



West Hill Primary School
(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)
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Friday 10th May 2019

SUMMER TERM 2019 CLASS 4 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

The summer term is already underway and many exciting curriculum topics and extra activities have been organised. Mrs Shackleton will continue to teach a French session on alternate Mondays and Miss Jones will continue her PGCE placement.

Summer fete:

This year the PTFA have asked for Key Stage 2 classes to plan and supervise their own stall. We are excited that the children have decided on a 'hedgehog-themed' stall for the summer fete. We have the following ideas:

- Guess the weight of the hedgehog cake – (the winner is the closest guess)
- Tombola – win a soft toy hedgehog (we have approximately 10 to win!)
- Hedgehog-themed cakes for sale

We will of course need your support in terms of running the stall, providing the cakes (including the big one for the weight guessing). Please see Miss Spence or Mr Pantling if you can offer support with any of the activities, and we will draw up a master list of who is doing what. The children and PTFA have agreed that 10% of the proceeds from our stall will go to the British Hedgehog Preservation Society as a donation.

English: We shall be looking at a variety of texts this term. We have already written short poems using a range of poetic devices, including alliteration, similes, metaphors and personification. We will be writing explanation texts based on our science topics, where we will apply our understanding of the water cycle, as well as explaining how branching keys work to sort different organisms, particularly arthropods. 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 and reading comprehension lessons and weekly spellings for the children to learn. We will consolidate the year 4 grammatical terminology:

- determiner
- pronoun
- possessive pronoun
- adverbial



SCHOOL MEMBER

We will also consolidate our use of punctuation around direct speech, as well as our use of commas after fronted adverbials and apostrophes to mark plural possession (for example, the girl's name, the girls' names).

Reader helpers: A big thank you to our volunteer reader helpers who play a huge role in helping the children to develop their reading skills and understanding of texts. It is vital that all children read at home every day too. If you would like to help with reading in school then please let us know.

Maths: There will be a focus on the four operations with problem solving involving measurement, money, volume and capacity. We will be introducing the use of expanded and short methods of division. The children will further their understanding of fractions, decimals and properties of shape, using coordinates to plot points and to interpret and present data in tables, charts and graphs. We will also consolidate our understanding of Roman Numerals.

Science: We will be learning how to use and construct branching keys to identify different organisms, particularly grouping and classifying different arthropods. After half term, we will begin our topic on 'Electricity'. The children will learn about the history of electricity, how we use electricity, make series and parallel circuits involving bulbs, buzzers and switches and learn to recognise common conductors and insulators.

PE: During the first half of the term the children will be practising hand eye coordination skills required in net/wall games. We will then be returning to striking and fielding games where they will use running, jumping, throwing and catching in isolation and in combination to play competitive games, including basketball, netball, football and rugby, and apply basic principles suitable for attacking and defending.

Geography: The children will continue to learn about the geographical aspects of the Roman Empire. This will include investigating the human and physical geography and developing skills in using atlases and maps to locate and describe features while making comparisons with the UK.

History: Our topic of 'The Romans' continues this term. The children will learn about the Romans in Britain, their daily life, culture and religion, belief in the gods, customs and the growth of the Roman Empire.

Computing: Computing will be embedded across the curriculum through research and non-fiction writing, as well as more focused units of work.

RE: Class 4 will be exploring the idea of belonging to a community and the values of a community with a focus on the Christian and Islamic faiths.

Music: We will be exploring how music communicates meaning through rhythms, patterns and timing playing a variety of percussion instruments. We will be writing our own songs using pentatonic scales.

'Wildlife Champions 2018-2019': Class 4 will continue their work with the Devon Wildlife Trust in order to make a difference in preserving hedgehogs. We will be giving our presentation to the other primary schools involved later on in the term. The children have been working very hard finding out more about hedgehogs and raising awareness of their importance. Our work about arthropods will link to what foraging hedgehogs can or cannot eat!

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 me know.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss A Spence and Mr R Pantling