

4th October 2024

Dear Oak Parents

Oak Class has a Maya Workshop booked for Thursday 24th October 2024 delivered by Widget Workshops. This is an exciting day for the children to fully immerse themselves in this ancient Maya Civilisation which is our history topic.

Two specialists will be arriving at school to run the sessions. It will last the whole day and take place in the classroom. Children will come to school in their school uniform as normal.

In Sue's session, children will look at the importance of weaving to the Maya and she will demonstrate the use of a backstrap loom. The children will then have a go at weaving their own colourful woollen basket. Sue will help the children to make their own Guatemalan worry doll and she will explain the origins of this doll. The children will have the opportunity to handle replica artefacts such as the Dresden Codex, cocoa beans and whisks, pottery and masks. They will investigate the Maya writing system and write their names in glyphs using our syllabary and using traditional ink.

In Kat's session, children will be introduced to the timeline and geography of the ancient and modern-day Maya. They will then go on to learn and use the Maya number system; they will explore Maya calendars and learn about the Maya Long Count. They will then use everything they have learned to find out what their Nahuatl name is and create a quick card with their Nahuatl hieroglyph. They will also take part in a short town planning activity to find out how a typical Maya city evolved. This session will include a Virtual Reality session to explore the sites of the Maya world including Chichen Itza, Tikal and the Peten region, swimming in a cenote, Palenque and much more. When wearing the headsets, the children will take a short break from them once every 5 to 10 minutes. With this in mind, children share a headset in pairs during a session. A VR session for a child will last around 30 to 40 minutes. This is an exciting and engaging approach to learning where the children will have the opportunity to explore real life environments which directly connect with their history topic.

The cost of the workshop is £10 per child and has been subsidised by the school. There is also the added benefit of not having to hire a coach for this event.

We respect the financial constraints that families may be facing, however I wanted to emphasise the importance of contributions, as too few may mean we have to cancel the event and we don't wish this to happen. We are very happy to receive instalments if this works better for you, please let us know. Our thanks to you for your continued support.

If you are willing for your child to take part, please would you complete the attached form and return it to the school office. Payment can be made through ParentPay. All necessary risk assessments regarding off-site visits have been carried out in accordance with the LA guidelines.

Yours sincerely
Miss Bailey

MAYA WORKSHOP – THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2024

Name..... ClassOAK

* I give permission for my child to take part in the Maya Workshop

* I have signed the off-site visits form for 2024-25

* I have paid the voluntary contribution of £10 through ParentPay.

Signed:..... Date: