

# Whimble Primary School - Curriculum newsletter

**Class: Beech      Year: 4/5      Term: Autumn 2017**



Dear parents and pupils,

Happy Beech Class everyone and all the best for 2018. We do hope that all of the pupils enjoyed their recent break and are looking forward to another exciting term of learning.

Beech, Oak and Willow class will be working closely with each other on a range of Topics this spring term and when planning learning opportunities for the children in KS2.

Here at Whimble School, we are committed to ensuring that the children we teach make good progress and achieve their full potential, whilst also enjoying their learning and being enriched by all we have on offer here.

## English

- Follow aspects of the English reading and writing curriculum to write a diary entry from the point of view of a character, to write about aspects of Ancient China and plan, write and edit a story set in an icy landscape.
- Revisit and extend learning Grammar & Punctuation, with particular focus on expanding noun phrases, using Standard English when writing and orally rehearsing, drafting and editing writing, along with other key aspects of grammar.
- Guided Reading: Work with poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Focus on inference skills and clarifying the meanings of unfamiliar vocabulary.
- Continue to investigate key spelling patterns and learning words with specific suffixes and prefixes, along with 10 weekly spelling words to learn.

## Maths

- Follow the Maths curriculum and continue to develop the speed and accuracy of mental maths strategies.
- Consolidate and improve the accuracy of times tables knowledge and recall, up to 12x12, and corresponding division facts. Pupils completing each stage of the new challenge will receive a certificate in assembly.
- Revisit and expand understanding of place value in decimals and learn about fractions.
- Learn about converting measurements, including time.

## Science

- Focus on working scientifically, making observations and drawing conclusions from data.
- Proposing an area for investigation and designing a related experiment.

## Art and Design

- Art and Design activities will be linked to aspects of English and out topic work on ancient China.

## Computing

- Year 4 - Designing animations and starting to use Scratch in order to create an animation that is linked to dragons.
- Year 4 and 5 - E-safety day, along with other sessions about how to stay safe online.
- Year 5 - To use computing programmes to find information and produce pieces of written work.

## Design Technology

- Design and make some shadow puppets.
- Some aspects of this subject will be covered in Fantastic Friday activities.

### **Geography**

- Learn the location of China, using an Atlas.

### **History**

- Explain and demonstrate an understanding of key aspects of the Qin Dynasty and why the terracotta army was created.
- Think about and explore why the first emperor was important in ancient China, using artefacts and images to guide them.

### **Religious Education**

- Year 4 - Study the events of Epiphany and think about the gifts that people can give to the world.
- Year 5 - Investigate the importance of the synagogue and religious artefacts to Jews.

### **Languages**

- To introduce some vocabulary and then carry out simple conversations in Spanish. For example: learn greetings, learn some simple questions/answers, learn some useful everyday phrases and order some food and drink.

### **Music**

- Listen to different composers and styles of music.
- Sing and use voice in performance, including singing in assembly.
- Compose some pieces using a variety of instruments.

### **Physical Education**

- Swimming sessions this term will take place on a Monday afternoon this half term.
- Invasion Games, including skills, tactics and small-sided games.
- PE lessons will usually take place on a Monday and Thursday each week, but may sometimes need to be moved to other days at times, so please could your child have their full PE kit in school each day.

### **Home Learning**

- Guided Reading- questions or tasks will be given out fortnightly, with the date for return on the activity that is set.
- Spellings - will usually be issued on Wednesday and tested the following Wednesday.
- Times tables- will be updated when achieved and tested on a Tuesday.
- Occasional topic homework will be set which will be linked to our study of ancient China and which will have a return date on the activity.
- Please encourage your child to read every night and please use some of the suggested comprehension questions on your bookmark to discuss books with them. Also, keep going with the reading comprehension activities on the Read Theory website by using the login in your homework book.

### **Personal Development**

- Participate in activities that encourage everyone to understand that we all come from different backgrounds and learning ways to resolve differences we have with others.
- Learn ways to keep ourselves physically and mentally healthy.

### **Essentials for Learning and Life**

- Clubs: Drama, Choir, Recorders, Guitars, Minecraft (yr4 this half term), Netball and Karate.

All of the pupils seem to have come back with a spring in their step, which is great news, and have made a positive start to the term. If you have any questions about your child's learning please do see us after school.

And finally... if any of you are interested in assisting pupils with their reading or helping out with trips, art activities or sporting events, then do let us know. Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss H Clarke and Mrs H Boyd