

Our Curriculum

At Westende we pride ourselves in offering a well-balanced and rounded curriculum setting the children up for life after junior school with a host of academic and enrichment activities. We teach daily Mathematics and English lessons including a particular focus on encouraging a love of reading. All other subjects are taught weekly, including our Creative Curriculum which the children sometimes refer to as 'Theme'. Our Creative Curriculum incorporates Art, Music, DT, Geography and History linking very closely to work carried out in English lessons. The 'theme' of our Creative Curriculum changes each term and is different in each year group. History is taught chronologically, starting with the Stone Age in Year 3. In addition, Years 5 and 6 will study historical themes across the different time periods, such as Crime and Punishment through the ages in Year 6 and Britain at War in Year 5.

Trips and Visitors

- Visit to Oxford Castle
- Steve Cole author visit at St. Crispins

Medication in school

If your child requires prescription medication e.g. an inhaler for asthma, please fill in a form available from the school office. It should be clearly named and kept in the medical room at all times.

Whole school events

- Life Education Bus visit
- Languages day
- Parents evening
- Individual school photographs

Communication with teachers

We are always happy to see you at the end of the school day. However, if you need a longer or private conversation regarding your child, please make an appointment via the school office.

Mathematics

We will be focusing on moving the children's basic skills on to the Year 6 curriculum. We will study:

- Developing accuracy in all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division)
- Long multiplication and long division
- Converting between different units of measure
- Area and perimeter
- Algebra
- Solving multi-step word problems involving all of the above
- Solving a range of arithmetic problems

English

Our English work will be closely linked to our creative curriculum topics. This half term we will be focusing on:

- Journalistic writing
- Short suspense stories
- Diary writing

**SPAG**

Over this term we will be consolidating the children's knowledge of word classes and when and how to use the range of punctuation taught at key stage 2, accurately.

**Reading**

Our class novel is Holes. Running alongside this we will be concentrating on the key skills needed when responding to reading comprehension questions. The children will also take part in small guided reading groups.

Weekly Routines:Equipment

It would be helpful if your child could have the following items in school every day:

- Soft, medium sized pencil case with lead pencils (HB), coloured pencils, blue handwriting pen, purple biro, rubber, sharpener and a glue stick
- Black white board pen
- 30cm ruler
- Old named shirt, suitable for art
- School bag which can be hung on a peg
- Strong plastic bottle for drinking water with a sports cap
- Swimming kit (June-September)
- PE and games kit (See uniform list)
- For packed lunch a rigid lunch box with a suitable plastic drinks container/School lunches are ordered online via Tucasi

Please ensure that all items which your child brings to school are clearly named – not just items of uniform.

Each week the children will be given maths and English homework. Typically, this will be linked to the work covered in school and includes spelling. All homework is given out on a Monday and should be completed by the following Monday.

Reading

Please read with your child at least three times a week and discuss what has been read with them to help with their comprehension skills. The whole school focus in reading is the development of vocabulary and understanding of the text, so it is vital that the children read with an adult to develop these skills in prediction, inference and summarising. The children are all working towards reading as much as possible each week to increase the number of 'reads' in the inter-house competition. Please support them by signing the home school link book.

Maths

The National Curriculum expectation is that by the end of year 4, all children are expected to know all of their times tables up to 12 x 12. Clearly, for some children this will be a challenge and so we ask for your support at home to help them learn their tables.

### PE, Games and swimming

**Games** - we will develop the children's football skills with a range of fun games before playing small sided matches.

**PE** – building fitness. This half term we are going to introduce the children to a range of different sporting activities to try and inspire them to try something new or different, as well as to consider their own fitness.

### Useful links

The [National Curriculum](#).

A wonderful site to find books your children will love that are suitable for their age and interests. [Booktrust Bookfinder](#)

The BBC website has lots of information and activities for all subjects. [BBC Bitesize KS2](#)

Primary homework help provides lots of activities to help with literacy.

[Homework help](#)

Resources to help with literacy.

[Crickweb](#)

Vocabulary, spelling and alphabet games are fun way's to expand your child's knowledge of the English language, all while having fun.

[Spelling Games](#)

Fun reading comprehension games for children. A large range of free English activities and practice exercises such as poetry, non-fiction book publishing, map directions and how to use a dictionary while improving your reading comprehension.

Reading [Games](#)

Keeping children safe online

[Netaware](#)

### Science

#### Topic

The children will be learning about what makes a complete electrical circuit and how a circuit can be over-loaded, as well as investigating conductors and insulators.

#### Working scientifically

During lessons, the children will be planning different types of scientific enquiry to answer questions and reporting and presenting their findings from these enquiries.

### French

This half term, the children will be learning how to say the parts of the face and also the vocabulary for pizza toppings culminating in making their 'French' pizza!

### Computing

This half term, we will develop awareness of e-safety, specifically exploring issues of online friends and how to be a good digital citizen. The children will understand and know what the impact of cyberbullying is. Furthermore, they will develop strategies to help avoid getting involved with, or contributing to, cyberbullying. We will be encouraging the children to contribute to online discussions – Wikispaces. Towards the end of the half term, we will use Windows moviemaker to combine recorded music and moving images.

### Late kit

We realise that sometimes children come to school and forget perhaps their lunch or PE kit and when you get home after dropping them off you realise. We set up a system where if this happens and you are able to bring the items into school, they can be placed in the late box that is kept in the front office. Year 6 children have a rota system to distribute any items in the late box during break.

### Creative Curriculum – Crime and Punishment

Children will learn about the development and changes in crime and punishment across different periods of history and how they have had an impact of life today.

Pupils will use their factual knowledge and understanding of the history of Britain to describe past societies and periods, and to make links between features within and across different periods.

In art, children will research, adapt and refine their ideas, combining a range of visual element to produce their own art work inspired by Banksy.

Children will work in groups to produce and perform a musical score for a short film clip. They will understand how music is created by considering the effective use of percussion instruments.

### SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) / British Values/ PSHE

Weekly class discussion, follow our whole school assembly. The children know this as 'The Big Question' of the week and are given the opportunity in class to discuss this and how it effects their lives, the lives of others in our and the wider community. The questions are always linked to something happening in the world and gives children a chance to make their own and listen to opinions. In PE, we will be encouraging the children to think about their lifestyle and whether it is active and healthy enough.

SMSC weaves throughout our Creative Curriculum providing the children with ample opportunities to discuss a range of issues such as law and order and how it has changed over time. This will include debates on whether the punishments suited the crime at the time along with punishments today.

### RE

The religion being taught this half term is Islam. Teaching will focus on how different practices enable Muslims to show their commitment to God and understand that some of these will be more significant to some Muslims than others. Some children will be able to relate this to commitments they make in their own lives.