



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



Monday 17th September 2018

## **AUTUMN TERM 2018 CLASS 4 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents,

We hope you have all had a good summer break. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Class 4. The Autumn Term is already underway and many exciting curriculum topics and extra activities have been organised.

**English:** We shall be writing both fiction and non-fiction texts this term. This will include a variety of poetry, prose, and information texts linked to our topics. The children will learn to develop their reading and writing skills and their use of language and punctuation to become better writers. There will be weekly grammar lessons and weekly spellings for the children to learn. Fiction writing in the first half-term will be on the topic of 'Dreams'. Mr Pantling will be teaching fiction writing Monday-Wednesday, while non-fiction writing will be taught by Miss Spence on Thursday and Friday.

**Reader helpers:** Our volunteer reader helpers play a huge role in helping the children to develop their reading skills and understanding of texts. It is vital that all children read every day. If you feel you would like to help, or know of anyone who would like to help with reading, morning or afternoon, on a half termly commitment basis then please let us know. Available days are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

**Maths:** The focus this term will include number and place value up to 10 000, the four operations, properties of shape, fractions, position and direction and time. There will be more emphasis on developing a 'greater depth' of understanding and working in a more systematic and organised way when recording methods and written calculations.

**Science:** This term we are starting with the topic of digestion. The children will learn to recognise the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans and identifying different types of teeth.

After half term, the topic will be sound. The children will investigate sources of sound, vibrations, making sounds louder and quieter and higher and lower in pitch.

**PE:** During the first half of the term the children will be developing flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance in gymnastics. After half term they will be learning the skills needed to play Invasion Games effectively and be experiencing more exciting dance routines, on the theme of 'Slapstick' with Miss Murray.

**Geography:** The children will be learning about Mexico. This will include investigating the human and physical geography of Mexico and developing skills in using atlases and maps to locate and describe features. The children will create a simple Mexico 'Fact File' and make comparisons with the UK.



**History:** The ancient Maya and Aztec civilisation is always a popular topic in Year 4. The children will find out about their daily life, culture and religion, belief in the gods, customs and the defeat of the Aztecs by the Spanish.

**Art:** The children will be exploring the 19th Century life and works of LS Lowry and creating pieces with an industrial landscape and 'matchstick' figures theme. Other art work this term will be linked to the ancient Maya and Aztec civilisations.

**Computing:** Computing will be embedded across the curriculum as well as more focused units of work, including 'Scratch' to develop skills in programming their own games, and using random variables.

**Music:** This will include music appreciation, exploring arrangements and descriptive sounds. The children will learn to play the ukulele in readiness for our class assembly and Christingle Service later in the term.

**RE:** This unit will enable children to think about who inspires them and to consider Jesus and Muhammad as inspirational figures for Christians and Muslims in the world today. Children will also study key passages in the Bible and Hadith in order to discover more about Jesus and Muhammad and their significance for Christians and Muslims.

**Languages:** Mrs Shackleton will teach a French session on alternate Mondays. In the Autumn Term, our French will be focused around a book called 'Le Grand Monstre Vert' and will look at parts of the body and adjectival agreement. We will continually review the basics and do some work on what it takes to be a good language learner. Towards Christmas we will focus on French Christmas traditions.

If you have any questions or queries then please come and ask. Also if you have any resources/artefacts which you think may be useful to any of our topics and would like to share them with the class then please let us know.

Homework: Mental arithmetic books and spellings will be sent home on a Friday and returned by the following Wednesday. Spelling will be tested on a Friday. In addition to this there may be occasional topic based homework or projects throughout the year.

Important dates:

'Wildlife Champions' trip – Tuesday 2nd October 2018

Christingle Service at St Michael's Church – Thursday 13th December 2018 at 4.30pm

Additional information about expectations for Year 4 will be shared at 'Meet the Teacher' at 6:00pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Any resources shared at the meeting will also be sent home with children the following day if their parents were unable to attend.

Thank you for your support,

Mr Pantling and Miss Spence