



## Neptune Class - Autumn Term 2024

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had a great summer. I am very excited to welcome a new class and we have lots of excellent opportunities and fun learning ahead! Below is an overview of what we will cover during the term.

**Topic:** A majority of our work this term will be based around our main topic: *What was the Shang Dynasty?* It will be fun for the children to study an ancient Chinese culture and we have lots of interesting lessons ahead. We are going to learn about who the Shang people were, how they lived and what they contributed to the world.

**Maths:** In maths, we start off by working on our understanding of place value. We will be reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers, before moving onto working with negative numbers and mastering rounding.

**English:** Our written work will start off by reading the ancient myth that started Chinese New Year celebrations. We will then be writing recounts imagining we have celebrated the Chinese New Year. We are going to have lots of exciting writing opportunities including creating instructions to make ancient dragon bones and creating our own mythical creatures!

**Science:** Our class topic is all about Light. Our learning will focus on how light travels, exploring reflection/refraction and we will be making our own puppet shows, periscopes and kaleidoscopes!

**Geography:** Our work will focus on modern day China and we will explore both the human and physical geography of China. We will learn about what the UK trades with China and how China is making money today. We will also learn about Chinese culture and enrich this with a full 'China Day'!

**Art/DT:** In art, we are going to make Chinese scroll paintings, practice painting Chinese characters, make our own Chinese lanterns and use clay to make ancient Shang oracle bones! In DT, we will be creating Shang style huts in the forest, making our own Chinese calendars, cooking Chinese food and making Great Wall of China models!

**Music:** We will be studying music related to happiness. In particular, we will explore the history of pop and Motown music.

**Computing:** We will be learning all about 3D modelling and using software to practice CAD (Computer Aided Design). Using this, children will be challenged to create their very own Shang Dynasty Cities!

**PSHE/R.E -** In PSHE, we will focus on our own aspirations for the year ahead and work together to create a class charter of how we think we can achieve our goals. In RE, we are going to explore the reasons why some people choose to believe or not believe in God.

**P.E/Forest School:** PE will take place on Wednesday afternoons and will be run by our new provider, Premier Education. During Autumn, children will do 'Invasion Games'. Children will not be allowed to come to school in PE kit so please make sure your child has the appropriate kit (white T shirt, dark shorts or tracksuit bottoms and trainers) in school on those days. Forest school sessions will take place on alternate Friday afternoons from 12.10-13.30, children need long sleeved tops, tracksuits bottoms and footwear to get muddy on these days.

**Classroom Cover:** On Wednesdays, the class will be covered by Mrs Peters while I have PPA (Planning, preparation and assessment) and management time. Wednesday afternoons will also be our class PE slot. Mrs Peter knows the children well and they will enjoy their day with her.

**Seating Plan in our classroom:** We operate a mixed-ability system in our classroom therefore your child will generally sit in the same seat for all subjects and not have different maths and writing tables. Differentiation is still always in place so all children have access to the support and challenge they need as individuals each day across all subjects.

**Reading circles and homework tasks:** Your child will be given a reading circles book to take home, along with a role to complete work on that will be due the following week. This work should be completed in the green homework books and expectations for homework will be noted in the front of the book. Whole class lessons focusing on reading skills will take place to help children become more confident with all the reading circles roles. To prepare them for secondary school, children should take responsibility for homework and deadlines and there will be consequences for repeated late or incomplete homework. Maths homework will be related to key objectives for the half term. Children will also get logins for the online SPAG website – these will be written in their school diary and are great practice for the SPAG test they will sit in May.

**School Diaries:** This year children are being provided with a school diary textbook. This book will replace the reading records and should be used to record anything children need to know such as logins for resources, record of successes and messages between home and school. We ask that if you write a message for us in the record that your child brings the book directly me, as I will not have time to check every book, every day.

**Maths:** Please continue to help your child to practise their instant recall of times table and division facts, **this will be vital as it underpins most of the work we will do throughout the year!**

**Spelling:** As part of children's weekly homework, they will receive a list of words to take home and learn. Children will also be expected to write sentences containing some of the words each week. It is important that children take time to learn the words and on their reading circles day they will take a short test to see how many they can remember! Children will be taught strategies to learn spellings in class to support them with this spelling work. In addition, any simple writing that could contain Year 5/6 spellings is always useful! These spellings can be found on the inside of children's reading circles books. Thank you in advance for your support with reading tasks and homework activities! If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your child's school diary can be used for messages, but please tell your child to show us if there is a message as we won't be able to check daily.

Best wishes,  
James Broxup (Y6 teacher and DHT)



