



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

SUMMER TERM 2026 CLASS 3 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the final term of Year 3; where has the year gone? I hope you had an enjoyable Easter break and everyone is well rested for a busy and exciting term. The children have worked so hard already this year and produced amazing work, so I can't wait to see what they achieve for the rest of Year 3.

We may be into the final third of the year, but we are going out with a bang as we have lots of things to look forward to. The weather is improving all the time, which means more PE time on the field and, of course, Sports Day! On top of this, we have our Class Assembly on **Friday 15th May** and we are already looking forward to sharing with you everything we have learned.

Please find below more information about the topics we will be focussing on this term.

Literacy: We shall be looking at both fiction and non-fiction texts to include planning and writing in a variety of different genres. Our main focus text for this term is 'Firebird' by Saviour Pirotta which is a beautifully illustrated retelling of the myth of the Firebird. We will also read and write non-fiction texts linked to topics and explore some poetry. Our curriculum focus is sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Tier 2 vocabulary

Firebird – treasured, privileged, legend, dedicated, errand, irresistible, deceitful, inspiration

How can you help at home? Read regularly with your child, both hearing them and reading to them yourself. Encourage a love of writing and allow them access to a range of texts, such as recipe books, newspaper articles and use of dictionaries and thesauruses.

Reading: As a focus this term, Class 3 will be concentrating on developing their skills of inference and deduction, use of vocabulary and how it affects the reader. We will be using shared texts in class where the children have opportunities to read out loud to each other and discuss the story, plot, characters, author's techniques and use of language. The children will gain a better understanding of the texts by sharing their thoughts and opinions with each other. See attached sheet for more detail.

Mathematics: Children will be building on number skills previously acquired. We will be covering the four operations, the number system, weight, measure, 2D and 3D shapes, length, time and capacity.



There will be a greater focus on reasoning about number and using and applying our knowledge of number to multi-step problem solving tasks and testing true/false statements.

How can you help at home? *Support with maths homework where appropriate. There are many areas of maths where regular, practical application at home can make a huge difference, so please encourage your child to handle money where possible, as well as telling the time using both analogue and digital clocks.*

Science: This half term, we will be continuing our forces and magnets topics, focussing on magnets. We will then be starting our new topic of 'Plants', investigating the life cycle of plants, functions of parts of plants and how air, light and water effect plant growth. The children will consider making predictions, testing ideas, recording results and presenting their findings in a variety of ways.

Tier 3 words include: pollen, insect/wind pollination, seed formation, seed dispersal.

How can you help at home? *Where possible, encourage your children to engage with plants and growth at home, whether it is looking at the variety of flowers that attract pollinators in your garden, or simply looking after a small plant at home. Try and find different types of seeds when out on walks.*

Computing: Computing will be embedded across the curriculum as well as more focused units of work to develop skills in programming and using random variables.

How can you help at home? *Discuss e-safety with your child, especially for online gaming and websites.*

History: This term in history we are studying the Ancient Greeks. As part of this, we will be focusing on myths and legends, their gods and daily life. The Ancient Greeks were such a fascinating civilisation and we will be spending time looking at the contributions they made to history, including plenty of ideas that we still enjoy and recognise today!

How can you help at home? *Read and explore some Greek myths, discussing the roles of different gods within the Greek culture. Encourage your children to research areas that they are interested in, as there is so much to learn about the Greeks that there will always be more for the children to discover.*

Geography: Our geography topic ties in alongside our history topic, as we will be comparing modern day Greece to the UK. This will include looking at the physical and human geography, considering the impact Greece's climate has on how people live, and exploring the food and culture of modern-day Greeks.

How can you help at home? *If you have been fortunate enough to have visited Greece, or one of its islands, dig out photos and talk through places you went and what it was like there. If not, getting a sense of a countries place in the world is always important, so find Greece on a map, perhaps even on Google earth, and consider how it's place impacts Greece's climate and culture.*

Art & Design Technology: We are going to be looking at the works of Georgia O'Keefe, particularly linking her floral art with our science. Later in the term, we will be creating 3d masks as part of our work on Greek theatre.

How can you help at home? *Encourage your child to think about what they like about art around them.*

Music: We are going to explore reading notation in music whilst playing glockenspiels. The children will be introduced to learning about the language of music as well as exploring and developing their

playing and performance skills. We will also focus on developing our vocal skills and learn about Pop music.

How can you help at home? *When listening to music, can your child describe the piece, and pick out some of the instruments they can hear?*

Religious Education: This half-term in RE we will be exploring the question “How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish people?”. In the second half of the term, we will be thinking about “How and why do people try to make the world a better place?”.

How can you help at home? *Encourage discussion at home, particularly around key religious holidays.*

French: The theme this term is ‘I can’ and the children will be learning to state some everyday activities that they can and can’t do.

How can you help at home? *Ask your child what they have been learning about in and encourage them to practise at home.*

Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE): 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.

How can you help at home? *Encourage honest discussions about feelings and discuss how not all families are the same. We also regularly watch Newsround in class, so age-appropriate discussions around recent news topics and context is always beneficial.*

PE: This term we will be learning Ultimate Frisbee and Athletics. Through Ultimate Frisbee, we will be developing our understanding of working in a team and the tactics involved with team sports. As the weather improves, we will be utilising the field to learn rounders, as well as improving our athletics skills, particularly ahead of Sports Day! As always, skills such as teamwork, tactical thinking and resilience are just as important as the actual sport specific skills themselves.

How can you help at home? *Encourage an active lifestyle, in whichever form this works best for your family!*

Homework: Same as last term. Weekly maths based on the week’s learning, as well as times table challenges, and spelling homework will be given out on a Friday and will need to be returned the following Friday for the test. There will be weekly optional, online games set based on the week’s spellings.

General Information

In class, the children will all be given a new seating place at the start of each half term. Many factors are taken in to account when considering the seating plan in class. This encourages the children to work cooperatively and build positive relationships with each other.

Learning behaviours – These will all be discussed and encouraged in Class 3 and children will be rewarded for demonstrating each of the behaviours. These include independence, motivation, problem solving, resilience and cooperation.

If you have any questions or queries then please contact me. Thank you for your support.

Best wishes

Mr Sapwell

When supporting your child's reading at home please consider the following:

- To read with fluency, expression and understanding.
- Understand, describe or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.
- Retell a text in some detail giving quotations from the text.
- Deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts.
- Talk about own personal feelings about what is happening in a text.
- Identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts
- Explain and comment on writers use of language
- Identify and comment on the writers purposes and viewpoints and the overall effect of the text on the reader.
- Talk about the whole text, or parts of the text, or characters and explain how they make me feel.
- Find similarities or connections between different texts such as their plot, background or setting.
- Recognise when a text is set in the past, present or future, or in a different culture.

Please follow the current guidelines if you need to contact me:

- Email admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk
- A note in the home/school diary or in an envelope.
 - Arrange a telephone call

Internet Safety

- Children are using the internet more and more at school and at home. Please be aware of the dangers.
- Internet Safety is part of the computing curriculum.
- Please visit the parents' guide on <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>