

Whimple Primary School - Curriculum newsletter

Class: Oak Year: 3/4 Term: Spring 2022



Dear all parents and pupils,

We do hope that all of the pupils have had a good start to the new year and we are pleased to report that they have settled well back into school life.

Staff in Beech, Oak and Willow classes will once again be working with each other on a range of curriculum areas this term to plan and resource a variety of learning opportunities for the children in KS2.

Here at Whimple 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 at our school.

English

- During this term, pupils will be learning to use a range of prepositions, adverbs and conjunctions. Also they will be looking at sentence structure and how they can use punctuation effectively to support their writing.
- In reading sessions, pupils will be analysing pieces of poetry, fiction and non-fiction writing. They will further develop their inference skills and also learn the importance of predicting, questioning and clarifying when reading words or phrases chosen by an author.
- All pupils will continue to learn to spell sets of age-related words, including the statutory words and those with specific digraphs. They will also develop their confidence with suffixes, prefixes and revisit homophones. To further support them, we will spend time gaining more knowledge about the meanings of words that are used widely in curriculum subjects.

Maths

- Pupils are continuing to develop their understanding of multiplication and division, consolidating their understanding of grouping and sharing, ready to progress onto using written methods.
- Pupils will develop an understanding of money, statistics, length, perimeter and fractions. In preparation for this, it would be great if you could practice using money and have a go at measuring, so they can understand maths in different contexts. Also recognising simple fractions like cutting cakes in half and in quarters, can be great fun.
- In mental Maths sessions, pupils will also carry on improving their key number fact knowledge and their rapid recall of their 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables and many corresponding division facts. Furthermore they are consolidating their understanding of number sense, which underpins all their mathematical understanding.

Science

- In the first half of term, the children will be learning about light. They will learn to identify light sources, know that light travels in a straight line and identify reflective surfaces. Also they will develop an understanding of how to protect their eyes from the Sun and that a shadow is formed when a solid object blocks light.
- In the second half of term, the children will learn about sound. They will discover sounds around them, identifying high, low, loud and quiet sounds. Pupils will observe how different sounds are made and describe how sounds change over distance, participating in an investigation to find the best material for absorbing sound.

Art and Design

- Learning in Art and Design will be about drawing and printing skills. Their drawing skills will be influenced by the techniques used by M.C Escher and the natural world. Using different grades of pencils, pupils will create intricate patterns/marks, and begin to show an awareness of dimension and perspective, textures and patterns.

- In the second half of term, they will be printing simple pictures using different printing techniques. Pupils will focus on the work by Hokusai and how he made his prints.

Computing

- The pupils will spend time learning how to use the Chrome Books safely and responsibly. They will become familiar with the terms 'text' and 'images' and understand that they can be used to communicate messages. They will use desktop publishing software and consider careful choices of font size, colour and type to edit and improve premade documents.
- Pupils will develop their understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one. They will gain an understanding of what attributes are and how to use them to sort groups of objects by using yes/no questions. The learners will create physical and on-screen branching databases.

Design Technology

- The pupils will further develop their cutting, shaping and joining skills. They will gain a deeper understanding of shells and how structures are made.

Geography

- Pupils will learn about why some earthquakes cause more damage than others. Focusing on the Christchurch earthquake in 2011, pupils will come to understand why it is that earthquakes only tend to occur in particular areas of the world as a consequence of the pattern and movement of the tectonic plates of the Earth's crust.
- Pupils will be taught to use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

History

- Pupils will be developing skills, finding out information and analysing sources so they can work towards answering this enquiry question: Why do some earthquakes cause more damage than others?

Religious Education

- In RE lessons this term, pupils will be exploring the story of Moses and the Passover celebration and discussing how Jesus showed forgiveness.

Languages

- Pupils will learn key French vocabulary and phrases so they can then carry out simple conversations in French. They will learn how to identify and introduce family and pets and spell their names. They will also learn the names for places in their own home. Pupils will explore the vocabulary for a range of food, to express likes and dislikes, and to count and use plural nouns.

Music.

- They will listen and respond verbally to questions about pieces of music performed by musicians.
- Pupils will find a pulse and move or clap in time to a variety of songs and musical pieces.
- They will also look at how pieces of music are structured and learn about different musical instruments.

Physical Education

- PE lessons will generally take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week, but may sometimes need to take place on other days, so please could your child have their **full PE kit** in school each day.
- Pupils will usually follow the units from Real Gym and GetSet4PE. The focus will be on netball and dance this term while also encouraging pupils to be creative, social, healthy, confident and evaluative.

Home Learning

- Spellings will usually be issued on a Wednesday and lists will change weekly in order to allow children several days to learn and remember how to spell a particular group of words. There will be a spelling test each Wednesday to see how pupils are progressing with this. Lists can be found on Google Classroom to support practice at home.
- Times tables activities are set on Times Tables Rockstars and Doodle Maths. Children can also log in to their Stick and Split account to further practice their multiplication and division facts. Usernames and passwords can be found in their reading record books.
- This term we are trialling the use of knowledge organisers. Your child has been given one for maths, science and geography. Please encourage them to read these often and hold fun quizzes, to help them to gain a deeper understanding of the topic. Occasional topic homework will be set that will be linked to a specific subject area and there will be a return date on each activity.
- Please encourage your child to read every night, even if it is just for 15 minutes. We are trying to encourage all children to read at least 5 times a week. They can read their reading book, but can also be reading things like recipes and instructions, which can be recorded in their reading record book. There are so many ways to help children see the importance of being able to read and nurture a love of reading.

P.S.H.E

- Pupils will be following Jigsaw unit 3, Dreams and Goals in which they will learn how to explain the different ways that help them learn and what they need to do to improve. Unit 4, Healthy Me will help pupils to identify risks and learn strategies for keep themselves safe and healthy, including learning who to go to for help.
- Our class assemblies will also have key aspects of PSHE as their focus.

The clubs available to pupils are breakfast club (run by Mrs Large), the after-school club (run by Mrs Batten) and Dodgeball on Mondays with Sporty Stars and girls Football on Tuesdays.

All of the pupils are showing a great keenness to learn and have made a pleasing start to the term. If you have any questions about your child's learning, please make an appointment to see me after the end of a school day at 3:30 p.m.

And finally... thank you for your continued support of the school's arrival and departure systems. The pupils are coming in calmly each morning which helps them to be ready to listen and learn in daily lessons.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss S Chalmers