



## 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](mailto:admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Cheryl Boulton



### AUTUMN TERM 2020 CLASS 4 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope you have all had a good summer break. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Class 4. The children appear to be pleased to be back in school, and we are certainly delighted to see them. Following the school closure, we are especially keen to do everything we can to make your child's time in the class an enjoyable one, full of fun learning and friendship as well as keeping safe.

**English:** We shall be writing both fiction and non-fiction texts this term. This will include a variety of poetry, prose, and information texts linked to our topics. The children will learn to develop their reading and writing skills and their use of language and punctuation to become better writers. Fiction writing in the first half-term will be linked to the theme of 'Dreams'. We will be writing poetry and fiction texts based on 'Dream-Giver', and 'Jack and the Dream-Sack'. Non-fiction writing will be linked to our Mexico topic. We will be following Year 4 'No-nonsense Spelling'. Reading books can still be changed: new books can be given on a Monday or Wednesday and can be returned on a Wednesday or Friday. This is to allow the books to be 'quarantined' after use.

*It is important that children read every day. Please register your interest as a reader helper if you feel you would have a spare afternoon to help the class with their reading. The Senior Leadership Team are currently finalising protocols for how to welcome reader helpers safely into school.*

**Maths:** The focus this term will include number and place value up to 10 000, the four operations, properties of shape, fractions, position and direction and time. 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.

**Science:** This term we are starting with the topic of digestion. The children will learn to recognise the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans and identifying different types of teeth.

After half term, we will look more closely at how organisms interact within a habitat to create a food chain or food web, how energy is transferred and the different roles played in this process.

**PE:** During the first half of the term the children will be developing flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance in gymnastics. After half term they will be experiencing more exciting dance routines, on the theme of 'Slapstick' with Katie Murray. Please leave PE kits in school every day.

**Geography:** The children will be learning about Mexico, investigating the human and physical geography of Mexico and developing skills in using atlases and maps to locate and describe features. The children will create a Mexico 'Fact File' and make comparisons with the UK.



**History:** The ancient Maya and Aztec civilisation is always a popular topic in Year 4. The children will find out about their daily life, culture and religion, belief in the gods, customs and the defeat of the Aztecs by the Spanish.

**Art:** Art work this term will be linked to the ancient Maya and Aztec civilisations. We will be using a range of media, including clay to sculptures.

**Computing:** Computing will be embedded across the curriculum as well as more focused units of work, including 'Scratch' to develop skills in programming their own games, and using random variables. We will also develop our word-processing skills when publishing our 'Dream-Giver' stories. We will also practise our times tables using interactive programs, in preparation for the Year 4 Multiplication Screening Check which is newly in place as a statutory requirement for all pupils nationally. <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> offers a practice area similar in format to the test the children will be taking in June 2021. Class 4 have one day per week of exclusive use of the computer suite.

**Music:** This will include music appreciation, exploring arrangements and descriptive sounds. The children will learn to play the ukulele and usually perform as part of a Christingle Service later in the term. This will depend on COVID guidelines and we will keep you updated.

**RE:** We will be learning about Mayan beliefs and gods, the Christingle story and Christmas.

If you have any questions or queries then please drop an e-mail to [admin@west-west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@west-west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk). Also if you have any resources/artefacts which you think may be useful to any of our topics and would like to share them with the class then please let us know.

**Languages:** Mrs Shackleton will teach a French session on alternate Mondays. In the Autumn Term, our French will be focused around a book called 'Le Grand Monstre Vert' and will look at parts of the body and adjectival agreement. We will continually review the basics and do some work on what it takes to be a good language learner. Towards Christmas we will focus on French Christmas traditions.

**Homework:** Children will have a folder in which to transport homework to and from school. Mental arithmetic books and spellings will be sent home on a Thursday and returned by the following Monday. Spelling will be tested on a Friday. In addition to this there may be occasional topic based homework or projects throughout the year. If your child is encountering any issues regarding homework, please inform the school and we will do our best to support you.

**Environmental Project:** Following on from the enormous success of our hedgehog conservation project in 2018-2019 and our Plastic-Free School campaign last year, we are currently exploring safe ways to launch a focus for our environmental project for 2020-2021. We will update parents in due course.

**In such unusual times, it is important that we support your child emotionally as well as academically.** Please do not hesitate to make contact with us via the school office if there is anything we can do to help you and your child.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Pantling and Mrs Pedley