



West Hill Primary School
(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)
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Headteacher: Cheryl Boulton



Dear Parents,

17.01.18

Welcome back, and we hope you had a lovely Christmas break. This letter is to inform you of the main learning areas during the Spring term and offer some guidance on how you can support your child's learning from home.

English

In English we will be studying a wide range of genres, which will include fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Firstly, we will be studying *The Demon Headmaster* by Gillian Cross before moving on to look at the structure of reports and journalistic writing. Later in the term, we will be working on argument & debate then looking at poetic style.



Regular reading is of course very important in our work, as it benefits the basics of grammar and the English language, with the added benefit of helping the children formulate and explore their ideas adventurously. I have spoken to the children about the amount I expect them to be reading now and it is also very important for them to be taking the responsibility of recording their reading daily into their home school diaries as well as reflecting on their reading at least twice a week.

You will also have noticed that the format of their weekly homework has changed. From now on the children will be given a timed writing task most weeks. It is important for the children to learn to work independently to a given time limit. They may find this difficult at first but you will be amazed at how this improves over the following two terms in preparation for Year 6.

There will be a very heavy focus on English this term in both class and group work – particularly with the accuracy of both reading and writing. Therefore I would appreciate if you could remind your child of this when they are completing their homework.

Maths

Last term the children did a lot of work with the four number operations. This term we will be consolidating their knowledge of number and further exploring fractions, percentages and decimals as well as spending more time on shape and space and data handling. We will also be applying these skills to problem solving situations.

Having access to number facts instantly will aid the children significantly as we look at some of the more conceptual topics of the curriculum. As such, in addition to the weekly homework, it will aid the children to regularly revise their tables, number bonds and mental arithmetic. This could be as simple as dropping in a quick times table question before breakfast or on the way to school!



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



Science

In Science this term, the children will be studying the effects of forces, in particular, gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction. They will go on to learn about mechanisms that allow smaller forces to have a greater effect.

Computing

This term we will be looking at databases and spreadsheets.

History and Geography

Our Geography theme for later this term is 'Creeping Coasts' where we will look at coastlines and their features. For the first half term, we will also be concluding our topic on Ancient Greece.

Art

Our art focus this term will be the work of Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky.

Music

In music the children will be developing further their skills in the playing of Toots with the aim of performing to the whole school.

RE

In RE this term we will be studying Beliefs in Action in the World, with the particular focus on Christianity and Buddhism.

PE

In indoor PE sessions the focus will be on dance, whilst outdoors we will be practising invasion games. As the weather as this time of year can get very cold, we advise the children to have full PE kit including tracksuit bottoms in school for these sessions.

Homework

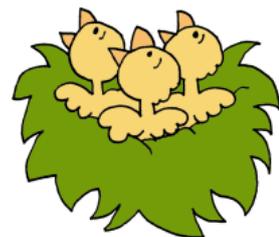
The children will continue to receive homework as they did in the Autumn term.

A highlight of this term will no doubt be our activities week and we will be sending you more details about the week very soon!

Finally, may we take this opportunity to request that you check with your child that they still have all of the equipment required for school. This includes pencils, pens, rulers, rubbers and ideally a small glue-stick.

If you have any concerns over the course of the term, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come and see us. We look forward to a happy and successful Spring term.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs N Harris

Mrs S Bedford