

Rowan Class - Term 3

January 2024

rowanclass@longleaze.wilts.sch.uk

Term 3

Dear Parents & Carers,

Firstly, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and say thank you very much for the thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts! I am very grateful for your kindness. I hope you have had an enjoyable break and welcome you back to a new term in Rowan Class.

Last week, we launched our new topic for this term, which has a history focus, and is called 'Maya Mayhem'. This topic will focus on the Maya civilisation, and we will make comparisons to the Anglo-Saxons in Britain. Attached to this letter you will find the knowledge organiser for our topic detailing the key knowledge that children will be learning. Please use this to ask your child about their learning and help them remember key information.

Additionally, thank you to those of you who helped with our walk to the High Street, Carol Concert or trip to Winchester Science Centre last term. The children had a fantastic day at Winchester, and the Planetarium was a particular highlight!

As always, if you ever need to speak to me then the best time to catch me is straight after school. Alternatively, you can contact me using the class email address (rowanclass@longleaze.wilts.sch.uk) and I will get back to you either by email or phone. If you ever have any queries or concerns about your child in class, then please do not hesitate to use this.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Tye
Rowan Class Teacher

PE

This term, PE will continue to be on **Monday** and **Thursday**. On these days, children will need to wear their PE kit to school.

Reading

Please can I remind you about the importance of reading at home with your child.

Not only does reading help children develop their fluency, but talking about the text with an adult supports their comprehension and understanding of new vocabulary. This has a positive impact on children's education across the whole curriculum.

Please remember to record reading in your child's reading record book and use the next page of this letter for some ideas about how to develop a love of reading with your child.



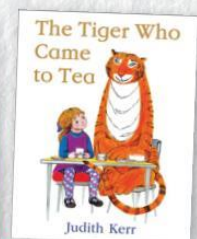
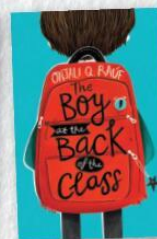
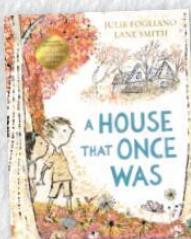
Book Chat

Developing a Love of Reading



Book Chat encourages readers. Open questions, comments and prompts get the Book Chat going. Invite your child to make connections and share views. Join in with your thoughts too!

Book Chat develops language, comprehension and pleasure.



For more information visit:
bit.ly/RfPHome

What have we been learning?

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Term 2 – Location, Location, Location

Rowan Class absolutely loved our last topic, learning about space and Royal Wootton Bassett. Please have a look at some of our learning opportunities from last term.



In DT, we made our own pom-pom Christmas decorations.



In science, we made models to help demonstrate how the moon orbits the Earth whilst the Earth orbits the Sun.



We loved exploring the high street for our geography fieldwork investigating the different types of shops in Royal Wootton Bassett.



We had a great time visiting Winchester Science Centre. We had some time to explore lots of hand-on exhibits about space as well as other areas of science.



Maya Mayhem



Vocabulary

civilisation	A human society with clear rules.
codices	Ancient handwritten texts.
myth	Stories about how the world was created.
priest	As keepers of knowledge, they taught reading and writing and performed ceremonies.
pyramid	Structures built by the Maya with stepped sides.
archaeologist	Someone who studies human history by finding artefacts and remains.
hierarchy	A system that organises things according to their importance.
offering	Something given as a gift to the gods.

Where would you find the Maya?

The Maya civilisation originated in the south of the continent of **North America**. They built more than 60 cities, the remains of which can still be seen in Mexico and Guatemala.

In the centre of a Maya city there was a large open square where markets were held. They also included grand **temples** and courts for playing games. Each city was surrounded by farm land and smaller villages.

The most famous Maya city is **Chichén Itzá**.



Writing and Maths

They used symbols to write down words or phrases. The Maya believe reading was a sacred gift from the gods so only people called **scribes** were taught to read and write. They invented a new number system as well, to record numbers.



Maya Society



Maya **society** was organised depending on how important the person was:

- The king was at the top and was considered to have god like power.
- The king's family, **nobles** and other leaders came next.
- Then came **craftsmen** and merchants
- Farmers were considered to be less important.
- Slaves** were at the bottom of society.

Maya Beliefs



The Maya believed in many different **gods** and **goddesses** that were linked to every part of their lives—from weather to crops or even rainbows.

They thought that all gods and goddesses

had a good and a bad side, one that would help them and one that could hurt them. They would dance, sing and make **offerings** to please the gods.



When did the Maya live?

The Maya Civilisation lived from around 2000 BC to AD 1500. During this time in Britain, there was the Bronze Age, the Iron Age, the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans.

