



William Westley C of E Primary School

Mill Lane, Whittlesford,
Cambridge CB22 4NE
Tel: 01223 832176 Fax: 01223 495569
E mail office@williamwestley.cambs.sch.uk
Website: www.williamwestley.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Paul Bryant
Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Cath Slattery

11th January 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year. We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and a healthy, restful time. The children have returned refreshed and engaged. Thank you for the wonderful Christmas gifts we received, it was very generous of you. We are writing to you in order that we might share with you some of the topics and activities taking place during this spring term. Our class topic is 'Castles' followed by 'The Great Fire of London' after half term.

English

The children will be completing units of work on extended story writing, looking at significant authors for inspiration, and at information and explanation texts. We will be working on writing stories. Please help your child to write, write, and write! Encourage them to use adjectives, good story starters and endings. Capital letters and full stops must be used at all times. Group reading will take place weekly with an adult and your child will be heard to read individually once a week. Thank you for hearing your child read on a regular basis at home. Please write in their Home-School book as we greatly value your comments and when they have read to you four times in one week they earn a well-deserved merit.

Maths

We will be continuing to develop the children's understanding of numbers, sequencing and partitioning of larger numbers. We will encourage the children to present solutions to puzzles and problems in an organised way, explain decisions, methods and results in pictorial, spoken or written form, using mathematical language and number sentences.

We will be using the symbols +, -, x, ÷ and = to record and interpret number sentences involving all four operations and to calculate the value of an unknown in a number sentence (e.g. $\square \div 2 = 6$, $30 - \square = 24$). We will read and write two-digit, three-digit numbers in figures and words, describe and extend number sequences and recognise odd and even numbers of varying sizes. The children will solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication or division in contexts of numbers, measures and money. Please practise telling the time with your children, using o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to.

We will continue to describe patterns and relationships involving numbers or shapes, make predictions and test these using examples. They will visualise common 2-D shapes and 3-D solids; identify shapes from pictures of them in different positions and orientations; sort, make and describe shapes, referring to their properties. The children will be weighing and measuring. They will use a variety of weighing scales and containers to measure using g, Kg and ml and L.

Science

In our topic of Plants, we will be looking at the main parts of a plant and its flower, the characteristics of what a plant needs to survive and pollinate. We will study the differences between seeds and examine how they grow. After the half term, we will be looking at Habitats. This will involve looking at a range of habitats and viewing why animals need different habitats. During the week of 28th January, we will be collecting data as part of the RSPB Bird Watch. We shall use our data in school to characterise the different species of birds we spot and discuss how certain birds are suited to particular habitats. This, in turn, will help us to learn about the food chain.

History/Geography

In history we will be learning about castles and the Great Fire of London. Our class trip this term is to The Tower of London. This is booked for **Wednesday 13th March 2019**. We will take the train into London and walk to the Tower. A letter confirming details of this exciting trip will follow shortly. We already have all the adults required on this trip and thank-you for the offers of help we have had already.

Computing

The children will use the internet, PowerPoints and Word to make an information sheet about castles. As part of the computing curriculum we look at safe ways to use the internet.

P.E.

On Monday we have outdoor PE. We are introducing a variety of playground games. We will use these skills to transfer to our playtime activities. In gymnastics on Wednesday afternoons the children's agility, coordination and balance will be extended when they create and perform short movement phrases. Dance will replace gymnastics on Wednesdays after half term with the theme being the Great Fire of London. Please make sure your child has a complete P.E. kit in school at all times including warm clothes, a sweatshirt that is not their William Westley school jumper and outdoor shoes. We go out on cold days too.

P.S.H.E

We continue to look at how to identify risks, how to work together and how to stay safe. We discuss what we are all good at and what skills the children would like to develop. The aim is to show that we all have areas of skills and interests. We look at how we work in groups and in which ways we work best. Some of us like to work individually, some like to write things down or draw out ideas. We show we all learn through many different styles. We look at taking turns to listen to the ideas of others and model how to resolve issues. This often involves role-play and ideas to help them on the playground and in the classroom.

R.E.

This term we are studying Christianity and ask, 'Why did Jesus tell stories?' In this unit children learn about stories from the gospels. Children will be asked to draw upon on their own experience and understanding of storytelling and story-writing. They learn about how Jesus used stories as a means of teaching about God.

D.T/ Art

The main focus in art will be textiles and the children will be developing their sewing skills to create a picture. If you would like to help the children with their sewing then please let us know as all help will be greatly appreciated. In D.T. we will design and make a trebuchet using our knowledge of castles. We hope to create ones that move smoothly and resist friction.

Homework

As last term, spellings will be sent on a Friday and they will be reviewed each Wednesday. This term we are focusing on times tables. We are following Times Table Rock Stars and details will be sent home soon. Homework will start next week (18th January). The spring term homework menu will be sent home in February 11th. The whole school homework exhibit will be after school **on Wednesday 3rd April**. This is a super sharing opportunity throughout the school and the children enjoy having time to explore what others have created. We encourage you to come and enjoy it with your children.

As last term, Mrs Frost is our teaching assistant every morning. Mrs Rayner will continue to teach on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Kerins will teach on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Finally, thank you for your continued support this year and please do not hesitate to see us should you have any queries about the topics mentioned above. We are more than happy to discuss any concerns you may have and our parent / teacher surgeries are on a Tuesday or a Thursday. Please sign up on the board in the Year 2 cloakroom and also let us know that you have done this.

Clare Kerins and Keeley Rayner

