.



After October half term, we will move on to a more in-depth study of electricity. Building on their previous understanding of circuits, children will investigate how the number and voltage of cells affect components such as bulbs and buzzers. They will explore how and why components behave differently and develop their ability to represent circuits accurately using recognised symbols.

Homework

We recognise that reading, arithmetic and spelling skills underpin most areas of the curriculum. It is extremely important that children practise these skills regularly so that they can get the most out of the curriculum and feel confident in lessons. For this reason, homework will be:

- Spelling practice - 3 times weekly
- Arithmetic practice - this will be sent home on a Friday and due the following Friday
- Reading - 3 times weekly

This can be for 5-10 minutes each day and does not need to be onerous.

From October half term, Year 6 children will be sent additional homework to help them prepare for secondary school and their SATs later in the year. Homework will be set each Friday and, if it is not completed by the following Friday, children will need to complete this at playtime and/or lunchtime.

Reading and Reading Records

Your child has been issued with a Reading Record, which will be used to log their reading progress throughout the year. Children will be expected to bring their reading book to and from school each day and can change their own reading books.

Please leave a comment in your child's Reading Record when you have listened to them read at home. When your child's reading record has been signed six times, they can 'spin the wheel' in class as a reward.

Please note that we have moved all children onto 'free readers' rather than coloured book bands in our class to encourage a love and enjoyment of reading. Children still have access to all colour-banded books if they feel more comfortable reading these.

Year 6 SATs

All Year 6 children across the country will take part in SATs. These are standardised assessments which schools must administer during SATs week, which commences Monday 10th May. Children will be assessed in reading, spelling, grammar, punctuation, arithmetic and mathematical reasoning.

You will find out how your child has performed in their SATs once school has received the results. This is usually towards the middle of July. We will contact you in due course with more information regarding Year 6 SATs.

PE and Forest School

PE sessions are as follows:

Autumn Term 1 - Wednesday
Tennis with Mrs Harris

Autumn Term 2 - Thursday
Netball with DF Coaching



Children should come to school in their PE kit on their designated PE day. Please note that navy hoodies are no longer part of our uniform. Children can wear a bottle green hoodie or their usual school jumper/cardigan. Children should not wear branded clothing for PE sessions.

Forest School sessions are as follows:

Autumn Term 1 - No Forest School

Autumn Term 2 - Tuesday
Forest School

Please note that all children must come dressed in warm, appropriate clothing on Forest School days. A change of footwear is essential. If children do not bring a change of footwear, we will provide them with temporary spares.



A Fantastic Start

The children have all settled in wonderfully so far, and we have been absolutely blown away by their positive attitude to learning. It has been lovely to see them getting to know each other, building new friendships and becoming increasingly

confident in their new routines. We are incredibly proud of them already and the way they have approached the start of the year.

It has been a fantastic start, and we are very much looking forward to the year ahead. We have lots of exciting learning and experiences to look forward to and we are excited to see the children continue to grow in confidence, challenge themselves and achieve their very best.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Harris and Mrs Newton