



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 17th January 2020

CLASS 1 SPRING TERM CURRICULUM LETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another exciting term in Class 1, I trust you all had a happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Can I start by thanking you all for your well wishes, cards and gifts at the end of last term; it was incredibly kind and I really do appreciate it.

Looking ahead to the term to come, we have some action packed weeks in store with plenty of things to look forward to. We have already started our dance lessons with Mrs Murray and cannot wait to show you all our performance, whilst there is another opportunity to show off what we have been doing when we have our class assembly in March. Once you have thrown in Science week, world book day and all the usual fun we have in class, it is going to be a fantastic term in Class 1!

English

This term we are continuing to develop our understanding and awareness of different stories and writing techniques as well as beginning to look more closely at our word and grammar choices. This half term we will be focusing on the works of Julia Donaldson and using her amazing writing to improve our own work. Next half term we will move onto Seas and Coasts which will fit in perfectly with our History topic looking at Grace Darling.

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 through discussions about the repetitive nature of the stories and the link between the illustrations and writing.
- become more confident when sounding out spellings using our knowledge of phonics.
- develop our ability to read and enjoy simple texts, including our own writing.
- be able to respond to and imitate the style of fiction and non-fiction texts in our own writing.

How you can help – as always, reading daily at home is key to your child's development at this age, both for their comprehension and their vocabulary. On top of this I would encourage a big push on phonics this term, particularly focusing on spotting digraphs when reading and remembering to use their phonics when segmenting and blending new words. Your children will also be getting weekly spellings, concentrating on their Year 1 common exception words. Please help your children to learn these and start noticing them in any reading or writing they do at home.

Maths

We will learn to:

- become more confident using money to add and find change.
- reinforce addition and subtraction facts and methods.



- begin to measure and compare length and height.
- count in 2s, 5s and 10s with a view to early multiplication.
- recognise a quarter and a half as equal parts of a whole.
- read half past and o'clock times on an analogue clock.

How you can help – with our initial focus on time this term it presents an excellent opportunity for home learning. The more you can look at clocks or watches with your child and get them to read the time, the better for their development and understanding of how long different activities take. You can also make Maths as practical as possible at home; encourage your child to measure different objects around the house or count out Lego bricks in sets of two, five or ten. By tying in Maths with their own interests it will make the subject more relatable and part of their everyday lives.

Science

In science this term we will:

- learn that different objects are made from different materials that provide unique properties.
- investigate the different properties of those materials.
- learn the difference between man-made and natural materials
- be able to sort and group materials based on their properties including magnetism.
- continue to observe and develop our understanding of the changing seasons.

How you can help – encourage conversations about what materials make up objects around your home and why, for example, a table is made of wood rather than rubber. Think about what types of objects are magnetic and encourage your child to make predictions based on their knowledge. Keep reinforcing seasonal changes and the order and key characteristics of each season.

Geography (before half term)

We are looking at India this half term in Geography, particularly thinking about the weather, food and culture of India. We will be comparing our own lives in the UK to children living in India and begin to think about similarities and differences between them.

How you can help – look at an Atlas at home and help to get your child more confident with where Great Britain fits into the world and where India is. Obviously if you have ever been fortunate enough to visit India then showing the children pictures or souvenirs from your trip would help further bring the topic to life. Discuss how people live in different countries, thinking about how the weather, wealth and culture of the country has an impact on their lives.

History (after half term)

In History we will be looking at the life of Victorian heroine Grace Darling and investigating her life in the lighthouse, particularly focusing on the night she and her Father rowed out to save 9 drowning sailors.

How you can help – point out the lifeboat station next time you're by the sea and discuss why they are so vital to keeping people safe at sea. Encourage your child's detective side by giving them the opportunity to find out more about Grace Darling or the Victorian age at home.

Art

We are beginning this term to link our Art with our History and Geography topics. We will be using mixed mediums to create Taj Mahal pictures using pencil drawings, cut out paper and paint. This will also give us the opportunity to investigate colour mixing and using different shades in our paint. Later in the term, we will be creating seaside pictures using collage. This will also link in with the Material science topic as we look at the texture and look of different materials.

How you can help – talk about how different art is created, looking at how different artists use different mediums to create their art. When your child is drawing at home, encourage them to look at the shapes in different objects to simplify the drawing process.

D.T. (2nd Half Term)

We will be dedicating a whole day to D.T. next half term in order to carry out a plan, design, build and evaluation of our project. This term we will be using junk modelling to create freestanding lighthouses, tying in with our History topic of Grace Darling. The children will be expected to consider features of current lighthouses and think about what aspects they need to incorporate into their own design.

How you can help – if you have the opportunity to see any lighthouses then have a discussion about their function and how their design and location help them fulfil their purpose. If your child is making anything at home, ask them to consider what they are proud of about what they have made and if there is anything they would do differently next time. This will help to improve their evaluation skills.

Music (2nd half term)

In music after half term we will be looking at how we can produce and replicate basic rhythms using our bodies as instruments. We will also begin to look at percussion instruments and the different sounds they make when played.

How you can help – listen to varied 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. There is a big focus on e-safety this term, concentrating on how we can take care of our personal details online.

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 there is a big focus on improving our own learning and setting goals to help us improve. We will think about how different people learn and how we can set ourselves realistic targets to aim for in order to fulfil a larger outcome.

How you can help – discuss what they would like to get better at and think of different ways they can achieve this. Ask your child what helps them develop and what doesn't so that they become more aware of how they learn best.

R.E.

In R.E. we will be thinking about how different ceremonies and traditions mean different things to different people. We will be looking at some of the most fundamental Christian celebrations such as baptisms and weddings as well as the Christian symbolism around them. We will then look at the Easter Story and why it is so significant.

How you can help – discuss different traditions your family has and why they are important to you. As Easter approaches, think about why we have the different traditions of Easter and talk about the Christian message behind them.

P.E.

We will be continuing to develop the key motor skills and physical awareness of Class 1 through increasingly game based scenarios that require not only more co-ordination and a varied skill set, but also a basic understanding of tactics and teamwork. We are lucky enough to have a Sports leader from Exeter City FC to help lead sessions this half term which will bring a new perspective to our lessons.

How you can help – simply encouraging as much outdoor play as possible will really help your child's motor skills. The more opportunities they have to think about how to use their body and find balance will stand them in good stead going forwards in P.E. This term it is also important to begin exploring the idea of sportsmanship and fair play, something that links into PSHE.

Forest School

We are very fortunate this year to have Mrs Broad as a qualified Forest Schools practitioner, enabling us to go out for weekly sessions to enjoy the outdoor facilities and the opportunities to develop our curriculum through outdoor education. The children get so much out of Forest School and this term we will look to introduce more basic skills for the children to develop and use in the sessions, such as tool work and rope skills.

I'm sure you'll agree that we have a very busy and exciting term coming up! I hope that this has helped you to understand more of what the curriculum looks like for your child and, more importantly, the ways that you can help at home. Thank you for your continued support and please don't hesitate to speak to me if you ever have any queries.

Kind regards,

Mr Sapwell