



STJB Oak Class

If music be the food of love, play on

Autumn 2017

Dear Parents,/Guardians

Welcome back, and to Oak Class and an action packed term, with many exciting activities and opportunities.

Oak Class will be taught by myself on Mondays, Tuesday mornings, Wednesdays Thursdays and generally Friday mornings; Mrs. Lax will be teaching the class science on a Tuesday afternoon and Mr. Lennon will be teaching P.E. and D.T./art on a Friday afternoon. Mr. Lennon will also be teaching the class some Friday mornings: grammar and maths.

Our Topic for the Autumn is music, an inspirational subject, involving many different creative and imaginative aspects of the National Curriculum. We will be looking at creative ways of expressing rhythm through a workshop using Tabla Indian drums, as well as creating pictorial and written representations of musical excerpts. We also hope to create music linked to Christmas.

In English, we will be researching two composers, one classical, one modern, of the children's choice in order to write a biography and a piece of persuasive writing. The children will be aiming to write their best pieces of work, so that they can be contributors to the class book—The Top Ten Best Composers of All Time.

In Maths, place value, the four operations, prime number and statistics will be the areas covered in the Autumn term, applying these in a variety of real life contexts. The Planets scheme will continue to be a major part of supporting the children's mental strategies.

Our Science and Design Technology this term will focus on 'Sound' and 'Electricity'. Mrs Lax will ably engage the

children in a range of experiments identifying how sounds are made, finding patterns between pitch of a sound and the features of the object that produced it, and volume of sounds related to strength of vibration and the distance from the sound source. In electricity, simple circuits will be constructed using a range of components and common conductors and insulators will be tested. In D.T. the children will study musical instruments, the materials they are made of and then make their own.

In Computing, the children will be covering a vitally important area of the curriculum and that is 'e-safety'. It is so important that the children know what to do and what not to do when on the internet or using social media. Visit our school website and go to 'Parent zone' / 'E-safety' for more information on e-safety at our school. We will use our formatting skills to construct documents presenting what they have learnt.

In our Open Futures sessions this half term, Oak class will be taking part in the Grow It element looking at habitats that plants grow in and use this knowledge to create a design for the outside area between Oak and Holly. They will also look at pollination, and plant and animal reproduction. In the second half term, Oak will be filming their musical compositions and creating photo montages linked to the RE topic of Creation.

During PE, the children will be developing skills in gymnastics and in a variety of invasion games.

In R.E. the class will be studying Creation and how this relates to the scientific view of how the World was created. Through Art they will represent the biblical version.

Year 5 children will have the opportunity of visiting Chichester Cathedral as part of the 'Friends of Chichester' week of prayer linked in with our Topic on prayer across the school. The children should have their full P.E. kit in at all times, but always on Wednesdays and Fridays.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this term. In Oak class, we continue to work in Talk Partners for the majority of our lessons and tasks, which should develop the children's independence and confidence.

Spellings— These should be practised daily, using the spelling timetable as a guide for the activities.

If an activity does not fit the spelling list, any other activity can be completed. The spelling and the activity list are on our website although the spelling list may sometimes change as we focus on any misspellings that repeatedly rear their ugly heads.

Reading—The children should read everyday (hopefully for pleasure), and even in year 5 and 6, there is a great benefit in reading, sharing and discussing a text with an adult. Please sign their book to show they have read at least 5 times weekly.

Project— During the year, the children will be set a project over 8-10 weeks based on the topic of that term. This is to help children prepare for secondary school with organization and time management.

The children may get additional homework if they have not completed their tasks in the appropriate time in class.