

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

- Trip to the National Grid
- Year 3/5 panto to parents and the whole school

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

- Children in Need
- Family Day
- Peter Pan Hexagon
- Christmas Church Celebration
- Christmas lunch/parties/sing along assembly

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

During this half term, we will study:

- Drawing and measuring angles accurately as well as calculating missing angles using their knowledge of the properties of 2-d shapes.
- Using formulae to calculate the volume and area of different shapes.
- Solving problems relating to ratio and proportion
- Relating percentages to fractions and decimals
- Finding percentages and fractions of amounts
- Interpreting and drawing a range of graphs.
- 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:

- Completion of diary writing
- Explanation texts
- Biographies

**SPAG**

Over this term we will be teaching the children to use a wide range of punctuation, including semi-colons and colons. Furthermore, we will be teaching the manipulation of clauses and cohesive devices.

**Reading**

Once we have completed reading Holes and watched the film, we will read a selection of winter poems and short stories. Running alongside this, we will be concentrating on the key skills needed when responding to reading comprehension questions.

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 tag rugby skills with a range of fun games before playing small sided matches.

**Gym** –This half term we will develop the children's gymnastic ability by learning a range of balances and travelling, working together to create matching and contrasting shapes in the air and on the floor.

### 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 ways 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 light and how it travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye. Furthermore, they will explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

#### 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 simple words that appear in poems and will attempt to write their own short poem in French, which will be about a mountain.

### Computing

This half term, the children will understand about computer networks and how searches are performed. They will also gain an understanding of how information is stored and retrieved, as well looking at bias and accuracy of information on the internet. Having developed and refined research techniques, they will use them effectively. In addition, the children will be using data loggers to record the results of science experiments.

### 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 – Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes.

The children will name and locate different mountain ranges and use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping (Google Earth) to locate these. They will extend their knowledge of grid references to 6 figure along with symbols and keys (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world. We will look at and explain plate tectonics as well as looking at the Ring of Fire and how these features (mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes) have changed over time. In DT, we will look at 'The Eat Well Plate' and investigate energy/cereal bars. Additionally, we will look at how food is processed into ingredients that can be eaten or used in cooking before making our own bars by following recipes confidently. In art, we will do painting and drawing this half term, including a study of Nicholas Roerich and how to create different shades and add texture to paintings.

### 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 affects 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 whether tourism in Snowdonia is good for the mountain environment.

### RE

The religion being taught this half term is Christianity. The children will focus on the role of Mary at Christmas time and begin to analyse the Christian belief in the Virgin Birth and to assess the significance of this to Christians. We will also evaluate some of the beliefs around Christmas and compare those to other religions.