

Ready to learn, inspired to succeed, prepared for life

YEAR 4 NEWSLETTER

West Hill Primary School September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer holiday. This newsletter is to give you information about how the class works, as well as an outline of some of the topics we will be covering this term in Year 4. There will be a 'Meet the Teacher' session on **TUESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER** in the top hall, and we hope to meet you there.

Literacy

This term we will continue to use Wordsmith for some of our literacy topics. It is a mixture of books, online resources and comprehension passages. The first topic we cover is Space, looking at a biography of Neil Armstrong. Then we will be looking at a historical story about Ancient Egypt, and thinking about the setting, plot and characters. After half term we will be exploring different poetry and writing explanation texts. It is important for you to encourage your children to practice their handwriting and reading on a regular basis at home. We are encouraging children to use the style of cursive handwriting, with an emphasis on how letters are formed and joined at the moment. At the 'Meet the teacher' session we will be giving out cursive handwriting sheets - please use this to help your child practice as much as you can. Your child will come home with a sheet of spellings on a Monday and will be tested in school on a Friday. This half term the words focus on 'ou' words, words with 'sc' in them, 'tion', 'cian' and 'sion' words and words that are tricky. We have a guided reading session every day and your child will be given reading homework once a week to be completed in their Reading Record books.

Numeracy

We will also continue to use Abacus maths. Your child will be using textbooks, online resources and practical maths activities. Maths homework will also be given from this resource to be used online as well as maths worksheets. We will be counting, breaking numbers into thousands, hundreds, tens and units and adding and subtracting, showing an understanding of what happens when numbers are carried. The children will use the four operations (+, -, \times & \div) to solve sums and word problems. We will then move on to look at 2D and 3D shapes and their properties. We will be looking at handling data and measures involving real life problems as well as decimal numbers, fractions and negative numbers in greater detail this year. It is useful for you to practice all the times tables with your child on a regular basis as well as encouraging and helping them with their homework. Each week we will be having a times tables test and we will tell the children on a Monday what the table is that we will concentrate on that week. At the 'Meet the teacher' session we will be giving out a times tables sheet, please feel free to use it at home to help your child

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learn tables. Maths homework is given on a Friday to be completed by or returned to school on a Monday.

Science

Our topic this half term is Electricity, and after half term sound. We will be focusing on identifying common appliances that run on electricity, constructing a simple series electrical circuit, using a switch in a circuit and recognising some common conductors and insulators. In the sound topic we will identify how sounds are made, learn about vibrations and find out about pitch and volume.

Music

Throughout Y4, the children have a very exciting opportunity to learn to play the trumpet. We employ Wandsworth music teachers, Ellie and Stefan to teach this instrument. Lessons take place on a Thursday morning. As well as learning to play the trumpet, we will be exploring rhythmic patterns and exploring different musical arrangements in this lesson. You will be sent a letter, requesting permission for the trumpet to be taken home, nearer to half term.

PE

PE lessons this term will be on a Tuesday and Wednesday(Cherry) and Wednesday and Friday (Hazel). The class will be using the Indoor Athletics equipment and attempting to beat their own scores each time, as well as learning new skills incorporating throwing, jumping, running and balance. We will also have a session each week when a coach from Kick London will be teaching games or dance.

RE

In our RE sessions we will be looking at Faith and Difference, understanding the difference between faith and cultures across the world. We will also be exploring celebrations, with a focus on Christmas journeys.

PSHE

In PSHE we work on emotions and relationships, encouraging pupils to express how they are feeling and why. We work on the three strands from the PSHE scheme of work about Relationships, Health and Well Being and Living in the Wider World. We will explore issues such as feeling safe, keeping safe, anti bullying, how to make good relationships and how to make sure they are keeping healthy. We incorporate circle times and games into these sessions, which as well as making PSHE learning fun, also help with listening skills.

Enquiry Based Curriculum

The aim of this is to have a more hands on curriculum, ensuring that the children are actively participating and becoming independent in their learning. Our topic this term is 'Tomb Raiders', where we will be looking at Ancient Egypt and Modern Day Egypt.

These subjects will be covered through the enquiry based curriculum; Geography, History, ICT, DT and Art. We will be using artefacts in the class and online to find out more about mummies and the Ancient Egyptians.

Geography

We will be learning about Egypt and where it is in the world, as well as looking at the Egyptian landscape. We will also be learning about the River Nile and why it is so important.

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History

We will explore Ancient Egypt, looking at various sources (British Museum website, books, film, artefacts) for information on the past and comparing it to the present, and thinking about the artefacts that have been left behind as evidence.

COMPUTING

In Computing we will be using researching skills in order to find out information about Egypt. The children will be presenting this in a power point at the end of term. The main Computing topic this term is to use a program on the ipads called Hopscotch. Using this, the children create 2D shapes using logo commands and use their knowledge of angles/number of sides to create any regular 2D shape.

ART/DT

We will start off by looking at the various patterns in Hieroglyphs and writing our names in Hieroglyphs. We will also make a death mask like Tutankhamun's famous one, but using pasta! We will also try to make a device to move water from one place to the other, much like Ancient Egyptians had to.

Homework

- **Spelling:** your child will bring their weekly spellings home on a **Monday**. Please ensure they copy out their spellings on the sheet provided. Spelling test are on a **Friday**. We find it helps if these sheets are kept throughout the term as a record to help with the end of term test.
- **Maths:** homework will be given on a **Friday**, which is to be completed by **Monday**. Children should also continually practice all times tables to 12.
- **Reading:** reading at home will be given weekly, with details to be completed in their Reading Records. Please make sure your child reads as often as possible, even if it is only for 5 or 10 minutes a day and, where possible, they are read to as well.

Physical Education (PE)

Could you please ensure your child brings in their PE kit on a Monday morning and takes it home on a Friday. Please ensure your child has suitable PE kit including trainers for outdoor P.E, and they have a **change** of top (white) and shorts or tracksuit bottoms (blue). Please provide your child with some indoor plimsolls for indoor PE. P.E. kits are available in the school office for £8.00. Children should not be wearing their school uniform for P.E. Please also remember that jewellery should NOT be worn, and if your child has pierced ears, then they need to wear small studs and not hoops. Could we also ask that your child's name is written on EVERY item of clothing - including coat.

Other information

Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any issues to discuss. We are available at the end of the day, or we can make an appointment at a time convenient to us both. There will be a parents' evening in the last week of the half term to discuss your child's progress and achievements. A letter will go home closer to the time giving you more information.

Jane Bettles and Olivia Russell
Year 4 Class Teachers