



West Hill Primary School
(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)
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Class 1 Curriculum letter- Autumn Term 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Class 1 for the brand new school year! We are already under way and making a great start to our year, enjoying the challenges and learning opportunities that Year 1 is bringing. For those who I haven't had the chance to meet properly yet, my name is Mr Sapwell and this is my second year teaching Year 1 at West Hill, having previously taught in Cheltenham. I have been really impressed with the way the children have handled what is a tricky transition from Reception to Key Stage 1, I can already tell we are going to have a great year.

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. I look forward to meeting you all at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Thursday.

English

We are spending a lot of time looking at a variety of books and stories this term and using this to help develop our writing, building on the basic skills we learnt in Reception. We look at familiar settings books such as *Oliver's vegetables* and *Peace at Last*, as well as Autumnal poems and non-fiction texts. On top of this we will be spending a lot of time focusing on our letter formation and presentation. We will continue to develop our phonic knowledge by revising work from Reception and working through Phase 4 and Phase 5. In June there is a national Phonics Screening Check for all Year 1 pupils and further information will follow nearer the time.

We will learn to:

- retell stories and order events using story language
- improve our comprehension by finding main events, characters and specific information in simple texts.
- listen with sustained concentration, building our vocabulary and understanding of new words.
- compose and write simple sentences independently, using our phonetic spelling and developed punctuation.
- develop our ability to read and enjoy simple texts, including our own writing.
- write non-fiction labels and captions in autumnal displays.

How you can help – the more time you can spend reading and enjoying books at home the better at this age. Discuss the plot and different characters as well as encouraging your child to phonetically sound out and decode tricky words. Try to link stories back to their own experiences in order to develop discussion. When writing at home, please ensure that the focus is on letter formation and finger spaces.

Mathematics

Maths continues to build on the basic skills from Reception such as place value, number recognition and basic addition and subtraction. We also begin to introduce new vocabulary and areas of learning such as measure, counting in 5s and time. We will learn to:

- begin counting, reading and writing numbers to 100 and the numbers to 20 in words.



- state the number that is 1 more or less than any given number to 100.
- add and subtract one digit and two digit numbers to 20.
- recall all paired number bonds of 10, then 20.
- recognise, name and describe common 2-D and 3D shapes.
- record and show simple data, with links to the science curriculum.
- to count up in twos, fives and tens.

How you can help – make Maths part of everyday life. Look for as many opportunities to ask your child questions such as ‘how many apples in the bowl?’ or ‘if I took away one of your sweets, how many would you have?’ It would also be very useful to look around the house for 2D shapes and start making Mathematical vocabulary common place.

Science

In science this term we will:

- investigate the human body, including identifying and naming parts of the body and exploring our five senses.
- discuss changes when we and other animals grow older.
- collect data about the differences between us e.g. shoe size, eye colour.
- discuss what humans and animals need to survive.
- identify and compare different common animals.
- investigate the changing seasons and the effects of different weather and seasonal change.

How you can help – encourage scientific discussion using the correct names for parts of our body e.g. heel, wrists and shins. Use their senses as often as possible by asking them how food smells, how an object feels etc. Take the time to look at photos of familiar people (themselves, parents, grandparents) now and when they were younger and discuss how they have changed. As we head into deeper Autumn it provides the perfect opportunity to talk about how the trees and weather are changing with the season.

Geography (before half term)

We are investigating the local environment and area around West Hill. We will be doing a lot of work on simple maps and discussing the difference between physical and man-made features.

How you can help – when walking/driving to school talk about what you are passing and the journey you take. Discuss whether features have occurred naturally or have been made by someone.

History (after half term)

In History we are looking to build upon the children’s understanding of the past and putting lengths of time into perspective. We will be concentrating on Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder plot in order to discover more about something that happened before we were born, but is still recognised and celebrated now.

How you can help – refer to basic timings when talking about things you’ve done together, e.g. that was a week ago, or we went there a year ago. Discuss the traditions and reasons behind Bonfire Night, particularly if you are attending an event.

Art

In Art this term we are starting to experiment with different mediums and techniques for creating art. We will look at the works of Andy Goldsworthy to investigate using natural resources in our pictures, before thinking about more traditional mediums such as using and mixing colour in painting. Creating self-portraits will help us to focus on details whilst linking in with our Science and P.S.H.E. topics.

How you can help – look at the different colours and textures in nature. Encourage your child to create different pieces of art at home using a variety of techniques and materials.

DT

DT will encourage our children to explore different materials, tools and techniques through construction activities, particularly concentrating on methods of fastening. We will use junk modelling, paper and card constructions as well as building using natural materials.

How you can help – encourage independence and safety when using scissors, glue, tape etc. Give the children opportunities to play with different materials and see what they can construct.

Computing

We will be looking at how simple devices and how instructions, instructions and/or buttons can control software. We will use this knowledge to programme physical technology such as Beebots as well as an introduction to coding. Through developing our understanding of simple coding and computer programs we will become more familiar with using the mouse and keyboard.

How you can help – discuss basic commands on technology such as the remote. Encourage your child to carefully plan movements when playing with remote control toys so they start to think about the commands needed to execute their plan.

P.S.H.E.

In P.S.H.E. we will be thinking carefully about our own feelings, actions and place in the community. We will be exploring new beginnings and coping with change at the start of the year including thinking about how we all react differently to situations. We will look at ways that we can keep calm when we are upset and how we can tell if other people are upset or sad and how to make them feel better. We will also be thinking about how we are all different and how we need to respect these differences.

How you can help – encourage your child to think about how they are similar and different to their friends, as well as ways to manage their own emotions and friendships more independently.

R.E.

This term's R.E uses the changing seasons as the basis for investigating key festivals of Christianity and Judaism. The children will also learn about other key Bible stories such as the story of Christmas.

How you can help – talk to your child at home about different celebrations you have in your own house, religious or otherwise. Discuss why you do different traditions and how these take place.

P.E.

P.E. this term looks at promoting fine motor skills and body awareness through basic movement and sequences. In Gymnastics we will be focusing on different types of movements such as different rolls, as well as creating balance. In our outdoor sessions we will develop basic throwing and catching skills and beginning to apply them to team game situations.

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.

Forest School

We are very fortunate this year to have Mrs Broad as a qualified Forest Schools practitioner, which means that we can go out once a week to enjoy the outdoor facilities and the opportunities to develop our curriculum through outdoor education. Forest school will take place each Thursday and will require appropriate clothes. In Year 1 the children come to school in their forest school clothes which they stay in all day, though they will need a change of shoes or wellies for when it gets muddy.

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