



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



Welcome to the Autumn Term!



17.09.18

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5! It was lovely to see the children looking so smart and happy to be back at school on the first day and they have made a very positive start to the year.

This letter is to inform you of the main learning areas during the autumn term, and offer some guidance on how you can support your child's learning.

English

In English we will be studying a range of genres: fiction writing (including stories, play scripts, letters, and diaries), poetry, biographies, instructional texts and recounts.

Spelling lessons will be linked to the children's spelling homework and reflect the Year 5 requirements. The children will also have personalised spellings linked to assessment activities and class work. Support in the correct use of these in written homework will be greatly appreciated.

A daily reading routine is vitally important. As they become more independent, confident readers, they need to become more aware of inferred meanings and the writing techniques used by the author. This will directly feed into their writing. We have asked the children to make sure that they discuss their reading at least twice a week with an adult to help them pick up on themes, language and other subtleties that could otherwise be missed. If you could put a record of this in their Home School Diaries, it would be much appreciated.

Maths

The children have begun working in their Year 5/6 maths groups. Both groups will be starting with place value before moving on to the four rules. We will also have a strong emphasis on problem solving, developing strategies to tackle real life problems and explaining our thinking mathematically. They will also be studying measurement, geometry and statistics.



Science

Mrs Bedford will be teaching science. Our two main topics this term are the Earth & Space and Living Things. The children will be learning about the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system, how the Earth's rotation creates day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky. They will also explore the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird and compare them to a plant's life cycle.

Computing

We begin the year with a look at internet safety and follow up with some graphic modelling. The children will also be using their computing skills across all subjects to research and embed their learning.

History and Geography

Our focus this term is Greece and its ancient civilisation. This is a great topic, rich in culture, mythology and opportunities for art and drama. Any relevant research material, books or artefacts that you may have at home would be most welcome.

RE

This term in RE our focus will be Faith and the Arts.

PE

Our indoor PE session on a Friday, this half term will be our dance focus with Katie Murray. The children are learning about the musical 'Matilda' and will be showing their routine at the end of half term. Our outdoors session on a Wednesday will begin with the key skills in various different invasion games and will be led by Chris Webster. The children need to have full kit in school at all times. As the weather gets colder, smart, plain tracksuits may be brought in for our outdoor lessons on Wednesdays.

Art & Design

This term the children will be studying the work of Pablo Picasso. The children will be creating iconic images through the use of clay, observational drawing, colour mixing and other collage materials. **Please can your child bring in a named art shirt as many activities will be very messy.**

Music

Our focus will be on learning to sing and play musically with increased confidence and control. Our singing will be linked closely to our dance work. As a whole class we will be building on our Toots playing from Year 4. The children will learn to play pieces of music, some in preparation for sharing in our school assembly.

Homework

The children are expected to learn spellings each week and to also use this as an opportunity to practise their handwriting. In addition they will be set homework tasks in maths weekly, as well as a writing task, which should be edited with the help of an adult before submission. We hope this provides a useful reference for you and look forward to seeing you at the Meet the Teacher evening on Thursday 20th September at 6.00pm.

If you have any concerns during the year, please do not hesitate to catch us on the playground or book an appointment via the school office. We look forward to working with you to ensure a happy and successful year for your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Bedford

Mrs S Tovey



Year 5 Class Teachers