

Oak Class Autumn Term 2025



Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a restful summer. In our topic over the Autumn Term, we will be looking at the **Ancient Maya**, including exploring where they came from; religion and gods; writing and number systems; food. The topic focuses on History objectives, although other areas of the curriculum including geography, art, and DT are covered too.

For the first seven weeks in our science work, we will be looking at the circulatory system in the human body. After half-term we will then be studying reproduction in animals including humans and the changes in the human body from birth to old age.

Attached to this letter is the knowledge and skills we expect the children to learn from the topic and what the take home task will be for the topic.

Oak class only will begin **swimming sessions on Tuesday 9th September in the afternoon**, and the children **should bring** their appropriate kit (one piece swimming costume, trunks or swim shorts – not board shorts and these need to be shorter than knee length – towel, and goggles if required) for swimming on a **Tuesday**. We have changed our swimming provider to Billies Fins and Oak class will swim up until 21st October.

As we will be swimming in the afternoon, children will need to bring their kit in a named swim bag. A voluntary contribution of £1.00 is requested towards transport costs.

Other PE sessions will be, wherever possible, outside and will continue to be on **Thursday**. Please ensure your child **comes to school wearing the correct school PE kit** for these sessions (PE t-shirt – white/blue, shorts or tracksuit and trainers).

Other important expectations for Oak class:

Daily reading – 20-30mins, practise their tables and spellings.

Spelling tests – Friday – the children need to bring in their spelling book (red) each week.

Homework – given on **Monday** to be returned by **Friday** (there may not be homework given every week).

As always, your support is greatly appreciated, and should you have any questions about anything we are covering please do not hesitate to contact us.

With many thanks

Clare Christie



What I should already know

- Location and names of the seven continents and five oceans.
- Some of the names of the bones and organs in the human body.
- Identifying what is a primary or secondary source of evidence.
- Different civilisations had different religious beliefs.
- Ancient civilisations lived differently to us.

Learning Links

Take Home task – To research about and make an Ancient Maya mask.

KS1 – All about me/Animals and Pets

LKS2 – Who do you think you are?/

Minibeasts/Romans

Vocabulary

Arteries	Large vessels that carry blood through the heart and around to every part of the body.
Blood vessels	The series of tubes inside the body.
Cacao	A bean that chocolate comes from; believed to have been given to the Maya by their gods.
Capillaries	A type of blood vessel that is very small and thin.
Chac	Maya god of rain and storms.
Chichen Itza	A large city built by the Maya people in Yucatan State, Mexico.
Circulatory system	The network of blood, blood vessels and the heart in the body.
City state	An independent city with a king.
Codices	Ancient books that help tell us about a civilisation.
Glyphs	Signs that represent a word or sound.
Itzamna	The name of the creator god; believed to have been one of the creators of human beings
Maize	Also called corn, that grows with large grains (cobs). Maya believed their ancestors were made from maize dough.
Mesoamerica	Meso = middle Mesoamerica is Southern Mexico and Central America.
Pok-a-tok	A game played by the Maya on a ball court with a rubber ball. A mix between basketball and football.
Popol Vuh	A sacred Maya book, sometimes referred to as the "Mayan Bible".
Stelae	Monuments of tall stone that are usually sculpted to show portraits of rulers.
Tikal	A complex of Maya ruins deep in the rainforest in northern Guatemala.
Xibalba	The name of the underworld in Mayan mythology. Roughly translates to place of fright.

Books I could read



Assessment

End of topic assessment

Wow / Now – school policy

Self / Peer assessment

Knowledge

- I know the locations of where the Maya settled: Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador
- I know human/physical geographical features of the given countries and the landmarks that relate to the Ancient Maya.
- I know the names of at least two of the Mayan gods.
- I know about the Ancient Mayan number system and their calendar system.

I know the significance of maize and cacao to the Ancient Maya.

I know that the Maya had over 800 glyphs in their writing system.

I know how the circulatory system works and can name the main parts.

I know how blood transports oxygen and waste gases around the body.

I can explain how valves, veins, arteries and capillaries enable my body to function.

Skills

- I can research using books and the internet
- I can use a range of sources to check accuracy of interpretations
- I can explanations about why people in the past acted as they did
- I can give reasons why some events and people are seen as more significant than others
- I can create timelines, within a specific time in history, to set out the order things happened
- I can appreciate how artefacts have helped us to understand more about the lives of those in the past
- I can present to an audience

Ancient Mayans Year B Year 5/6 – Autumn Term

