

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Curriculum Plans, Autumn Term 2018 – Opal Class (Year 2 / 3)

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the beginning of a new school year. We hope you have had an enjoyable summer holiday and are ready for work again!

Outlined below is the work in each subject area to be taught in Opal Class this term.

English:

Reading

This will involve a combination of: shared reading of a text as a class, and individual reading to another adult. In each of these aspects there will be an emphasis on reading and comprehension skills. We also have a reading counsellor to help with extra reading, where necessary.

Phonics

Many of the children will continue to have phonics sessions from Monday to Thursday to develop accuracy in reading and spelling. The children are grouped according to their needs.

Spelling

Each week we will also focus on a particular spelling rule in dedicated spelling sessions. Spelling associated with this rule will be sent home to be learnt for homework and tested on a Friday.

Writing

This term children will be writing a range of text types related to books we are reading in our English sessions. These include narrative, poems and non-fiction work.

Handwriting

We will continue to practise handwriting. For Year 3 children it is a requirement that they develop the continuing cursive style of writing. We will be concentrating on basic joins being formed correctly (for cursive script), correct letter formation, consistency in the size and proportion of letters, as well as building up speed and fluency. Year 2 children will also be encouraged and supported in writing in cursive script, if they are at the appropriate stage to make this transition from printed script. Some children may also be asked to take home a handwriting sheet for further practice.

Speaking and Listening

This will be developed through shared and guided reading and writing sessions and linked to other subjects through: drama, group discussion, watching TV broadcasts and making presentations to the class. It will also form an important part of PSHE sessions.

Maths:

Maths lessons will begin with a mental starter activity followed by a main teaching session, including independent, paired or group work. This term the areas covered will be counting, place value, ordering, estimating and rounding, understanding addition and subtraction, mental calculation strategies, money, measures, shape and space.

A maths homework activity related to these lessons will be set every Friday to be due in on the following Friday.

Science:

This term we will focus mostly on aspects of Biology.

In the first half term we will be studying within the theme of 'animals including humans'. Year 2 will study aspects such as life cycles, what animals need to survive and stay healthy. Year 3 will look aspects such as food groups, chains and webs, muscles and skeletons.

In the second half term Year 2 will move onto looking at living things and their habitats, while Year 3 will start learning about Rocks.

RE:

In RE we will be looking at the Christian understanding of Creation as we as The Fall. In the second half term this will be followed by studying the Incarnation in the lead up to Advent and Christmas.

Computing:

Skills taught will include: programing, and how computers work, and e-safety. Work is also planned using ICT to support teaching in other curriculum areas.

PSHE:

The work this term continues to follow the SEAL framework and will be based around different themes, starting with anti-bullying. 'Circle Time' sessions as part of the lessons will also allow children to consider their feelings, the views of others and their place in the school community.

Geography:

This half term elements of the geography curriculum will be taught through our history study of the Indus Valley Civilisation. In the second half-term we will be studying UK geography.

History:

This term we will be learning about the Indus Valley Civilisation. This will include studying its remarkable achievements in technology and culture, as well its rise and fall in the area of modern-day Pakistan and north-west India.

Art:

This term our focus will be on developing our technical skills in the context of studying insects and the season of Autumn. This will include, among other techniques: sketching, painting and collage.

French:

Weekly French lessons in the first half-term will develop the children's ability to talk about themselves and respond to instructions in a classroom environment. In the second half-term the children will learn how to speak about their school.

Music:

This will be taught weekly on a Tuesday afternoon following the Charanga course. The children will be able to further improve their skills with recorders, their singing, as well as appreciation of, for example, beat, rhythm, pitch and tempo.

PE:

Our PE lessons this term will be gymnastics on Mondays (indoor) and games on Fridays (outdoor). In the first half term Year 3s will participate in 'Forest School' on a Friday afternoon. We also have a 10 minute daily exercise session each morning after phonics. Please could you ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on Mondays and Fridays so that they can participate fully.

Homework:

Homework will be given out on a Friday and is now due in on a Wednesday. This will include spellings to practise from our week's spelling rule (these will be tested on a Friday). There will also be a maths exercise relating to their week's topic in lessons. Some children may also be sent home with times table and handwriting practice.

The children are also expected to read each day at home. The best way for this to be recorded is in their reading record. A comment is not necessary, but it would be good to see a book title and the dates on which that book has been read together or independently. Some of you may wish to write a comment on your child's reading, which can be a valuable channel of communication. You might also like – sometimes – to promote your child's comprehension skills by asking questions relating to inference and prediction, as well as basic literal comprehension. However, the emphasis should always be on enjoyment of books and reading together.

We hope you have found this information useful, and look forward to working with you over the course of this term in supporting your child(ren).

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Mirrington