**Class Schedule**

1. Vocab Bingo (15 mins)
2. Opening Activity (10 mins)
3. Read extract (10 mins)
4. Comprehension questions (15 mins)
5. Read through new vocab (10 mins)

**Vocabulary Bingo!**

* Spot check on definitions, antonyms and synonyms of last week’s words (use the words in sentences)

**Opening Activity**

*Match the word to the definition!*

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| 1. Oppress 2. Ruthless 3. Obstinate 4. Noxious 5. Persevere 6. Poultry 7. Quell 8. Stagnant 9. Soothe 10. Trample | 1. Keep going in the face of difficulty with no sign of success 2. Having no current or flow running through it, therefore smelling unpleasant 3. To tread on and crush 4. A group of domestic foul including chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese 5. Having or showing no pity or compassion for others 6. Put an end to something, usually by force 7. Gently calm a person or their feelings 8. Stubbornly refusing to change one’s opinions or course of actions, despite attempts to change 9. Harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant 10. Keep someone in subjection or hardship through the use of authority |

Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

But it was from one little window, with its blind drawn down, a mere blank **transparency** on the night, that the sense of home and the little curtained world within walls—the larger stressful world of outside Nature shut out and forgotten—most **pulsated**. Close against the white blind hung a bird-cage, clearly **silhouetted**, every wire, **perch**, and **appurtenance** distinct and recognisable, even to yesterday's dull-edged lump of sugar. On the middle perch the fluffy occupant, head tucked well into feathers, seemed so near to them as to be easily stroked, had they tried; even the delicate tips of his plumped-out **plumage** pencilled plainly on the illuminated screen. As they looked, the sleepy little fellow stirred uneasily, woke, shook himself, and raised his head. They could see the **gape** of his tiny beak as he yawned in a bored sort of way, looked round, and then settled his head into his back again, while the ruffled feathers gradually subsided into perfect stillness. Then a gust of bitter wind took them in the back of the neck, a small sting of frozen **sleet** on the skin woke them as from a dream, and they knew their toes to be cold and their legs tired, and their own home distant a **weary** way.

Once beyond the village, where the cottages ceased abruptly, on either side of the road they could smell through the darkness the friendly fields again; and they **braced** themselves for the last long stretch, the home stretch, the stretch that we know is bound to end, some time, in the rattle of the door-latch, the sudden firelight, and the sight of familiar things greeting us as long-absent travellers from far over-sea. They **plodded** along steadily and silently, each of them thinking his own thoughts. The Mole's ran a good deal on supper, as it was pitch-dark, and it was all a strange country for him as far as he knew, and he was following **obediently** in the wake of the Rat, leaving the guidance entirely to him. As for the Rat, he was walking a little way ahead, as his habit was, his shoulders humped, his eyes fixed on the straight grey road in front of him; so he did not notice poor Mole when suddenly the **summons** reached him, and took him like an electric shock.

We others, who have long lost the more subtle of the physical senses, have not even proper terms to express an animal's inter-communications with his surroundings, living or otherwise, and have only the word "smell," for instance, to include the whole range of delicate thrills which murmur in the nose of the animal night and day, summoning, warning, **inciting**, repelling. It was one of these mysterious fairy calls from out the void that suddenly reached Mole in the darkness, making him tingle through and through with its very familiar appeal, even while yet he could not clearly remember what it was. He stopped dead in his tracks, his nose searching hither and thither in its efforts to recapture the fine **filament**, the **telegraphic** current, that had so strongly moved him. A moment, and he had caught it again; and with it this time came recollection in fullest flood.

Home! That was what they meant, those **caressing** appeals, those soft touches wafted through the air, those invisible little hands pulling and tugging, all one way! Why, it must be quite close by him at that moment, his old home that he had hurriedly **forsaken** and never sought again, that day when he first found the River! And now it was sending out its scouts and its messengers to capture him and bring him in. Since his escape on that bright morning he had hardly given it a thought, so absorbed had he been in his new life, in all its pleasures, its surprises, its fresh and **captivating** experiences. Now, with a rush of old memories, how clearly it stood up before him, in the darkness! **Shabby** indeed, and small and poorly furnished, and yet his, the home he had made for himself, the home he had been so happy to get back to after his day's work. And the home had been happy with him, too, evidently, and was missing him, and wanted him back, and was telling him so, through his nose, sorrowfully, **reproachfully**, but with no bitterness or anger; only with **plaintive** reminder that it was there, and wanted him.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Summarise the extract in a few sentences.
2. How does the author describe the feeling of coming home?
3. How is the journey home contrasted with the idea of home?
4. How does the author describe the animals’ sense of ‘smell’?
5. Find five powerful phrases or images from the text and explain their effect.
6. Is the description of the bird in the first paragraph a happy or a sad one?
7. Describe how this extract makes you feel in three words.

**Vocabulary**

* *Define each word, put it into one of four categories (noun, adjective, verb or adverb) and, where applicable, note down a synonym or antonym.*

1. Transparent – see-through
2. Pulsate – produce a regular throbbing sensation or sound
3. Silhouette
4. Perch – an object on which a bird sits, usually a branch or horizontal bar
5. Appurtenance – an accessory associated with a particular activity or style of living
6. Plumage – all of a bird’s feathers
7. Gape
8. Sleet – rain that contains some ice
9. Weary
10. Braced
11. Plod
12. Obedient – complying or willing to comply with an order or request
13. Summon
14. Incite – encourage or stir up (violent or unlawful behaviour)
15. Filament – a slender or threadlike object or fibre
16. Telegraphic – of or by a telegraph
17. Caress
18. Forsake – abandon or leave
19. Captivate
20. Shabby
21. Reproach – express to someone your disapproval of their actions
22. Plaintive

**Homework**

* Revise the vocabulary we have learned today.
* Write a story about coming home. Use ten of the words explored today.