



West Hill Primary School
 (a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)
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15th January 2020

CLASS 4 SPRING TERM CURRICULUM LETTER

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. The spring term is already underway and many exciting curriculum topics and extra activities have been organised.

English: We shall be looking at a variety of texts this term, including writing to persuade, linked to our Environmental topic on becoming a 'Plastic-Free' school. We will be creating persuasive posters linked to products we have investigated, and will be writing to a range of individuals and organisations asking for their support in ridding the world of plastic pollution. Please note that there is now a weekly spelling homework practice, which pupils will glue into their spelling book.

Linking to our work in English and Science, pupils will learn the meaning of and apply a range of vocabulary, including:

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| durable | rigid | endangered | transparent | although |
| nurdle | single-use | extinct | unnecessary | ubiquitous |
| opaque | translucent | polymer | potential | furthermore |
| plastic | pollution | bio-degrade | fossil fuel | whereas |

Later in the term, we will be writing play-scripts linked to our new topic of 'The Romans', as well as exploring the mythical beginnings of Rome by writing the story of Romulus and Remus.

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.

Maths: The focus this term will include number and place value up to 10 000, the four operations, properties of shape (including angles), fractions, measurement (length, perimeter and area), statistics and decimals. 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.

Please continue to support your child in knowing their multiplication facts for the new national multiplication tables check where all year 4 pupils answer 25 questions from two to 12 times tables, with 6 seconds to answer each question. This will take place in June.

Science: The children will learn to recognise and understand the properties of 'States of Matter'. They will carry out investigations and experiments, comparing and grouping materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.



The children will observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens.

Pupils will learn about sound – how it is created, how it travels, and how sound can change both volume and pitch. We will be enjoying a workshop linked to this topic on Tuesday 21st January.

P.E: During the first half of the term the children will learn the skills needed to develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance in gymnastics, comparing their performances with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best. In net and wall games they will use serving and hitting skills to build up techniques needed for tennis. After half term, we will have our second unit of dance with Miss Murray.

Geography: The children will learn about the geographical aspects of the Roman Empire and how invaders and settlers changed Great Britain. 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: We are also starting our second History topic, 'The Romans'. The children will learn out about Roman daily life, culture and religion, belief in the gods, customs and the growth of the Roman Empire.

Art: The children will be using plastic as a media to create a range of different pieces. Please be aware we may ask for specific items from home which would normally be binned/recycled to help with this.

Please note again that the pupils' environmental project artwork needs to be completed for the end of the spring term. Ideally, we would like to be able to show these in the final week. Thank you for your support the unique and inspirational projects which have already been completed.

Computing: Computing will be embedded across the curriculum as well as more focused units of work including using 'Lightbot' to develop skills in problem-solving, programming and coding.

R.E: Work in this unit will enable the children to explore aspects of Christianity and Islam and to discover what is expected of a person who follows a religion. Important questions around 'faith' will provide the children with opportunities to relate this concept to their own lives and people in the local community. We will also look at Roman gods and beliefs.

Music: Class 4 will be exploring melodies and scales and continuing to use a range of instruments, including the ukulele and glockenspiel.

'Plastic-Free' School: Class 4 will continue their work on this project in conjunction with Surfers Against Sewage (sas.org.uk). We are currently exploring a range of activities both in and out of school which we hope to give parents the opportunity to get involved in. In the meantime, please continue the great work we are hearing about in terms of how you are tackling single-use plastic at home. You will be kept up to date with developments in this project.

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, please let us know.

Thank you for your continued support,
Mr R Pantling and Mrs K Pedley