

Whimble Primary School - Curriculum Newsletter



Class: **Elm Year 1** Term: **Autumn 2025**

Topics: **Me and My World / Celebrations**

English

Phonics:

- Children will continue to take part in daily phonics lessons through the systematic phonics programme 'Little Wandle'. They will continue to develop their Phonic knowledge and revise and consolidate phonemes covered last year from phases 2, 3 and 5. They will continue to learn to recognise and read on sight 'tricky words'.
- They will begin to learn Phase 5 sounds in preparation for the year 1 Phonics Screening in the Summer Term.

Reading:

- We will continue to have a daily story time where children will be encouraged to listen to a story and join in with predictable phrases and to discuss the story, helping to build their understanding and comprehension of different types of texts.
- The children will take part in group reading sessions in school using the Little Wandle scheme, where books are selected to match to each child's phonic knowledge. These books will be shared in group reading sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and sent home with your child on Wednesday.
- A library book (selected by your child and not matched to their phonic knowledge) will be sent home weekly on a Friday for you to share with your child.

Writing:

- This term we will be focusing on letter formation, writing simple sentences using spaces between words, capital letters and full stops. The children will be learning how to use the word 'and' to join clauses and how to punctuate a sentence with a question or exclamation mark.
- The children will continue to develop correct letter formation through the Letter Join programme and daily writing activities. They will focus on a different group of letters every few weeks.
- Year 1 will have weekly spellings to learn which will focus on a particular spelling pattern each week, e.g. 'nk' words. These will go home on a Friday and children will be tested the following Friday.

Maths

We will follow the Hamilton scheme for maths and this term we begin with Understanding Number and Place Value. We will focus on numbers to 10 and then 20, to help to build strong foundations and a secure understanding of numbers. We will explore Addition and Subtraction within 10. This term we will also look at Geometry (2d and 3d shape) and Measure through the topics of time, money and length. Children will continue to take part in a daily mental maths programme called Number Sense. This programme develops fluency in number facts. It is a highly visual programme, teaching core facts and strategies to enable children to develop a deeper understanding of numbers.

Science – This term we will learn about Animals, including humans in our topic 'People and their pets' and after half term, Seasonal Change when our science topic changes to 'Weather Art'. We will explore which invertebrates have made a home in the school grounds and describe their habitats. We will observe a woodlouse colony and also learn about different pets and their needs. We will discuss the changing seasons and explore and measure the wind, find out about the importance of the sun, make sun catchers and explore shadows using torches and puppets. We will develop our scientific skills by asking questions, suggesting answers, using simple equipment, observing and recording what we find in different ways.

Art and Design

- Drawing and painting: As part of our topic the children will complete a Self Portrait. They will explore a variety of sized brushes and tools and also begin to mix colour shades and tones. They will also experiment with a range of drawing media.

Music

- We learn about Music through the Charanga English Model Music curriculum. The first half term will focus on 'My Musical Heartbeat'. The theme for this unit this term is looking closely at the beat. In the second

half term we will look at ‘Dance, Sing and Play!’ where we will focus on adding rhythm and pitch and we will learn a number of rhymes and songs.

Religious Education

- We will be asking ‘What makes people special?’ We will find out about Islam and learn to retell a story from the Qur’an, recall a way in which Muslims pray and make connections with their own experiences.
- During the second part of the term the children will be exploring Christmas and the birth of Jesus - linking to our ‘Celebrations’ topic.

Computing

- Children will learn about computer systems and networks, the technology around us and what it is for.
- Grouping Data – children will label, count, sort, describe, group and compare objects to answer questions.

Geography and History

- Our Geography learning this half term will focus on the local area and then extend this to other UK countries and capital cities. We will explore Google Earth and look at where in the UK we live.
- In History, we will be learning about Florence Nightingale; one of Britain’s most historical figures and her achievements in her remarkable life.

Languages - In the morning, we will greet each other in a variety of languages. We will also practise simple vocabulary and phrases in French as part of our class routines.

Physical Education - We will continue to use the ‘Real PE’ scheme, concentrating on personal and social skills. We will learn to work on simple tasks by ourselves, to follow instructions and to practise safely and also to work sensibly with others, to take turns and share. Children will learn a range of fundamental skills to include gymnastics and dance using the Get Set for PE Scheme.

PSHE – We follow a programme called ‘Jigsaw’ and use ‘Jigsaw Jenie’ in our circle time and PSHE lessons. This term we are looking at ‘Being in My World’ and next term ‘Celebrating Differences’.

Skills builder - Teamwork (Respect) and Listening (1st half term), Leadership (Responsibility) and Speaking (2nd half term)

How to help:

- Read your child’s reading book at home at least twice a week and discuss the text.
- Talk about healthy eating, use vocabulary for parts of the body, use the senses to discover the world around you.
- Enable children to help with everyday maths at home, such as measuring and weighing items, paying for things in the shop, looking at the time and discussing what happens at certain times of the day.
- Play board games as a family.
- Encourage your child to write names on birthday and Christmas cards using their phonics skills.
- Start supporting your child to access Google Classroom and Purple Mash on a computer at home, help them to learn their passwords to access the accounts. Help them to learn to type their name using a keyboard.

The children have returned to school with a positive attitude and a readiness to learn. They have welcomed the new reception children and have been really good role models to them. If you have any questions about your child’s learning please do come and see us or make an appointment via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Corwood (Monday & Tuesday)

Mrs Handley (Wednesday/Thursday/Friday)

