



West Hill Primary School
(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)
Beech Park, West Hill, Ottery St Mary, Devon EX11 1UQ
01404 812599
admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk
Headteacher: Cheryl Boulton



Class 1 Topic Overview

Spring Term 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after what I hope was a lovely Christmas and New Year break, I hope the holidays brought some well-deserved rest as well as festive joy. I would firstly like to thank you all for your kind cards, gifts and well wishes at the end of last term, it was very much appreciated.

The Spring term is, as always, quite a short one and as a result there is even more to pack in! We have got some great topics to learn from Julia Donaldson to India so I'm sure it will be just as fun as it is busy.

Below is a brief overview of our topics for this term, which should help you to know a little more about what we are doing in school, as well as opportunities to encourage discussion at home.

English

This term we are continuing to develop our understanding and awareness of different stories and writing techniques as well as beginning to look more closely at our word and grammar choices. This half term we will be focusing on the works of Julia Donaldson and using her amazing writing to improve our own work. Next half term we will move onto Seas and Coasts which will fit in perfectly with our History topic looking at Grace Darling.

In order to achieve our goals in English we will learn to:

- continue to retell stories and order events using story language
- think carefully about our word choices when describing different characters and settings.
- improve comprehension through discussions about the repetitive nature of the stories and the link between the illustrations and writing.
- become more confident when sounding out spellings using our knowledge of phonics.
- develop our ability to read and enjoy simple texts, including our own writing.
- be able to respond to and imitate the style of fiction and non-fiction texts in our own writing.

How you can help – as always, reading daily at home is key to your child's development at this age, both for their comprehension and their vocabulary. On top of this I would recommend that you spend some time discussing their homework with them and encouraging them to check their own writing for finger spaces, capital letters and full stops as well as reading back their work to you.

Mathematics

We will learn to:

- read half past and o'clock times on an analogue clock.
- be able to use time vocabulary to sequence different events in chronological order.
- reinforce addition and subtraction facts and methods.
- begin to measure and compare length and height.
- count in 2s, 5s and 10s with a view to early multiplication.
- recognise a quarter and a half as equal parts of a whole.



How you can help – with our initial focus on time this term it presents an excellent opportunity for home learning. The more you can look at clocks or watches with your child and get them to read the time the better for their development and understanding of how long different activities take. You can also make Maths as practical as possible at home; encourage your child to measure different objects around the house or count out Lego bricks in sets of two, five or ten. By tying in Maths with their own interests it will make the subject more relatable and part of their everyday lives.

Science

In science this term we will:

- learn that different objects are made from different materials that provide unique properties.
- investigate the different properties of those materials.
- learn the difference between man-made and natural materials
- Be able to sort and group materials based on their properties including magnetism.
- Continue to observe and develop our understanding of the changing seasons.

How you can help – encourage conversations about what materials make up objects around your home and why, for example wooden table because it is strong and can be cut easily. Think about what types of objects are magnetic and encourage your child to make predictions based on their knowledge. Keep reinforcing seasonal changes and the order and key characteristics of each season.

Geography (before half term)

We are looking at India this half term in Geography, particularly thinking about the weather, food and culture of India. We will be comparing our own lives in the UK to children living in India and begin to think about similarities and differences between them.

How you can help – look at an Atlas at home and help to get your child more confident with where Great Britain fits into the world and where India is. Obviously if you have ever been fortunate enough to visit India then showing the children pictures or souvenirs from your trip would help further bring the topic to life.

History (after half term)

In History we will be looking at the life of Victorian Heroine Grace Darling and investigating her life in the lighthouse, particularly focusing on the night she and her Father rowed out to save 9 drowning sailors.

How you can help – point out the lifeboat station next time you're by the sea and discuss why they are so vital to keeping people safe at sea. Encourage your child's detective side by giving them the opportunity to find out more about Grace Darling or the Victorian age at home.

Art

We are beginning this term to link our Art with our History and Geography topics. We will be using mixed mediums to create Taj Mahal pictures using pencil drawings, cut out paper and paint. Later in the term we will be creating seaside pictures using collage. This will also link in with the Material science topic as we look at the texture and look of different materials.

How you can help – talk about how different art is created, looking at how different artists use different mediums to create their art. When your child is drawing at home, encourage them to look at the shapes in different objects to simplify the drawing process.

Music (2nd half term)

In music after half term we will be looking at how we can produce and replicate basic rhythms using our bodies as instruments. We will also begin to look at percussion instruments and the different sounds they make when played.

How you can help – listen to different musical styles at home and talk to your child about what they like or don't like about the music. Try to spot repeated rhythms and how different instruments can produce different sounds.

Computing

We will be looking at simple coding in Computing this term, learning how programming works and developing problem solving skills. We will also be improving our understanding of how to use a computer safely and how to perform simple tasks.

How you can help – encourage your child to use a keyboard to start basic typing and the functionality of different mouse buttons. Discuss why it is important to save work and close a computer down properly.

P.S.H.E.

This term there is a big focus on improving our own learning and setting goals to help us improve. We will think about how different people learn and how we can set ourselves realistic targets to aim for in order to fulfil a larger outcome.

How you can help – discuss what they would like to get better at and think of different ways they can achieve this. Ask your child what helps them develop and what doesn't so that they become more aware of how they learn best.

R.E

In R.E. we will be thinking about how different ceremonies and traditions mean different things to different people. We will be looking at some of the most fundamental Christian celebrations such as baptisms and weddings as well as the Christian symbolism around them. We will then look at the Easter Story and why it is so significant.

How you can help – discuss different traditions your family has and why they are important to you. As Easter approaches, think about why we have the different traditions of Easter and talk about the Christian message behind them.

P.E.

We will be continuing to develop the key motor skills and physical awareness of Class 1 through increasingly game based scenarios that require not only more coordination and a varied skill set, but also a basic understanding of tactics and teamwork.

How you can help – simply encouraging as much outdoor play as possible will really help your child's motor skills. The more opportunities they have to think about how to use their body and find balance will stand them in good stead going forwards in P.E. This term it is also important to begin exploring the idea of sportsmanship and fair play, something that links into PSHE.

Forest School

We are very fortunate this year to have Mrs Broad as a qualified Forest Schools practitioner, which means that we can continue to go out once a week to enjoy the outdoor facilities and the opportunities to develop our curriculum through outdoor education. The children get so much out of Forest School and this term we will look to introduce more basic skills for the children to develop and use in the sessions, such as tool work and rope skills.

I'm sure you'll agree that we have a very busy and exciting term coming up! I hope that this has helped you to understand more of what the curriculum looks like for your child and, more importantly, the ways that you can help at home. Thank you for your continued support and please don't hesitate to speak to me if you ever have any queries.

Kind regards,

Mr Sapwell