



West Hill Primary School
(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)
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SUMMER TERM 2021 CLASS 1 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already near the end of what has been a strange but enjoyable year full of hard work and lots of learning, both at home and in school! The summer term is always a very exciting one as the sun comes out and we are able to do more outdoor learning, and have more use of the field at playtimes. On top of that, we will be also be filming our final dance performance in a few weeks, something the children have loved doing with Mrs Murray on a Friday afternoon.

This is also a crucial term for getting ourselves ready for Year 2, both growing in learning and maturity for the challenges ahead. Therefore, it is very important that we keep working hard right up to the end of the year, and I am sure we will make fantastic progress and have a lot of fun along the way!

English

Our English this half term is based around our Science topic of plants as we delve deeper into developing our writing through a number of styles. We will be looking at the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and using the book as a basis for descriptive and comprehension based activities, thinking about how characters aren't always as they seem. We will also be looking at some non-fiction texts and starting to learn about using different structural elements to create our own informative text.

Next half term, we will be again linking our English again with Science, focusing on fiction and non-fiction texts about animals. We will explore texts from different cultures and become more confident in using basic grammar choices to improve the flow and interest of our writing.

Throughout our English topics, we will be expanding our vocabulary with the school's vocabulary project. Not only do we have the weekly school word of the week, but each week we learn five new words in class to improve our vocabulary. Please ask your child what words they have been learning and try to use them regularly around the home.

In order to achieve our goals in English we will learn to:

- continue to retell stories and order events using story language
- think carefully about our word choices when describing different characters and settings.
- improve comprehension by discussing in detail different characters and whether they are always clearly good or bad.
- develop recognition of digraphs in unfamiliar words.
- become more confident when sounding out spellings using our knowledge of phonics.
- develop our ability to read and edit our own work before showing a teacher.
- be able to respond to and imitate the style of fiction and non-fiction texts in our own writing.

***How you can help** – one of the most important things that you can do to help your child is to keep reading with them at home daily. This will not only build your child's phonic recognition but through your questioning should develop their comprehension. Encourage your child to check their own work for capital letters, full stops or silly spelling errors. It is also crucial that you back up your child's learning in phonics through the use of games or reading.*



Mathematics

We will learn to:

- show different representations of two digit numbers.
- order numbers to 100 as well as being able to count up and back.
- be able to give one more or less than a given number.
- use basic subtraction and addition facts to solve problems.
- solve basic multiplication problems using 2s, 5s and 10s.
- use our knowledge of 2s, 5s and 10s to solve division style problems.
- recognise and know the different values of money including coins and notes.
- be able to measure, compare and calculate different measures of volume and weight.
- use directional vocabulary including left, right and rotational vocabulary.

How you can help – children find the idea of grouping and counting in groups tricky so the more practice and time you give to counting up in 2s, 5s and 10s the better. There are also some lovely opportunities later in the term for practical Maths around the house using recipes or home baking to practise reading measures of volume and weight. Money is another topic where first-hand experience and practice is invaluable, so show your children the different coins and notes you use, discussing the difference between pounds and pence. Letting your child loose with your purse/ wallet in a toy shop for a really hands on experience is entirely optional!

Science

In science this term we will:

- learn what plants need to grow and conduct an investigation into this.
- learn the name and function of basic parts of a plant.
- be able to identify common British trees and flowers.
- know the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees.
- identify and group different animals.
- look at key characteristics of different animals.
- explain the difference between herbivores and carnivores.

How you can help – talk to your child about the different plants you see in the park or your garden as this will help with their identifying of well-known plants. If you have any house plants, encourage your child to help water the plants and understand how different plants need different things. Discuss whether animals are reptiles, mammals, birds or fish and talk about some of the reasons why they fit into the different categories.

Geography (before half term)

This half term the focus is on the world as a whole, thinking about our different continents and oceans as well as key geographic terminology such as human and physical features. We will be revisiting our use of map work and thinking about how maps are presented to show different features and locations.

How you can help – Dust off the atlas and show the children some of the different places you have been. Discuss with them on days out whether you are visiting a physical or human feature and try to look at different maps, even if it's simply the layout of the zoo or place you're visiting.

History (after half term)

In history next term we are going to be looking at more local history, thinking about seaside holidays from the past. We will be using this to investigate the differences between holidays from today and the past, thinking carefully about the transport, traditions and culture of past holidays.

How you can help – If you have photos from past seaside holidays, perhaps from the children's grandparents, it would be fascinating for the children to look through and/or discuss what you did on the holidays and how it is different from today.

Art

This term in art we will be developing our use of different mediums before half term, particularly looking at the work of Henri Matisse and his use of different cut out shapes in his pictures. After half term we will be focusing on improving our observational skills, creating more detailed sketches based on what we can see.

How you can help – Discuss with your children the works of Matisse and how simple shapes can be made into pictures. Conversely, look at how we can see shapes in objects which may help us to draw them and encourage your child, if drawing at home, to really focus on what something truly looks like.

Music

In music, we will be looking at how we can produce and replicate basic rhythms using boom whackers. We will look at how we can write and represent rhythms as well as listening to recordings and videos to build an awareness of musical styles. We will also begin to look at percussion instruments and the different sounds they make when played.

How you can help – listen to different musical styles at home and talk to your child about what they like or don't like about the music. Try to spot repeated rhythms and how different instruments can produce different sounds.

Computing

We will be looking at simple coding in Computing this term, learning how programming works and developing problem solving skills. We will also be improving our understanding of how to use a computer safely and how to perform simple tasks.

How you can help – encourage your child to use a keyboard to start basic typing and the functionality of different mouse buttons. Discuss why it is important to save work and close a computer down properly.

P.S.H.E.

This term is all about relationships and beginning to think about how we react to other people around us, thinking about some of the key emotions that provide challenges to our own relationships.

How you can help – continue to talk to your children at home about any conflicts or positives that have come out of their own friendship groups in school/ in clubs. Encourage them to discuss how they felt and if there has been a time they have been proud of their friends.

R.E

This term in R.E will be focusing on Christianity and how they think the world was created. We will also, after half term, be linking our R.E. with our PSHE in order to discuss how Christianity and Judaism teach about friendships and being kind to each other.

How you can help – discuss different traditions your family has and why they are important to you.

P.E.

We are very fortunate to have Katie Murray coming in on Friday afternoons to teach us dance which will test the children's co-ordination and balance as well as their ability to learn new skills. We will also be looking at team games this term as well as some athletics and hitting and fielding games.

How you can help – simply encouraging as much outdoor play as possible will really help your child's motor skills. Discuss how different games have some attacking and defensive elements as well as the importance of fair play. Please ensure that your child always has their P.E kit in school, particularly as we look to go on the field this term.

Forest School

One of the highlights of the week is always our Thursday Forest school sessions. This term we will look to use more of the tools and equipment we have available to us, whilst linking our science in closely with the plants we have growing all around us in the Forest school area.

It's another very busy and exciting term coming up and, with the support and help from you at home, it be will be an extremely successful one for Class 1. As always, if you have any queries, concerns or need extra information, I am always available to help.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr J.Sapwell