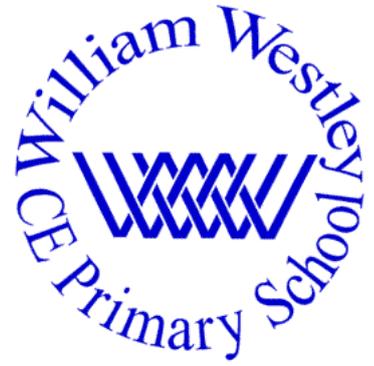


# William Westley C of E Primary School

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

11<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

Dear Parents,

## **Welcome Back & Hello!**

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and I hope you had a fantastic Christmas break enjoying quality time with friends and family. As a team we are feeling energised, excited and privileged about the opportunity of teaching your children throughout the year. We have some very exciting opportunities for the children this term and it promises to be busy, fun, challenging and enjoyable. The children have made an excellent beginning to 2019 in Year Six at William Westley; particularly with their independent writing and ideas concerning "Social Action". I know staff were very pleased with their work, attitude and behaviour last term and we look forward to another positive term.

In Literacy the initial focus will be writing a creative adventure story titled There and Back Again a Year Six tale. The inspiration and text being enjoyed to support this is The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. Before the children produce their own hardback story, they will investigate, read, act and write about settings, character development, dialogue and narrative style, dramatisation, a description of Mirkwood forest and a retelling of Bilbo meeting Smaug. Then after planning their final masterpiece, the children will write their whole story and after it's been edited it will be completed with a front and back cover and a blurb.

Next will be Slam poetry (a form of performance poetry). We will read several poems such as You Wait Til I'm Older Than You! by Michael Rosen for example. After watching several different slam poem performances to stimulate and encourage their own ideas, the class will independently write and perform their own slam poem.

Following the poetry, we then use Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling to help create a flashback in the form of a Pensieve memory. After the class has watched and analysed The Piano by Aidan Gibbons, they will write a flashback of an early memory in the present tense as if it is happening now. Finally, the children will produce a story featuring a flashback. To support these creative elements, daily grammar skills will also feature; the main focus will be sentence structure and how to write different types of sentences: simple, compound & complex, recognise and use sentences that contain one or more clauses, use various co-ordinating conjunctions that join main clauses and list subordinating conjunctions that link subordinate clauses to main clauses.

In Year 6 mathematics, we will be consolidating and extending the children's knowledge of mental and written calculation strategies enabling them to apply these skills to three and four stage reasoning and problem solving challenges. Using the Say it, Draw it, Build it & Write it approach this term, we will cover; calculating the area and circumference of a

circle, formula, negative numbers, written division and multiplication, estimation and number patterns. The children will also be deepening their understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages and how they relate to each other. Daily mental and written calculation will focus on the key maths skills and provide gap analysis information. This will be supported by weekly mental maths challenges to improve speed and accuracy of mental calculations and to keep a range of strategies and vocabulary at their fingertips. We would be grateful for your continued support in helping your child to learn their times tables off by heart.

In Science, we will be studying the human body from a physiological perspective with the focus being the Double Circulatory System. As part of a whole class investigation, we will be reviewing the effect that exercise has on our heart rate and will create our own data set examining this which will lead to data analysis and then the findings to be presented using Excel. We will then be able to investigate and determine whether there is a correlation between this and our height and/or gender. In DT, we plan to construct working hearts and see if we are able to squirt blood with the same force and distance as our own hearts! Subjects to be investigated are: blood composition and function, to identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system and describe the functions of the heart and to describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported.

In ICT, Programming will feature highly throughout the next two terms. The children will have the opportunity to use and programme BBC Microbits and they will embark on a Scratch development programme which will enable the children to produce musical instruments and moving characters. It is also extremely important the children have a range of computer skills so using the internet and technology safely will constantly feature within these lessons. Data analysis and various graphs will be produced using Excel to support and supplement Maths and Science.

For History and Geography, the class will undertake an in-depth study of The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China. By studying this fascinating topic, they will learn and discover key information about the kings who ruled it, learn all about everyday life, the music, cities and settlements and the process of worship in this early civilisation. The children will have the chance to meet a number of exciting creative outcomes including planning and cooking an authentic meal for you!

In R.E, initially we will be studying Buddhism in the first half term. We will then look at the Lord's prayer discussing the nine key concepts.

During P.S.H.C.E. we will cover (in the form of a mini-project) the vital subject of digital resilience looking at both positives and risks of the on-line world.

Having spent time learning, singing and playing Christmas carols and tunes last half-term, we will now be moving on to explore rhythm, rhyme and compositions in Music.

Our P.E. lessons normally take place on Tuesday and Friday. In outdoor games, we will be concentrating on hockey, football and netball skills and for indoor P.E. we are working on fitness in circuits and gymnastics. 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 from the William Westley sweatshirt children wear in school.

In French, there will also be opportunities to learn songs as well as progressing our knowledge and confidence in using common words and phrases. We will learn some cultural aspects of French life.

We are grateful that the children attend school looking smart, setting an excellent example for the rest of the school. Please continue to ensure that Year 6 children are 'five to nine on the line' to enable them to fully participate so they do not miss any learning opportunities.

Your continued support is much appreciated, thank you!

Yours faithfully,

***Paul Cherry***