

Marine Academy Primary, Trevithick Road, St. Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 2AF

T: 01752 213939 W: <http://www.marineacademy.org.uk/primary/>

E: primary@marineacademy.org.uk

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Marine Academy Primary Year 3 pupils,

Each term, we send you a letter to let you know what your child will be learning about in each subject. This term, Year 3 will be learning about the **Shang Dynasty** in their **History** lessons and will find answers to the following questions before using their knowledge to write an essay at the end of the term:

1. How do we know about the Shang Dynasty?
2. How did the Shang Dynasty begin?
3. What was life like for people in the Shang Dynasty?
4. What did the Shang people believe?
5. Who was Fu Hao?
6. How did the Shang Dynasty end?



The Shang Dynasty is the first historic dynasty of China. The river valley of the Yellow River provided a fertile area for this civilisation to develop; little has survived of their domestic architecture. Fortunately, royal and other tombs have provided many clues as to life under the Shang. The Dynasty lasted for six hundred years and encompassed the reign of thirty emperors. A knowledge organiser sharing all of the information – including key facts, a timeline and a map – that the children will learn about in their History lessons is attached. Please feel free to use this with your child to



develop their knowledge and understanding at home.

In **Science**, the children will work scientifically on a variety of quick challenges and longer tasks to learn about the wonders of light, including reflections and shadows.

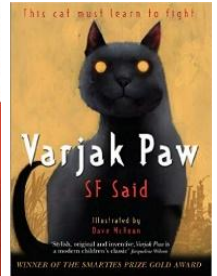


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In **English**, the children's writing will be based on the books 'Blue John' by Berlie Doherty and 'Poetry Pie' by Roger McGough. In their **Whole Class Reading** sessions, they will be studying 'Varjak Paw' by S.F. Said.



In **Maths**, children will learn how to multiply and divide 2-digit by 1-digit numbers using the times tables they know. They will also study length and perimeter, which will consist of them measuring the perimeter of 2-D shapes and working with mass, volume and capacity. In **RE**, the children will explore the question 'What is the trinity and why is it important for Christians?' and in **SMSC** (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education) the children will learn about 'Keeping Myself Safe'.

In **Computing** lessons, the children will learn about 'Events and Actions in Programs', including what input and output devices are and how to use them, while in **Art**, they will be creating Ancient Egyptian style scrolls. In **Spanish**, they will learn about how nouns have different genders and how to identify this.



This term, **PE** will be on Thursday and your child can wear their PE kit to school.

If you ever have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak to their class teacher or email year3@marineacademy.org.uk. We can't wait for another term filled with lots of magnificent learning!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Autumn Widdison

Miss Livv Godbeer

Teacher

Teacher



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Knowledge Organiser – The Shang Dynasty - Year 3

Vocabulary	Definition
Archaeologist 	Someone who finds and studies buried objects to find out about the past.
Artefacts 	An object created by a human, usually found much later after it was made.
Bronze 	The first metal widely used by humans, made by melting and mixing copper and tin.
Dynasty 	A family that rule a country or state for many generations.
Emperor 	A king or ruler of an empire or country.
General 	The leader of an army.
Cowrie shells 	Small sea shells which were used by the Shang when trading as a kind of money.
Jade 	A mineral (rock) that is green in colour. Used in lots of Asian art.
Oracle bones 	Animal bones or turtle shells with Chinese writing, used to try and predict the future.
Yellow River 	A major river running across the north east of China.

Important People

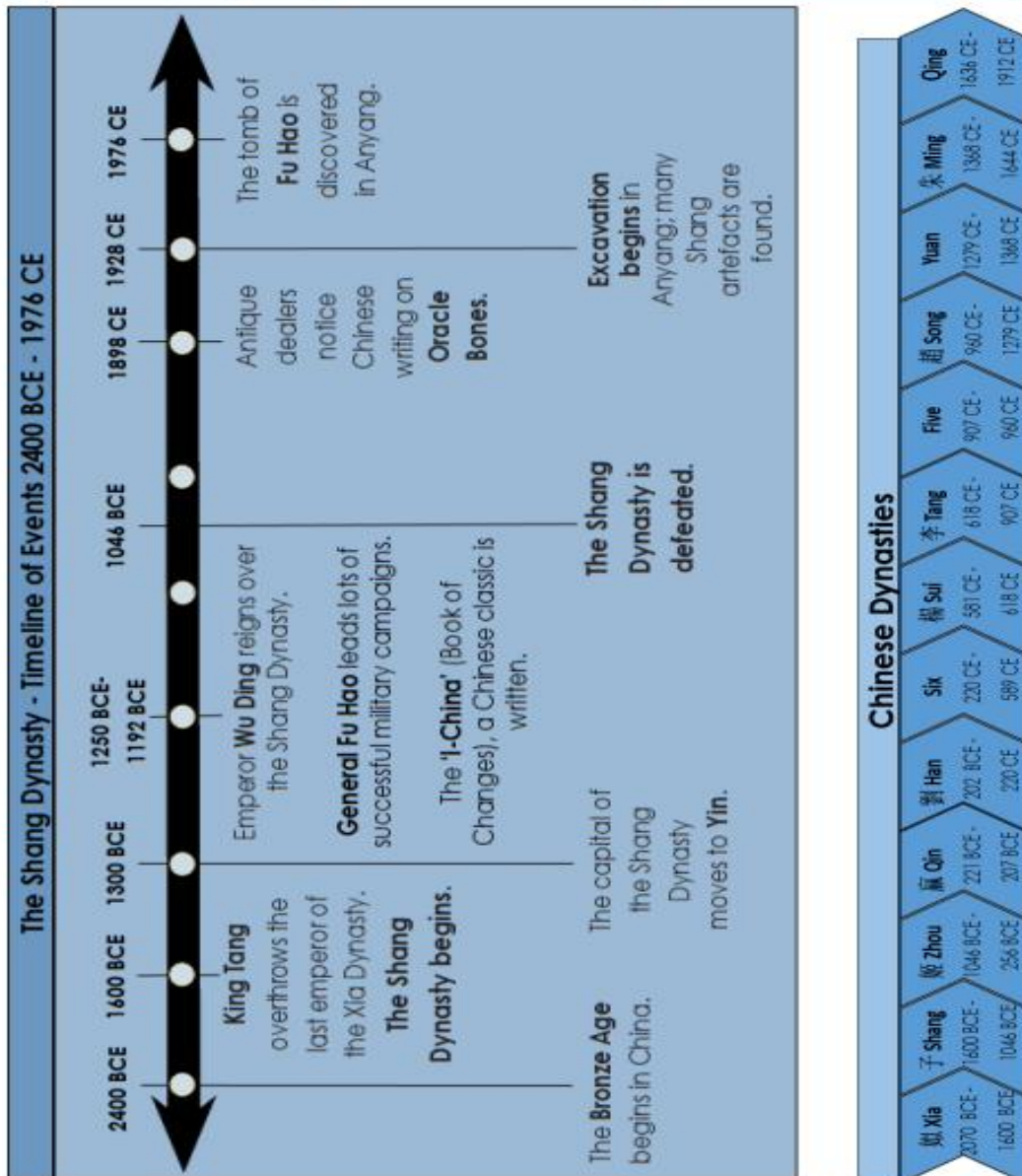
Tang	First emperor of Shang. Very popular and successful.
Fu Hao	A great military leader and warrior. Also, wife of Wu Ding.
Wu Ding	A very successful emperor, who ruled for 58 years.
Zhou	The last emperor of the Shang Dynasty. A tyrant. Born 'Xin'.
Daji	The cruel wife of Zhou, who made up awful punishments.

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Location of The Shang Dynasty



The maps below show (1.) the World, (2.) China's location within the World and (3.) the location of The Shang Dynasty within China.

