



West Hill Primary School

(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)

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Friday 17th January 2020

CLASS 2 SPRING TERM CURRICULUM LETTER

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Below are some of the learning opportunities that the children will have this term. As you will see there is a great deal of variety, which will include different learning styles to cater for individual needs and interests. As you will be aware this term is very short, and pupils in Year 2 start to undertake their 'special activities' (SATs). Therefore, please try to ensure full attendance and lots of early nights!

English: Our focus this term will be on grammar. The children will learn to identify and use different sentence types: questions; commands; exclamations and statements. In addition, they will learn to extend their sentences using conjunctions, e.g. because, if, but, so, and by using adjectives and adverbs. Of course, they also need to be able to punctuate the sentences correctly, including using capital letters for proper nouns. We will continue to enjoy different styles of text and writing and practise our skills in other curriculum areas. Those who are able will paragraph their writing.

As a class we are learning to join our handwriting, starting with diagonal joins. The children could start to join two and three letter words when completing their homework (it may be a couple of weeks before some children start to feel confident doing this). Please note as a school our handwriting scheme does not join from hanging letters or closed letters; **e.g.** g, j, p, y and b.

Maths: The children have made a fantastic start this term and have been working hard on finding quicker and more effective ways to add and subtract, which we hope will help them throughout both key stages. Our topic before Christmas, time, is something we try to come back to now and then, and if any opportunities arise at home it's always worth a quick practice!

This term, the children will use their knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to solve problems, as well as developing their understanding of fractions. We will also start work on 3 dimensional shapes and will continue to look at measures, including money. Where appropriate, maths will be linked to computing.

Throughout all the maths sessions the children will be encouraged to undertake problem solving activities. The nrich website (nrich.maths.org) is highly recommended for fun activities to promote strategic thinking. Activities, which link to the children's learning will continue to be set on 'My

Maths', please keep an eye on the website. Purple Mash and Espresso also have plenty of fun games and activities.

Science: This term our topic is 'Materials' and the children will look at their uses, properties and how they can change using different methods such as heating and cooling.

History: Before half-term, we will be finding out about The Great Fire of London. The children will be learning about how life was different in the past and how important events can shape the future, as well as developing their research skills. The children will show what they have learned in their class sharing assembly and this work will link in with the children's science and literacy topics.

Geography: After half-term, we will be exploring the topic of 'Island Life' through the popular Katie Morag stories. We will be developing map reading skills and using photographs to compare different places.

In **Art and Design** we will be studying the work of the Scottish artist, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The children will be creating iconic images using clay, observational drawing, colour mixing and collage materials.

P.E: This term we will be having our PE lessons on Wednesdays and Fridays (weather permitting). Mrs Totten will continue to teach gymnastics up until half-term, and 'Send and Return' games after. On Fridays, the children will continue learning 'Attack, Defend, Shoot' games with myself.

Computing: The children will learn about databases, and how to contribute information they have collected to graphs and pictograms on the computer. Staying safe on the computer will continue to be part of the children's learning this term, as will creating algorithms in coding. In addition, the children will be taking part in a two day animation project based on The Great Fire of London on 23rd and 24th of January. We are hoping this will be edited in time to show during our class assembly.

P.S.H.E: Recognising and talking about their feelings is an important part of the children's learning in P.S.H.E. We will focus on personal strengths and the children will set goals for themselves.

Design Technology: Cooking will be out focus after half-term. We will look at planning, making and evaluating a healthy smoothie.

Music: The children will be building on their pitch skills using recorders up until half-term. We will be performing to parents during the class assembly.

R.E: We will be exploring the theme of leaders and teachers within Christianity and Judaism.

As always, we ask you to check that your child is completing their homework to a suitable standard and is handing it in on time. Writing sentences with the week's spellings is a really worthwhile way for the children to practise basic sentence structure, and we would encourage some of the children to move on to writing stories, poems or non-fiction pieces to further develop these skills (and add a bit more interest to their writing).

Extra bits

The class sharing assembly has been mentioned a few times above! It will take place on Friday 31st January. We hope you will be able to join us.

Our animation workshop takes place on 23rd and 24th January. If there are any parents who would like to volunteer to help out in the classroom during those days - morning or afternoon - you would be more than welcome! Please get in contact if this is the case.

As part of our school focus on vocabulary, you will find attached key words that we will be using in our topics this term. These will be discussed in school, but can be discussed at home as well to reinforce the children's learning.

Parents' evenings will be on Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th March, where you will be able to come and look at your child's work and discuss their progress. However, if you have any concerns in the meantime please come and see me.

Have a happy term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. A Joseph

Topic Key Words