



# William Westley C of E Primary School

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

11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for the lovely cards and gifts we received for Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! We would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the topics and activities we will be doing this term as well as update you on our classroom routines.

## English

In English, we will be studying a range of genres. We will begin the term by learning about different types of persuasive writing. Next, we will read and analyse fables and aspects of myths and legends before moving on to study, and write our own, non-chronological reports. We will also continue with spelling, grammar, handwriting and reading comprehension work.

## Mathematics

Year 5 Maths will follow the guidelines set out in the New Curriculum. We will be consolidating and extending the children's knowledge of place value and rounding, mental and written calculation strategies, fractions, decimals and percentages, shape and space, data handling and problem solving. We will also be starting weekly mental maths / arithmetic tests to improve the speed and accuracy of calculations. We would be grateful for your continued support in helping your child to learn their times tables off by heart.

## Science

In Science, we will be learning about 'Lifecycles' of plants and animals. The children will look at different life processes including pollination, fertilisation, germination and seed dispersal and explore how plants adapt to their environment. They will learn about the differences in the lifecycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.

## Geography

In Geography, our topic is Rainforests. We will find out where and what rainforests are (including revising geographical knowledge of oceans and continents), learn about their structure and inhabitants and explore threats to their existence and the possible repercussions. To enrich the children's understanding of our Science and Geography topics, 'Zoolabs' will be bringing various rainforest creatures into school for the children to observe and hold. We are also organising a trip to the Botanic Gardens in Cambridge during the second half of term. More details to follow.



## Computing

In computing, children will use the Greenfield Census (a large database holding information about Victorians living between 1851-1881) from which they will learn how to sort through and extract relevant information. In the second half of the term the children will begin to create their own computer games. They will learn how to de-bug and seek solutions to problems they encounter whilst programming. We will also use excel to input data comparing temperature and daylight hours in contrasting locations as part of our work on Rainforests.

## Art

In Art, we will be using different media to create a range of 2D and 3D artwork stimulated by rainforest animals. We will study the work of Georgia O'Keefe and be designing our own colourful rainforest flower images.

## French/RE/PHSE

In French, we will be studying 'Autour du Monde' about transport, travel and holidays. The children will also have the opportunity to practise conversational French at the beginning of each session. We will complete our topic on Hinduism in R.E. and the children will work in groups to prepare and present an assembly to the rest of KS2 about 'making the right choices'. PSHE lessons will cover the unit 'Me in my Community' in which the children will reflect on their role in serving the local community and the way their behaviour impacts on the global environment. The children will be planning a fund-raising event for the World Land Trust which protects areas of the rainforest from destruction. Details to follow!

## PE

Our P.E. lessons normally take place on Tuesday and Thursday. In outdoor games, we will be concentrating on hockey, football and netball skills and for indoor P.E. we are doing gymnastics: mirroring, matching, leading and following. We will also be doing some rainforest inspired sequences in Dance. As the weather may be unfavourable this term, P.E. might be moved to other times in the week and it is therefore important that children have their indoor and outdoor P.E. kits in school at all times. Jogging bottoms and tops are particularly important at this time of year along with suitable outdoor plimsolls/trainers. Please note that the jogging top must be different to the William Westley sweatshirt children wear in school. If your child is unable to take part in P.E. for any reason, please send a note excusing them from the lesson.

## Homework

Homework this term will focus on children practising their reading, spellings and times tables – essential skills that underpin success at primary school. Tables and spellings will be set on a Monday and tested on a Friday. Children are also expected to read every day at home either individually or with an adult/family member (as appropriate). We will also be setting maths homework this term to reinforce new topics learnt in class. This will be given out on a Wednesday, to be handed in the following Monday. In the second half of the term, the children will be given another project homework and will be able to select from a menu of activities. Their work will form part of a whole school exhibition on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

Parent/ teacher surgeries will be on Tuesday / Wednesday after school. Please sign up to see us on the board in the cloakroom if you have any queries or concerns during the term. Parent/teacher consultations will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Your continued help in supporting your child's learning is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Singh and Nichola O'Dell.