

The Shang Dynasty

Investigating Rivers



Year 5

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. Thank you so much for all of the very generous gifts - they were very much appreciated!

Our History Unit that kicks off this term is The **Shang Dynasty**. We will find out what the Bronze Age was like in China, consulting ancient history books and archaeological finds to compare evidence and draw conclusions about a wide range of features, meaning that we will not only improve our historical knowledge but also our historical enquiry skills. In the second half term, we move on to a Geography Unit of work that will help us to navigate towards an understanding of **rivers**, their uses, features and effect on the environment. We will get the chance to study the water cycle, find out how rivers are formed, explore the journey of a river from source to mouth, investigate why rivers are important and what they are used for, river pollution and its effects, as well as choosing a river around the world to investigate in depth.

Weekly timetable

Monday: Homework given out and reading records checked.

Wednesday & Friday: PE (wear kit to school and remember your child can bring in spare shoes to change into and additional socks in case they get wet feet).

Thursday: Homework to be handed in. Spelling and Times Table tests.

Friday: PE

Homework

Homework will be given out every Monday and will be due in on Thursday.

Spellings will be sent out on a Monday and the children will be tested on those the following Thursday.

Children are also expected to practise times tables every week and will be tested on a Thursday. They are able to use TT Rockstars and IXL to help them.

Children are really encouraged to enjoy reading and to read as much as they can at home as well. Please try to read **at least 5 times a week**. Please record into Reading Records and sign.

English, Maths and Science

In English and Maths we will be covering the National Curriculum objectives.

English:

In English, we will be writing through a range of genres, including explanations, suspense & mystery narrative and spoken poetry/rap.

Maths:

In Maths, we will cover a range of topics including: mental and written calculations, decimals and fractions, shapes and measurement.

Science:

Our first topic is Properties and Changes of Materials: This will include: comparing materials; dissolving & evaporating; separating materials; reversible & irreversible changes. We will be developing our understanding of scientific evidence and in the second half term be learning about living things and their habitats.

Computing: We will be learning about data and information and how to use flat-file databases. Then, we will discover how videos are made and use devices to create our own.

PE: We will be doing fitness and dodgeball this term.

Art and DT: We will be covering cooking and nutrition in D&T in a unit called - 'What could be healthier?' In Art, we will be making sculptures & 3D - Interactive installations.

PSHE: We will look at our dreams and goals, and staying healthy.

RE: We will be learning about Jewish worship and community, and Buddhist worship and beliefs.

Music: We will be representing the features of a piece of music using graphic notation, and colours, justifying our choices with reference to musical vocabulary. We will be learning to sing and play the blues.

French: Our themes in French this term are 'In my town' and 'Transport'.