



During this term, our topic is

What was life like during the Shang Dynasty?



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	During the first half term, we are going to be focussing on the basic skills relating to sentence structure and punctuation. We will be deepening our knowledge and understanding of grammar and the functions of the words in sentences. This unit will support children to form grammatically accurate sentences and punctuate them correctly. This will also support children when they edit and improve their own writing. At the end of the term, we will showcase our knowledge and skills through writing a non-fiction text. We will continue with whole class reading sessions to develop our comprehension skills and understanding of texts.	Encourage regular reading at home. Discuss the characters in the book your child is reading, do they like them and can they explain their choices? Can they identify the personality traits that the author has used that have given them that opinion? If your child is a keen writer, maybe they could create a piece of writing to share. Spellings will be sent home weekly for children to practise via Marvellous Me.
Maths	This half term we will be focusing largely on number and place value. This will include reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to at least 1,000,000. We will be applying our place value skills in addition and subtraction of larger numbers. We will also be learning about negative numbers and position and direction.	Have a look online as there are lots of maths puzzles and games to explore and enjoy! Test your child's rapid recall on their times-tables and related number facts. We focused a lot on our times tables during Year 4 and it is really important for Year 5 that children continue to practise their times tables regularly. In terms of Maths homework, the expectation is that children are regularly accessing Timetable Rock Stars.
Science Physics	We will be learning about the Earth and Space and about the planets in our Solar System in order to answer the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are spherical bodies? 2. What are the planets in our solar system? 3. What are geocentric and heliocentric theories? 4. How do day and night happen? 5. How does the moon move? 6. Who is Margaret Hamilton? 	Watch a Sci-fi film (like ET or Star Wars) or maybe even Dr Who. Discuss with your child what science fiction is! Look at books that have information in them about Earth and space – discuss what they find or bring their findings into school. You could also use a smart phone or tablet to download Google sky maps and do some digital star-gazing together! A further project that you could choose would be to create either a model space rocket, model planet or a model of the solar system.
History	In History, we will be learning about the Shang Dynasty in Ancient China. We will be discovering where and when the Shang Dynasty took place, exploring key figures and events from this time period and comparing this fascinating ancient civilisation to those we have previously studied, such as the Romans and Egyptians.	Discuss this topic with your children at home. Can your child complete independent research about the Shang Dynasty and bring their findings into school to share with their teachers and peers?
Computing	This half term we will be extending our computer science knowledge within the topic of coding. We will use Scratch to create maze and chase games. In addition, as part of our e-safety work we will be	Please ensure you encourage your child to be safe online and tell a trusted adult if they have any worries or concerns.

	looking at how children can get help if they are having problems online.	
Religious Education	We will be learning about one of the world's major religions – Islam. We will be finding out about the Qur'an and why it is important to Muslims, reading passages from the Qur'an and learning how Muslims use it today. We will also be virtually exploring a mosque and learning more about this place of worship.	Encourage conversations at home about the subject. Share your own views honestly and discuss the importance of respecting the beliefs of others.
Physical Education	In P.E, we will be learning about tag rugby. These sessions will be focusing on our passing and movement skills to ensure we can attack and defend successfully as a team. We will be finding out about the rules and skills needed for tag rugby, moving on to playing a range of competitive games. Class 12 will be swimming this half term on a Thursday and Class 11 will begin their swimming lessons next half term.	Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their full PE kit. This half term, Wednesday is our PE day. This should be black shorts or jogging bottoms, a plain white T-shirt and either trainers or plimsolls. Jewellery should not be worn for school as per the uniform policy, except for stud earrings, which must be removed (or plasters sent to cover them) prior to the lesson starting.
Art	This half term, we have a very exciting art project planned, where we will be using clay to sculpt tessellation tiles. The children will be using observations of our natural world to inspire them to do this and will focus on using symmetry to create their overall design.	Encourage children to take time looking at the natural world around them, including colours and textures. They could even spend time learning how to draw trees and leaves accurately.
French	This half term our French topic is 'seasons.' We will be recalling and developing a range of vocabulary in order to describe the months of the year and key events within the seasons. Learning will be demonstrated verbally and in written form, as well as through a range of interactive games.	Children could practise using the French vocabulary learnt in school at home. Can you teach anyone any new French words or phrases?
Music	Our work in music this half term is focused around one song: Livin' On A Prayer. Our work will see games, elements of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc), singing and playing instruments all linked. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, children will listen to and discuss other classic songs.	Have fun listening to music at home! Can you challenge your child to listen to different types of music? Discuss the music with your child. What images does it conjure up in their heads and how does it make them feel? Have a go at making some musical instruments out of junk and play them along to your favourite songs!
Relationships Education	Our focus is at the beginning of the term will be reconnecting as a class and exploring what it means to work as a team. After this, we will be looking at VIP's in more detail. This topic focuses on our relationships with people, which people are important to us and what healthy relationships are.	Discuss our topics at home together. Explore what team work means and how it is evident in everyday life. Discuss communication and its importance in team work. You can also look at why relationships are important in our lives and create a presentation around this.



During this term, our theme is:
What do maps tell us about our locality?

Below are the areas that we are covering within the theme.

Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	Our class text this half term is a classic tale from the author Betsy Byars, <i>The Midnight Fox</i> , which explores the relationship between humans and wildlife. We will be using this fabulous book as a stimulus for some descriptive writing and our own story creations. In reading sessions this term, the children will be focusing on making predictions using information stated and implied in the text, the use of vocabulary and the corresponding definitions and why the author has specifically chosen to use the words they have.	Whenever you get the opportunity, see what your child is reading. It doesn't matter what it is as long as they are enjoying it and learning from it. Discuss the characters in the book your child is reading; do they like them? Why or why not? Can they identify the personality traits that the author has used that have given them that opinion? If your child is a keen writer, maybe they could create a story and then they could read it to you, a sibling or other family member.
Maths	This half term we will be completing our learning on negative numbers before progressing to developing our knowledge of position and direction. We will also be practising our basic skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, which will underpin our main mathematical concepts this term. These skills will then be applied to a range of reasoning and problem-solving questions.	Last half term the children worked very hard on developing a quick recall of their times tables facts. We are hoping that regular practise of these facts will help the children retain this learning. Remind your child that they can log onto Times Table Rockstars at home so they can practise their skills on a regular basis to maintain their confidence and accuracy.
Science	In Science, we are learning about what the properties of materials are and how these can change. In our practical investigation work this half term we will be carrying out many experiments based on conductors and insulators as well as reversible and irreversible changes.	Your child could create the ultimate winter outfit, based upon the properties of materials.
Geography	We are looking at what maps tell us about our locality. We will be focusing on learning how to use an Ordnance Survey map of our locality and developing our knowledge of six figure grid references. We will also be finding out about how and why a compass is used to navigate and locate when using maps.	The children could conduct their own research by looking at maps of their local area. They can create information booklets to share their learning or even go out to draw or design their own maps.
Computing	This half term we will be extending our computer science knowledge through the topic of coding. We will use Scratch to create maze and chase games. In addition, as part of our e-safety work we will be looking at how children can get help if they are experiencing problems online.	Please ensure you encourage your child to be safe online and tell a trusted adult if they have any worries or concerns.

Religious Education	Our key question for our learning this half term is: What are the themes of Christmas? During this half term, we will explore and discuss what Christmas means to us and the different ways in which we celebrate this time of year linked to our traditions and beliefs.	Encourage conversations at home about this time of year. Share your own traditions and beliefs and discuss the importance of kindness and respecting the beliefs of others.
Physical Education	Our PE sessions will focus on basketball. We will learn how to control a ball effectively using dribbling and focus on being able to use a range of different throwing techniques. These skills will then be transferred to whole team games. This half term class 11 will be swimming every Thursday. Please make sure your child brings their swimming kit to school for these sessions (towel, swimming trunks or swim suit and swimming cap for children with long hair).	Please ensure children's PE kits are in school at all times. This is a plain white t-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls. Tracksuit bottoms and trainers are allowed for outdoor sessions. Studded earrings will need to be removed during these sessions.
DT	This half term, we will be completing a project around frame structures. We will be exploring structures and marble run bridges. We will then move onto designing our own marble bridge and develop our practical skills. To finish the project, we will make our own marble run bridge and test to see how successful it is.	Explore and discuss structures in and around the local community and how they have been built to be sturdy and secure. Children may want to consider these elements in their own marble run bridge. You may also encourage children to consider different materials they would use to build their own structure.
PSHE	As part of our PSHE sessions this half term, our overall theme is digital wellbeing. We will be looking at the benefits of the internet and how we can stay safe whilst using it. One particular area we will be focusing on is social media and how it can be used positively and negatively.	Discuss the ways in which we can be safe on the internet and why it is important to manage our time between online and reality.
French	In French, we are learning all about the different flavours of ice cream. We will learn how to express our preferences and ask for them in shops. To develop our understanding, we will focus on the grammatical rules about how phrases are formed.	Discuss key learning with your children and ask them to verbally tell you some flavours of ice cream they have learned to pronounce.