

# Great Oaks: Curriculum Information Letter



**TEACHERS:** Mrs Birley & Mrs Shead

**LSAs:** Miss Saunders, Mrs Kirby & Mrs Hance

**P.E. LESSON:** Monday and Tuesday afternoon

**HOMEWORK:** Is sent home on a Friday and consists of a weekly spelling list and a reading/ writing/ SPAG or Maths task. **To be completed by the following:** Thursday **Spelling Test:** Thursday

**READING HOMEWORK:** Please read with your child at least 5 times each week. Once you have heard your child read, please sign with a comment about your child's reading. Your child can share and record their own comments about their reading to supplement an adult's. Reading and recording 6 or 7 times a week consistently will earn a space at the Readers' Tea! **Y6 children will sit a SATS reading paper at the end of the year.**

## Autumn Curriculum: River and Mountains

This half term Year 6 will be exploring the physical geography of a river, from its source to the mouth, as well as looking at local and national rivers. We are going on a trip to a local river on 31st October for hands on fieldwork to take place. In the second half of this term, we move on to mountains and volcanoes.

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| <b>English</b>             | The children will write in a variety of genres, focusing on vocabulary and content. They will revise essential grammar and punctuation skills. In depth discussion and comprehension in guided reading will be based on the book 'Journey to the River Sea.' They will have weekly spellings to learn which will be tested on a Thursday.  |
| <b>Mathematics</b>         | 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 practice of Arithmetic 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. |
| <b>Science</b>             | 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.   |
| <b>Computing</b>           | The children will begin the term looking at e-safety, particularly Cyber-bullying and then in Autumn 2 they will be exploring a range of digital presentation tools.   |
| <b>Religious Education</b> | Our two key questions this term will be: 'Are the saints encouraging role models' and 'Is 'God made Man' a good way to understand Christmas?   |
| <b>Physical Education</b>  | PE will be on a Monday and Tuesday. Children must come to school in uniform and get changed for PE at school. Our key skills will be developed through Netball, Orienteering and Team Games.   |
| <b>Art – D.T.</b>          | 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.  |
| <b>Music</b>               | 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.  |
| <b>PSHE</b>                | 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.   |
| <b>French</b>              | 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.   |

**Possible family visits/ activities which would enrich your child's learning:**

- Visit local natural habitats, such as woods and rivers
- Look together at the CEOP site for e-safety
- Visit art galleries and look at how the artist creates the highlights and shadows.

**Practical ways to support your child's learning:**

- Support your child to read daily, question them about their understanding of the text, their opinions, encourage analytical thought and adventurous vocabulary.
- Support your child to complete homework tasks well and on time: reinforce learnt concepts and independent research.
- Keep mental calculation skills sharp by helping your child to learn their weekly spellings and practise times tables.

## 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.

To find out more, just press Ctrl+click to follow this link [Discover the full Great Books Guide](#) or on the individual book links.

**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.