

School's Open Urchfont Update

2018-19 TERM 1



Welcome back everyone!

We hope you all have had had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break with your children and are now ready for the next academic year. As I said in my opening letter of the term, we look forward to getting to know our new children and their families and I am sure that they will soon settle in very quickly and feel at home and part of the Urchfont community.

The children look lovely in their school uniforms but can I remind you that it is so important to put **your child's name in all their uniform as it is so much easier to return labelled uniform to parents and children.**

We try to include as much information in the termly update as we can. If you have something you would like other parents to know, please contact the school office and we may be able to put it in the update or on the school notice board.

We upload lots of information onto the school website. Please visit it and see what is there. Our website address is - www.urchfont.wilts.sch.uk. To contact us by email, please use admin@urchfont.wilts.sch.uk. Mrs Atkins and Mrs Grieves can then pass on your message or request to the relevant person. or you can email the class direct if your query is not urgent. Class email addresses being: robins@urchfont.wilts.sch.uk.

For other classes replace robins with your child's class name.

In this newsletter, we have tried to include as many dates as we could for the whole year. We will endeavour not to alter any that we have set, but sometimes events overtake us.

Mrs C Talbot



We have a Suggestions Box in Reception.

If you have any suggestions or ideas that you would like us to consider, please place a note in one of the boxes.

Although you do not have to provide your name, if you do then we will respond personally to you.



We are always looking for volunteers to come in and listen to the children read. If you can help, please speak to the class teacher or contact the school office. Thank you.

Chaffinches



Welcome back to school and welcome to, or back to, Chaffinches class! It is going to be a really exciting year for us this year. The whole school has had an overhaul on their topics as a result of the classes changing around, which means I have planned six brand new topics for us to explore together! They are new to me as well, so I hope you will help me along the way by discovering things at home and sharing with them with me and your classmates.

Our first topic of the year is the Ancient Greeks! We will be learning about Greek mythology, lifestyle, democracy, wars, the Olympics, theatre and much more! We will be discovering the impact the Ancient Greeks had on our own lives to this day. For a more detailed look at what we will be up to, take a look at our topic web on the school website. This also has more detailed information on what to expect in Chaffinches this year.



Please try to make sure you have the correct equipment in school, particularly for PE, and check regularly **that it still fits. Look out for information regarding swimming on the school's Facebook page and on the Peek.**

We are on the lookout for parent helpers to come in and hear readers - so if someone at home can spare a little time once a week/fortnight we would be very grateful.

Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Pottinger

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School Council elections will take place during the first couple of weeks of term, so if you think you would like to represent pupil voice, jot down a few reasons you think you would make a good representative ready to present to your class.

School council rep positions include: eco, sport, ICT and fund raising.

The council's first fund raiser will be the Macmillan Coffee Morning 2018. More details coming soon.

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Sport



Mrs Reynolds is excited to get our 2018-19 sporting campaign underway! As sport is such a fundamental part of school life at Urchfont, we are going to trial a sports newsletter this year.

We will be welcoming Mr Herring back for PE lessons on a Wednesday afternoon this year. Mr Herring will work alongside all classes on a rotation, building on the skills developed in previous years. He will also be running an after school club which will change each term.

We will also be welcoming Sam Hodge back to run his popular hockey club on a Monday afternoon. This will be for years 3-6 only.

Last year we trialled a 'Young Leaders' programme with 6 year 6 children. We will be running this again this year; the children will be trained by Mr Herring in the first term of the year, ready to run games and activities at play times during terms 2-6. The programme will run for 6 year 6 children. Year 6s wishing to participate will need to express an interest on the competition choices letter which was sent home to Owls at the start of term.

Woodpeckers



Welcome back! I hope you have all had a fantastic summer break. I'm excited about getting to know everyone in Woodpeckers and am looking forward to a wonderful year. We are starting the year learning all about The Romans. We will be learning about the founding of Rome, the expansion of The Roman Empire and discussing what Britain was like before the Romans conquered.

Towards the end of the term we are hoping to have a Roman day, where the children will be able to dress as a Roman and will plan and make a banquet of Roman foods for us to try. More information about this will be given nearer the time.

In PE, we will be learning a dance inspired by the Roman battle formations and daily Roman life.

During art this term, we will be researching the history of Roman mosaics and looking at different examples, before we go on to create our own. We will also be researching Roman pottery and creating our own fierce representation of ourselves out of clay.

In music, we will be listening to Hans Zimmer's 'The Battle' from the film *Gladiator* and creating our own music to suit a mood that we are imagining during battle.

In RE, we will be learning about Buddhism and discussing the question, 'Is it possible for everyone to be happy?' We will be considering what makes us happy and whether material possessions make us happier. As part of this, we will learn about the story of Buddha and whether he found a way to be happy even when life is difficult.

In computing, we will be learning about how to stay safe online. This will include: recognising acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and understanding how to report concerns.

In science, this term we will be learning about the difference between solids, liquids and gases and comparing the properties of these. We will also be investigating what happens to some materials when they are heated and cooled.

Homework will be set on Fridays and will be due in on Thursdays. This will also include weekly spellings which will be tested on a Thursday.

Miss Partridge and Mrs James



Owls



Welcome back Owls!

We do hope you have all had a fantastic holiday and that you are well rested and ready to start a new year in Owls. As a whole school, we will begin this year by reviewing our school vision and values. Owls will particularly be looking at the values of Peace and Compassion. These values will link nicely into our World War 1 topic for this term.



2018 is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, so it seems fitting to study this important period in our **country's history**. Initially, we will be focusing on the lead up to the start of WW1 in 1914, the causes for the outbreak of the war and the major powers and leaders involved. We will look in detail at the assassination of Franz Ferdinand and spend time studying Trench Warfare, looking closely at the daily conditions faced by soldiers in the trenches. We will also explore how the sinking of the Lusitania had a massive effect on people signing up to fight.

Our theme for P.S.H.E. is, 'It's Our World'. We will be exploring the concept of democracy and how it works in our country. We will discuss how our government is formed and how rules and laws are passed. We will then move on to the ever pressing subjects of climate change and global warning and discuss how we can help to protect our planet.

In Science, we will be learning how to describe living things (micro-organisms, plants and animals) by classifying them according to common observable characteristics which are based on similarities and differences.

To support our topics, in English we will be writing a Science investigation report, an account based on the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, a diary entry as a soldier in the trenches and a letter from the point of view of an American who wants to come to England to join in the fight, enraged by the sinking of the Lusitania. We will of course be continuing our studies of the grammar and punctuation skills which a Year 6 pupil is expected to use in their writing.

In Maths, we will be building on our place value and number skills and our knowledge of written and mental methods, with a focus on problem solving. Times Table Mountain will take place on a Friday.

For this term P.E. will be hockey on a Tuesday with Dauntseys' Outreach and basketball on a Wednesday afternoon with Mr. Herring.

Weekly spellings will be given out on a Monday to be tested the following Monday. Again there will be a big focus on handwriting and so cursive handwriting homework, linked to your spellings, will also be given out on a Monday. Maths homework will be given out on a Friday to be completed and returned by the following Friday. You will also have an Isle of Wight project to complete. As an Owl we will expect you to read regularly at home to an adult. Remember you can collect class airmiles if you read 5 nights a week and record it in your home reading record book.

I am sure you are all looking forward to your week on the Isle of Wight. There are lots of thrilling activities planned so all we need to do is keep our fingers crossed for fine weather!

Mrs Groves, Mrs. Leese and Mrs Marshall

School Calendar



TERM 1	MONDAY 03.09.18. - WEDNESDAY 24.10.18.
	10.09.18 Whole school Values Week
	12.09.18. Owls Welcome Back to School meeting
	13.09.18. Woodpeckers Welcome Back to School meeting
	17.09.18. Yr 5&6 Isle of Wight week
	19.09.18. Chaffinches Welcome Back to School meeting
	19.09.18. Robins Welcome Back to School meeting
	28.09.18. Macmillan Coffee Morning
	04.10.18. Harvest Service in Church
	09.10.18. Parents Evening - all classes
	10.10.18. Parents Evening - Robins and Chaffinches
	11.10.18. Parents Evening - Woodpeckers and Owls
	22.10.18. Maths Week
	24.10.18. Celebration Assembly
TERM 2	MONDAY 05.11.18. - FRIDAY 21.12.18.
	06.11.18 World War I week
	09.11.18 Owls sharing assembly
	12.11.18 Anti-Bullying Week
	30.11.18 Devizes Lantern Parade
	10.12.18 Christmas Productions Dress Rehearsal
	10.12.18 Christmas Production Evening Performance (Chaffinches)
	11.12.18 Christmas Production Matinee Performance (Chaffinches)
	11.12.18 Christmas Production Evening Performance (Robins)
	12.12.18 Christmas Production Matinee Performance (Robins)
	12.12.18 Music Assembly
	13.12.18 Beauty & The Beast Theatre Trip
	20.12.18 Christingle Service
	21.12.18 Celebration Assembly
TERM 3	MONDAY 07.01.19. - FRIDAY 15.02.19.
	08.02.19 Chaffinches Sharing Assembly
	15.02.19 Celebration Assembly
TERM 4	MONDAY 25.02.19. - FRIDAY 05.04.19.
	18.03.19 Parents Evening Week
	29.03.19 Robins Sharing Assembly
	04.04.19 Easter Service
	05.04.19 Celebration Assembly
TERM 5	TUESDAY 23.04.19. - FRIDAY 24.05.19.
	24.05.19 Celebration Assembly
TERM 6	MONDAY 03.06.19. - THURSDAY 25.07.19.
	21.06.19 Woodies Sharing Assembly
	28.06.19 Staff Training Day (School closed to pupils)
	19.07.19 Sports Day
	23.07.19 Leaver's Service
	24.07.19 Celebration Assembly