

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

- Eagle House maths challenge

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

- Young Voices Concert
- Tennis and Drama taster sessions
- House of Parliament trip – School Council
- Weekly Open the Book 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

We will be focusing on worded problems, as well as continuing to ensure all arithmetic skills are honed and stay sharp. We will study:

- Developing accuracy in all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division)
- Multiplication and division of fractions
- Handling data
- 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:

- Fiction – developing and writing own stories
- Persuasive letters

SPAG

Over this term we continue to consolidate the children's knowledge of all the grammar taught so far, as well as introducing the subjunctive form and the variety of tenses, e.g., past progressive, present perfect etc.

Reading

Our class novel is Treasure Island. Running alongside this we will be concentrating on the key skills needed when responding to reading comprehension questions, along with further development of the good use of time. The children will also take part in Book Talk sessions.

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 netball skills with a range of fun games and fitness activities before playing small sided matches.

PE – gymnastics. We will build up from floor work on mats to using the apparatus to create sequences, as well as honing basic gym skills, such as a variety of rolls.

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 humans, and other animals, concentrating on the heart, lungs and blood. We will find out how the heart works alongside the lungs and the vital role of our blood. Furthermore, we will look at how diet, drugs and exercise can affect us.

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 vocabulary relating to creating their own monster. They will review the indefinite article, gender and agreement of adjectives.

Computing

This half term, we will be using various programs to do with control technology, including our new Lego WeDo kits, where they children can build a model and learn to control it.

We will also be developing coding skills using Scratch..

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 – The Mayans

Children will learn about the ancient Mayans and, through looking at a variety of sources of evidence, learn about their society and the way it was organised.

Pupils will use their geography skills to think about how and why the Mayans survived and became powerful.

In art, children will research, adapt and refine their 3D skills, working with clay to produce their version of Mayan inspired mask.

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 give 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. The children will develop and use their factual knowledge and understanding of the history of Britain and the wider world to make links between past and present societies.

RE

The religion being taught this half term is Christianity, however other religions will be consider as well when talking about the key question: Is anything ever eternal? Children will think about the Christian religion first and what the bible stories say before considering the views of different religions, showing empathy and tolerance of other beliefs.