



West Hill Primary School
(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)
Beech Park, West Hill, Ottery St Mary, Devon EX11 1UQ
01404 812599
admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk
Headteacher: Cheryl Boulton



Friday 30th April 2021

SUMMER TERM 2021 CLASS 4 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

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.

English: We have started the term studying 'Zoo' by Anthony Browne. We are using this text to explore attitudes to zoos, including writing a balanced argument or 'discussion text' on whether zoos are good or bad. The Class' powerful reaction to the book has already shown us that the children are passionate about this emotive subject.

We shall be looking at a variety of texts this term. The children will be writing short poems using a range of poetic devices, including alliteration, similes, metaphors and personification.

Later in the term, we will be writing a graphic novel based on the Legend of The Pixies of Ottery, as well as writing based around the events in Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupted.

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:**

Types of Determiners

- Definite Articles (e.g. "The Pencil")
- Indefinite Articles (e.g. "A Pencil")
- Demonstratives (e.g. "This Pencil" or "That Pencil")
- Possessives (e.g. "Her Pencil" or "My Pencil")
- Quantifiers (e.g. "Some Pencils" or "Many Pencils")
- Numbers (e.g. "Six Pencils")
- **pronoun** (he, she, it, them, they etc.)
- **possessive pronoun** (mine, yours, theirs, ours, his)
- **adverbial** (place: under the stairs, manner: as quick as a flash, time: later on, frequency: often, straight away, degrees of possibility: obviously)

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. We currently have a vacancy for a reader helper on a Thursday afternoon. Please contact the school office if you would be interested in helping with this.

Vocabulary Project: Our whole-school vocabulary project continues to gather momentum, with more and more exciting language being learnt and used in Class 4 every day. Some of the new 'Tier 2' words we will be using include:



benefit	bleak	breed
captivity	contentious malnourished narcissistic	controversial
desolate	discussion	enclosure
exploit	inhumane	neglected
replicate	spartan	stereotype

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.

All pupils will be expected to be able to recall their multiplication and division facts up to the 12 times table by the end of Year 4. All children will be taking the Year 4 multiplication check, although results will only be used internally. Your child can play fun games on <https://trockstars.com/> using the login details given to each child last week to further improve the speed and accuracy of their times tables.

Science: We will be learning how to sort different organisms into different groups and will 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 tennis (Friday afternoon), as well as receiving specialist football coaching from Chris Webster (Wednesday morning). We will then be returning to striking and fielding games and athletics after half term.

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, customs and the growth of the Roman Empire. We will research key historical characters such as Julius Caesar and Boudicca. A 'Roman Day' with an outside provider coming into school is being arranged for next half term, and more details will follow in due course.

Computing: Computing this term will focus on 'block coding' using loops and repetition, followed interactive games to consolidate our multiplication and division facts up to the 12 times table. We will make frequent use of the Chromebooks to enhance the learning across the curriculum.

RE: Class 4 will be exploring what Hindus believe God is like, as well as what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today.

PSHE: As part of the statutory Relationships and Health Education, we will be learning about the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty. We will also be learning about keeping healthy and safe, and will begin to discuss different drugs, including household medicines and alcohol.

Music: We will be exploring how to make music using a range of found materials under the title 'recycling'. We will be writing our own songs using pentatonic scales.

Art: Towards the end of the term, the children will be learning about and creating mosaics, linked to our Romans topic.

Clubs: Art and Craft Club with Mrs Pedley will run every Thursday lunchtime. Forest School for Year 4 is after school on a Wednesday.

Class 4 Environmental Topic: Class 4 will continue their work to raise awareness of matter concerning the natural world. We have already received responses to some of our persuasive letters against plastic waste, written over lockdown, and more are coming in every day.

We are currently exploring ways of enhancing our topic on zoos with an appropriate trip or educational visitor and will update you with more details when we can.

If you have any questions or queries then please come and ask.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr R Pantling and Mrs K Pedley