



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

SUMMER TERM 2026 CLASS 5 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back, I hope that you had a nice Easter break. This letter contains details of some of the topics that the children will be working on throughout the term – I am looking forward to a successful and enjoyable term with your children. Please note that activity week is the week beginning June 1st, Bike ability is 13th July and the summer show will be shown twice on Thursday 2nd July.

English

In English we will be studying a wide range of genres, beginning with poetry and Kennings. Other units will include scary stories and non-fiction information texts on the Tudors.

Our regular focus on vocabulary and grammar is really evident in the children's writing at the moment. We will be continuing to send home English homework each week and your continued support is greatly appreciated. We will also be continuing to send home weekly spellings.

Maths

In Maths this term, we will continue to follow the Collins Busy Ant Maths Scheme. Our work will be consolidating our learning from the previous two terms on number operations, and extending our knowledge on the properties of numbers. This will involve a good deal of investigative work and problem solving. We will also be building on the topics of shape, volume & capacity, position & direction, and statistics.

As with English, your continued support with the children's weekly homework is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Science

This term the children will be studying two science topics, animals including humans and living things and their life cycles. We will be studying this topic through the use of our computing skills and research, with the aim of the children creating presentations towards the end of our learning.

Computing

In computing this term, the children will be using their computing and research skills to create topic posters linked to science. As well as creating topic posters, the children will be looking at the e-safety topics: false photography and how to cite and site. The children will also continue to further their knowledge of coding and will create games to share with other year groups.



History

In History, we will be continuing our topic on the Tudors with a focus on King Henry VIII and his six wives. The children will also learn about some significant historical events which happened during the Tudor period.

Geography

In Geography we will study coasts and we shall link this learning back to our local area. We will learn about erosion and how different coastline features are formed over time.

RE

In RE we will be studying the unit "What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?" and we will be considering our own beliefs alongside this topic.

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.

During our 'Changing Me' unit, we will be teaching Sex Education. As detailed in the PSHE policy shared previously, parents and carers have the right to withdraw a child from sex education. Before making a decision, we invite parents to discuss their concerns with Mrs Pedley (PSHE Lead). Following this discussion, if a parent or carer would still like to withdraw their child from these lessons, a withdrawal request form is available from the school office.

PE

The focus in PE this term will be on striking & fielding and athletics. We are delighted that we will be having regular sessions with Alex Clements, a 'Chance to Shine' coach, from Ottery Cricket Club. Please can you make sure that a PE kit is provided every week. Our scheduled lessons are on a Tuesday and Friday but are weather dependent.

Music

In whole class music, the children will be learning to compose using a range of instruments. Initially our music unit will be largely based upon the song, 'Dancing In The Street' by Martha And The Vandellas, which is a Motown Song from the 1960s. As well as composing music, the children will show their appreciation for music as we start to practise our summer show songs.

Art

Our art this half term all centres around portraits. Initially, we will study the work of Frieda Kahlo and we will look to create our own portraits which link to her colourful Mexican style. After studying Frieda Kahlo, we shall turn our attention to more realistic portrait drawing and will link these lessons to our historical studies of the Tudors.

DT

In DT this term, the children will be focusing on food by developing their designing and practical skills. During our food themed topic, we will: learn more about seasonality and where our food comes from; spend some time tasting different flavour combinations; design our own bread based on a design brief; make the design itself and finally evaluate our product against the design criteria.

French

In French we will continue to practise our conversational skills as we study our new unit, 'Les habitats'. By the end of this unit pupils will have the knowledge and skills to present both orally and in written form about various plants and animals that live in five very different habitats in French. This is one of the first units to encourage slightly more complex and sophisticated writing using a wider range of vocabulary.

Sideshore Project Trip

We are delighted to let you know that Class 5 will be taking part in the Sideshore Project again this year. This event will take place on Monday 8th June at Sideshore, Exmouth. This will be an amazing opportunity for the children to develop skills in PE, PSHE, Art and Science through various activities including sea swimming. If possible, the children will need to bring an old, light-coloured t-shirt (to be upcycled during the art workshop). More details will follow nearer the time.

On behalf of myself and the year five team, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it has been an absolute pleasure so far teaching your children and I hope they have had as much fun and enjoyment so far this year as I have.

Should you have any queries or concerns during the term, please do not hesitate to catch myself or one of the year five team on the playground or send an email via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Martin

Year 5 Class Teacher

Attached below is a list of some of the tier 2 vocabulary (high-frequency words for mature language users) that we will be aiming to use in class this term.

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| • Exhibited | • Cliff retreat |
| • Inhabit | • Long shore drift |
| • Perspective | • Naïve |
| • Prowling | • Delusional |
| • Snare | • Articulate |
| • Critic | • Penultimate |
| • Empathy | • Despondent |
| • Advice | • Traits |
| • Coast | • Offspring |
| • Erosion | • Inherited |
| • Transportation | • Reproduce |
| • Deposition | • Decay |
| • Illusion | • Camouflage |
| • Unrealistic | • Instinct |
| • Headland | • Adapt |
| • Shingle | • survival |
| • Groynes | |