

Oak Class: Spring 2020



We hope you have had a fun and restful Christmas and are ready to embark on our Learning Journey for the Spring term during our topic...

'Chocolate!'



Topic: Our topic this term starts with the question:

'Where does chocolate come from?'



During our investigations we will travel to North America and look at the countries that make up this continent. We will zoom in and make our particular focus on Mexico and study the ancient Mayan Civilisation. We will reflect back to our Autumn topic and compare life in Britain during Anglo-Saxon and Viking times and with life in Mayan times. We will study their culture, belief, social structure and their amazing technology.

We will be looking at Mexico's history with chocolate and the other land use there, including its diverse landscapes and FairTrade.

Our Art will focus on Mayan headdresses and Mexican "artesanía" with a particular focus on colour, shape and pattern.

Our Science topics are Earth and Space and Plants. We will link the former to the Mayan calendar and their temple orientation and the latter will be linked to the production of cocoa, maize and other foods that come from Mexico. All of this will be celebrated at a Mexican fiesta when we will make some tasty treats. Our DT will also look at structures, including Mayan temples. (It will be useful to make sure you have an Art shirt in school.)

Our English will look at Michael Rosen's poem 'Chocolate Cake', study the characters and morals of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, look at Mayan folk law through 'The Chocolate Tree' and enter a strange and mysterious world in 'Whizz Pop Chocolate Shop.'

In Maths we will be using and applying our skills to our chocolate studies and our Mexican cooking, looking specifically at Fractions, decimals and percentages as well as measures.

You can support your children in their studies and encourage positive learning attitudes and interests by looking at books, websites and researching together at home.

A couple of helpful websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zbdmpv4>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkbbkqt>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zy66fg8>



PE: This term our PE will be on Tuesdays with Ms Dunning and French and Music will be supported by Madam Cordingley and Mr Chatto respectively. Miss Kirk will continue to cover RE on Friday afternoons.

Homework reminders: Children will have their specific homework tasks written in their weekly planner.

Reading: All the children are expected to read regularly at home and this includes fluent readers. Even if your child can read well, it is important to try to find opportunities to sit together to share reading and discuss the text to check and develop understanding of vocabulary and texts. It can really improve their progress in school.

We ask you to please fill in the date every time they read their school reading book to you.

Please keep in touch with any issues or concerns.

Appointments can usually be made for after the school day.

Faye Dodds-Aston

