

Great Oaks: Curriculum Information Letter



TEACHER: Mrs Hughes

LSAs: Ms Cairney, Mrs Hance

PE LESSON: Thursday afternoon

FOREST SCHOOL: Friday afternoon

HOMEWORK: Handed out on Monday **Return:** Monday **SPELLING TEST:** Friday

READING HOMEWORK: We expect your child to read at least 5 times a week. This may be independent reading as well as reading alongside an adult. Please acknowledge this reading by signing in your child's reading record which will be collected each FRIDAY morning. Thank you.

Topic: **Victorians**

We will be learning all about all the significant changes and inventions which happened in Britain during the Victorian era and how life was for the poorest members of society compared to the wealthiest.

English	The children will write in a variety of genres, focusing on vocabulary and content. They will revise essential grammar and punctuation skills. We will start by looking at the picture book and animation 'Varmints' and move onto Street Child by Berlie Doherty to help us with our Victorian topic. They will have weekly spellings to learn which will be tested on a Friday.
Mathematics	The children will have daily number skills practice, choosing the correct operation to solve multi-step problems. In addition to consolidating last term's learning, new topics of data handling, algebra and measures will be covered. Regular arithmetic practice and SATs style questions will help them to become confident with the different thinking skills and knowledge required to prepare them for the next stage of our learning journey.
Science	We will learn about how living things are classified into broad groups, according to common observable characteristics e.g. similarities and differences. This topic will include micro-organisms as well as classifying plants and animals.
Computing	The children will begin the term looking at e-safety, particularly cyberbullying and then in Autumn 2 they will be exploring a range of digital presentation tools.
Religious Education	Our two key questions this term will be: 'Are the saints good role models' and 'Is 'God made Man' a good way to understand Christmas?
Physical Education	PE will be on a Thursday. Children must come to school in uniform and get changed for PE at school. They will wear their PE kits home.
Art – D.T.	This term we are considering the light and colour in Monet's paintings and how his new style gave rise to the term 'Impressionism'. We will be learning about the life and work of this artist and create our own artworks. After half term, we will turn to textiles in our topic 'Funky Fashions', upcycling old clothes to make a cushion.
Music	We will be listening to different pieces of music and reflecting on the impact of different harmonies and instruments. In Autumn 2 we will be preparing for Christmas by performing a range of traditional carols as part of the Christmas Carol Service.
PSHE	We will be exploring our roles and responsibilities as citizens in our local community and how our actions can have both positive and negative consequences. In Autumn 2, we will be celebrating our differences and exploring the impact of bullying. We will challenge our perceptions of others and learn about how people overcome difficulties to achieve amazing things.
French	We will be learning the vocabulary for different animals and learn how to describe where they live. In Autumn 2 we will learn lots of vocabulary for food and drink and practise ordering different items and learn to give our preferences.

Ways to Support Your Child in Year 6



Victorians

Support your child's learning about Victorian Britain through:

- Trips and visits (when available).
- Research at home – encourage them to explore life in Victorian Britain (e.g. homes, work, transport, school, major events).



E-safety

Help your child stay safe online:

- Visit the CEOP website together (www.ceop.police.uk) to learn about staying safe, reporting concerns and keeping personal information private.



Reading at Home

Regular reading makes a big difference!

- Aim for at least 5 times a week.
- Choose a variety of books – fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers.
- Find a quiet, comfortable space and make it a positive routine.



Reading Comprehension

Ask questions to help your child think more deeply about what they have read. Try some of these:

- 1 How is the character feeling? What makes you think that?
- 2 Where is the evidence for this?
- 3 What might this word mean? (Look at the context for clues.)
- 4 What is the main idea of this paragraph?
- 5 Why do you think the character made this choice?
- 6 How does the setting affect the mood/atmosphere?



Times Tables

Quick recall of number facts is key!

- Practise regularly – short, focused sessions work best.
- Use games, apps and everyday activities (e.g. counting in the car, shopping, cooking).
- Encourage them to use their times tables in real life.

Useful websites / apps:

- TT Rockstars (school login)
- Hit the Button (www.topmarks.co.uk)
- Mathsframe (www.mathsframe.co.uk)



Limit Screen Time

- Helps with sleep, focus and mental wellbeing.
- Encourage hobbies, outdoor play and family time.



Breakfast

A protein-rich breakfast helps keep energy levels steady, supports concentration and reduces mid-morning hunger.

Try:

- Eggs (boiled, scrambled or on toast)
- Greek yoghurt with fruit
- Porridge with milk and seeds
- Wholegrain toast with cottage cheese
- Natural yoghurt with berries



Good Night, Restful Sleep

Sleep helps with memory, concentration and mood.

How much sleep does a child need?

Aged 10–11 (Year 6): 9–11 hours per night
(Aiming for 9–10 hours is ideal.)

- ✓ Keep a regular bedtime and routine.
- ✓ Limit screens before bed.
- ✓ Create a calm, dark and comfortable environment.

Some suggested books from the Reading Trust for home reading:

Here's a round-up of recent children's books which the Reading Trust think any child aged 10 to 11 years will love. With everything from touching family dramas to thrilling adventures, and fantastic non-fiction alongside stories to make you giggle, there are loads of wonderful titles to enjoy.

Pie in the Sky Author: Remy Lai Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

Illustrated throughout, this heartfelt story contains so much: a family coping with bereavement, the alienation of moving somewhere new, and what it's like when you can't speak the language of the people around you. Lovely and heartfelt.

Patina Author: Jason Reynolds Publisher: Knights Of

Interest age: 9-12 **Reading age:** 9+

Elite runner Patina is a girl with a lot on her plate and she takes her responsibilities very seriously. The dialogue is crisp, the characters are believable, and it's a beautiful, flawless reading experience that will hook reluctant readers (especially those into sports).

Some Places More Than Others Author: Renée Watson Publisher: Bloomsbury

Interest age: 9-12 **Reading age:** 9+

Amara desperately wants a trip to New York for her birthday, to meet her dad's family and see where he grew up and she can't understand why her parents are reticent about the trip. Until she discovers her dad hasn't spoken to his dad, Grandpa Earl, for twelve years – not since the day she was born. What could make them so mad at each other?

The Girl Who Speaks Bear Author: Sophie Anderson Publisher: Usborne

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

Found in a bear cave when she was a baby and raised by her foster mother, Yanka has always wondered who she really is. Readers will be gripped by her quest to find out in this marvellous tale inspired by Russian folklore.

Boy Giant Author: Sir Michael Morpurgo Publisher: Harper Collins

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

Under the masterful pen of Sir Michael Morpurgo, this is an easy and uncomplicated read, and the young reader certainly doesn't need to know anything about, let alone have read, the original Gulliver's Travels.

The Somerset Tsunami Author: Emma Carroll Publisher: Faber & Faber

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

This is another glorious example of historical fiction from Emma Carroll: a feisty, female-led adventure based on the real-life events of witch trials and floods in 17th-century Somerset, which also encourages girls to have faith in themselves.

The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone Author: Jaclyn Moriarty

Publisher: Guppy Books

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

A wild quest sends Bronte through a magical, whimsical world. Slowly, she discovers how high the stakes are. This book really has everything: skillfully-spun plot, humour and charm, unforgettable characters and poetry in its language.

Hidden Planet Author: Ben Rothery Publisher: Ladybird Books

Interest age: 6-11 **Reading age:** 7+

A self-confessed wildlife obsessive, Rothery's book isn't just a collection of his gorgeous illustration but rather a study of the hidden connections between species. Fascinating and beautiful.

The Fowl Twins Author: Eoin Colfer Publisher: HarperCollins

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

The Fowl twins are completely unlike each other, but they make the perfect team when the evil ACRONYM attacks them. Readers will find a well-developed fantasy world with a plot that is full of clever, satisfying twists and turns.

Orion Lost Author: Alastair Chisholm Publisher: Nosy Crow

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

When her spaceship is attacked and all adults incapacitated, 13 year old Beth is appointed new Captain of the Orion. It's a role she's always dreamed of, but meteor storms and ruthless space pirates await... A thrilling futuristic journey full of twists and turns, perfect for older readers.

Music is My Life Author: Myles Tanzer **Illustrator:** Ali Mac **Publisher:** Wide Eyed Editions

Interest age: 10-14 **Reading age:** 10+

An illustrated guide to finding the soundtrack to the good, bad or sad times in your life.

You Must Be Layla **Author:** Yassmin Abdel-Magied **Publisher:** Penguin

Interest age: 9-12 **Reading age:** 9+

Layla's first week at her new school isn't going well - she's the only child there to wear a Muslim headscarf, and she's already been suspended for fighting back against a bully. Can Layla win the robotics competition and prove what she's made of? This laugh out loud story is about making friends, finding your way in the world, and is a great introduction to...

Clean Getaway **Author:** Nic Stone **Publisher:** Knights Of

Interest age: 10-14 **Reading age:** 9+

One day, Scoob's Grandma turns up at his house and invites him on a road trip - retracing the steps of a trip she took with his late grandpa. This is a satisfying, timeless read about a family's history which intersects with the American civil rights movement, and reminds readers of the impact of racism and intolerance.

Crater Lake **Author:** Jennifer Killick **Publisher:** Firefly Press

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

Lance and his friends aren't looking forward to the school trip to Crater Lake - for one thing, school bully Trent hasn't forgiven Lance for the incident at the start of Year Six. For another, they've just seen a man covered in blood at the side of the road warning them to run. And there's definitely something weird about their teachers... Spooky, thrilling ...

The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates **Author:** Jenny Pearson **Illustrator:** Rob Biddulph

Publisher: Usborne

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

Do miracles really happen? Freddie Yates isn't convinced. Until the summer he goes on an unexpected journey with his two best friends.

TrooFriend **Author:** Kirsty Applebaum **Publisher:** Nosy Crow

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

When Sarah's mum buys her a TrooFriend android, she's not impressed at first - but could there be any truth to the rumours that the robots have feelings? A fascinating exploration of artificial intelligence and what makes us human.

Mic Drop: A High Rise Mystery **Author:** Sharna Jackson **Publisher:** Knights Of

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

The second in Sharna Jackson's High Rise Mystery books sees Nik and Norva return with another crime to solve on their home turf.

Hello, Universe **Author:** Erin Entrada Kelly **Publisher:** Piccadilly

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 9+

Virgil, or 'Turtle' for his shyness, has a crush on Valencia - the trouble is, she doesn't know he exists. After a run-in with the school bully leaves Virgil trapped in an old well, it's up to Virgil's friends to rescue him before it's too late

The Iron Man **Author:** Ted Hughes **Illustrator:** Chris Mould **Publisher:** Faber & Faber

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 8+

Whether you're already a fan of this classic children's story or a new reader, this wonderful version is a real treat. Chris Mould's mechanical Iron Man has a great deal of personality and this luxury hardback would be a delight to share at home.

I Cosmo **Author:** Carlie Sorosiak **Publisher:** Nosy Crow

Interest age: 9-11 **Reading age:** 8+

Cosmo is a dog with a passion for dance. When his family no longer have enough love to stay together, can he save them? This charming story brings together the fun of canine freestyle dance and the heartbreak of divorce into a single, moving story about families.

Harriet Versus the Galaxy **Author:** Samantha Baines **Illustrator:** Jessica Flores **Publisher:** Knights Of

Interest age: 6-11 **Reading age:** 7+

When Harriet is hunting for her hearing aid under the bed, the last thing she expects to find is an alien. Soon, she is working alongside her gran to defend the human race. A highly accessible story, laced with lively illustrations and lots of laughs.

Willow Wildthing and the Swamp Monster **Author:** Gill Lewis **Illustrator:** Rebecca Bagley

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Interest age: 8-11 **Reading age:** 8+

Willow is in the garden when she meets the Wild Things: a small band of barefoot children with sticks and feathers in their hair. When they kidnap her dog Sniff, she must help them track the monster that has been invading their camp.