



Spring 2 in Owlacombe



English

This term, pupils are studying *Wallace and Gromit's Cracking Contraptions*, a fun and engaging text packed with highly technical vocabulary. This will support the children in developing their understanding of precise word choices and detailed explanation writing. They will be learning key grammar features, including the use of the passive voice and parenthesis, and applying these within their own writing.

Later in the term, pupils will explore the features of recounts in preparation for writing a detailed account of their residential visit to London. As we move closer to SATs, there will also be an increased focus on grammar and punctuation terminology and rules.



Maths

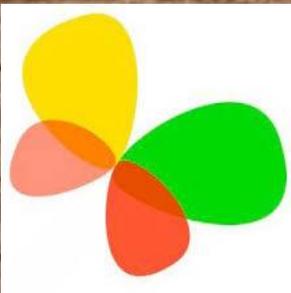
In Maths, we are currently finishing a unit on area, perimeter, and volume and then we will move on to learning about percentages, algebra, and statistics.

Alongside these topics, there will be a continued strong focus on calculation skills and arithmetic practice throughout the week to help consolidate learning and build confidence ahead of the SATs in May.

Science

This term in Science, we will plan and carry out an investigation into the heat retention of space blankets. Owlacombe will build on their knowledge of reflection and temperature to explore how and why space blankets help to keep people warm. Using thermometers and careful measurement, they will plan a fair test to investigate how effectively different materials retain heat.

Outdoor Learning and PE Days



This term, we have Outdoor Learning on a **Wednesday**. Children will need a spare pair of shoes or wellies as well as a coat to ensure they keep warm! On **Thursday**, we have Mr Pierce for PE. Children can come in wearing their PE kit. Don't forget a school jumper to keep warm! Our other PE day is term is a **Tuesday**.

The Body Language dance festival takes place on Wednesday March 11th and we are very much looking forward to performing our piece to you. Our theme is Freedom and we are basing our work on the inspirational quote, "I would rather be a rebel than a slave" from the suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst.



PSHE

In PSHE, Owlacombe will be learning about rights and responsibilities and how these are closely linked in everyday life. They will explore the meaning of 'freedom of expression' and understand why this is an important right. They will also develop their understanding of how Parliament and the Government work, learning how decisions are made and how these affect people's lives. This will culminate in our trip to London where will visit parliament and see how the House of Commons works in real life





Design Technology

This term in Design and Technology, Owlacombe will be exploring **Gears and Pulleys**. The class will investigate how mechanical systems work and discover how gears and pulleys are used in everyday machines to transfer motion and change speed, direction or force. The children will explore real-life examples of products that use gears and pulleys before designing and making their own working system.

Geography

In Geography, pupils are learning about deserts. They will study:

- What deserts are and where they are found
- Their physical features and climate
- How humans use desert environments
- The challenges and threats facing deserts today

This unit will help our children develop their understanding of diverse environments and how humans interact with such an extreme biome.



Music



This term in Music, we will be exploring **Theme and Variations**. The children will develop their understanding of the musical concept of *theme and variations*, learning how a simple melody or rhythm can be changed and developed in creative ways.

Inspired by the bold and colourful world of Pop Art, pupils will experiment with translating rhythms and musical ideas onto different instruments.

Computing

In Computing, children will learn that codes can be used for a variety of purposes, such as communicating messages securely. They will practise decoding simple coded messages and understand why coding systems are useful. Pupils will also learn how to create strong and secure passwords, exploring why passwords need to be difficult to guess and how they help protect personal information. In online safety, pupils will recognise different types of online communication, such as messaging and email, and will know who they can go to for help if they have any concerns about communication online.



Religion and World Views

Pupils are studying the unit: *For Christians, what kind of King was Jesus?*

Within this, they will explore parables from the Bible and learn that many Christians believe Jesus used parables to teach about the Kingdom of God. They will also consider different interpretations of these texts and investigate how Christians put their beliefs into practice through worship and service to the community.



Deserted: Would you like to live in the desert?

Fact Finder

arid	Too little rain to support lots of vegetation.
barren	Land that cannot grow vegetation.
biome	An area of the world with a similar climate and landscape, where similar plants and animals live.
climate	Long-term weather conditions of a specific region.
desert	Any stretch of land with little or no rainfall and extremely sparse vegetation and wildlife.
mining	Digging underground for precious metals and stones.
rainfall	The amount of rain falling in a place over a particular time.
ranching	Keeping animals on a large farm in the Americas.
renewable energy	Energy generated from a continuous source, such as wind or water.

Notable Deserts		
Sahara Desert Northern Africa		-The Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert on Earth at 9.4 million square kilometers (the cold desert of Antarctica is larger). It spans across 11 different African countries. The temperature in the Sahara can exceed 50°C!
Antarctic Desert Antarctica		-Most of Antarctica (about an area twice the size of the Sahara Desert) is classed as a desert, because it does not rain or snow a lot there. When it does snow, it doesn't melt and builds up over many years to make thick sheets of ice.
Atacama Desert South America		-The Atacama Desert is positioned on a narrow strip of land in between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains. It is often considered to be the driest place on Earth. In most places, there is less than 1mm of rain per year and in some parts it has not rained for 500 years!
The Outback Australia		-The Australian Outback is not actually one desert, but 10 smaller deserts divided by tropical savanna. It makes up most of the hot, dry interior of the Australian continent.
Gobi Desert Eastern Asia		-The Gobi Desert is the 2 nd largest desert in Asia. The desert is caused by being in the rain shadow of mountains that surround it. In summer it is very hot (up to 45°C) and the winter it is extremely cold (down to -40°C).

Desert Facts and Figures

Lots of animals that live in the desert are nocturnal. This helps them to avoid the daytime heat.

One third (33%) of the land on Earth is covered in deserts!

Of all of the continents, Europe has the least desert.

Most deserts are located within the tropics, where the temperature is hotter.

An oasis is a place in a desert where water and plants can be found (normally near a natural spring).

The record for the hottest air temperature in the world (57°C) was at Death Valley in the Mojave Desert.

Hot deserts may reach 45°C-50°C in the day, but they can fall to below 0°C at night.