



West Hill Primary School
(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)
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Friday 1st May 2026

CLASS 1 SUMMER TERM CURRICULUM LETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Summer Term! I can't believe the children have just one term left in Year 1. We still have lots of exciting learning left to cover and this letter will give you a brief outline of what we will be getting up to.

Reading

Daily phonics teaching will continue in preparation for the phonics screening check in June. I carried out mock screenings with the children in March and they continue to blow me away with their effort and progress! We teach phonics daily through our Little Wandle scheme and your child will read twice weekly in a group with either myself, Mrs Hayball or Mrs Townsend. Your child will come home with their guided reading book and a reading for pleasure book. Please continue to hear your child read daily and ensure all books are in school on Friday for changing.

We will also continue to send home a piece of phonics homework on a Friday, to be returned the following Wednesday. This supports our learning in class. Thank you for your effort in supporting the children with this.

Writing

We will be focusing on different text types, including traditional tales, poetry, non-fiction texts and stories from other cultures. The children will continue to develop their handwriting, use their knowledge of phonics to spell words correctly, using a broader vocabulary and punctuate sentences correctly.

Maths

Our maths lessons still involve using our Busy Ants books, reasoning extension activities and opportunities for practical, resource-based learning. This term, we will be looking at number and place value, addition and subtraction, position and direction, multiplication and division, length and height, properties of shape, fractions and time.

We will begin sending home a homework sheet linked to your child's learning from that week. This will also be sent out on a Friday and returned on Wednesday, just like the phonics home sheet.

Science

We will also continue to look at seasonal changes, thinking about how spring turns into summer and the changes we see around us.

Our new topic for the term is 'Plants'. The children will learn that growing locally, there will be a vast array of plants which all have specific names. The children will learn to identify plants by looking at the key characteristics and understand that plants have common parts, but they vary between the



different types of plants. They will learn that some trees keep their leaves all year while other trees drop their leaves during autumn and grow them again during spring.

Key vocabulary will include: leaf, flower, blossom, petal, fruit, berry, root, seed, trunk, branch, stem, bark, stalk, bud, names of trees in the local area and names of garden and wild flowering plants in the local area.

Geography/History

The children will continue to be taught by Mrs Donnithorne on a Tuesday afternoon. In the first half term, she will teach geography and they will learn about different countries around the world their location, geographical features, people, wildlife, climate and cities. After half term, in history, they will learn about seaside holidays in the past. They will explore a range of photos of seaside holidays now and then, and find clues of what being at the seaside was like. They will use the photos of seaside holidays in the past to find similarities (ice creams, playing on the beach) and differences (clothes, transport, costumes, activities) to the seaside today.

RE

In Summer 1, children will answer the question 'who do Christians say made the world?', focusing on the Creation story. In Summer 2, we will look at on how we should care for the world, and others, and why it matters.

Art/D&T

Our art for the summer term will be based around 'Landscapes'. We will be looking at the work of Queenie McKenzie, an aboriginal Australian artist. Queenie created landscapes of her home in Western Australia and we will create work in a similar style. We will then link to artwork to our history topic on the seaside and we will use a range of artistic mediums to create different seaside and ocean landscapes.

In D&T, our design problem will be '*Can you design and make a healthy salad for a teacher's lunch?*'

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

In PSHE this term, we will be starting our lessons using the Jigsaw scheme (as communicated previously). We will begin by focusing on 'Healthy Me' in the first half term, followed by 'Changing Me' in the second half term. Please see the attached 'Knowledge Organisers' for further information on the knowledge and social and emotional skills which will be focused on in each unit, as well as useful vocabulary. If you would like access to the resources which will be used by your child's class teacher during lessons, please email the school office, who will provide you with a 'Parent Access Code'. This will enable you to view the resources on the Jigsaw website, which is password protected.

Computing

We will continue our coding on Espresso, looking at simple inputs, learning to combine, start and input events to create more advanced apps and programs using precise instructions. We will continue to practise basic word processing skills alongside this.

Music

We will continue using Charanga for two new units, 'Your Imagination' and 'Reflect, Rewind and Replay'. The children will learn to listen to and appraise the pieces of music. They will take part in musical activities finding the rhythm and pulse, sing along to the music and play a variety of instruments with the songs. We will also continue to explore our Musician of the Month, learning about their life and exploring their songs.

PE

Alongside our weekly Forest School sessions on Thursday mornings, we will have an outdoor PE session on the field (weather permitting!) on Wednesdays. We will begin with 'Run, Jump, Throw' activities in preparation for Sports Day, followed by a selection of team games in the Summer 2 term.

Please ensure your child's PE kit stays in school during the week in case there is a change of timetable and PE needs to be moved.

Outdoor learning

Our Forest School sessions will continue on Thursday mornings with Mrs Townsend and Mrs McDonald. Thank you to everyone who has previously volunteered; please let the office know if you have a free Thursday morning and would like to help out! Whilst the weather is warming up, the temperature can vary week by week so please ensure your child wears layers, has spare clothing in their bag and comes to school wearing sun cream on days where sun is forecast.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this year and please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Kind regards,

Mrs Fotheringham