

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.

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

Trips and Visitors

- Friday 18th May – Hengistbury Head trip

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.

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.

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.

Whole school events

- Sports Relief Mile
- PA Penny Wars
- Dogs Trust Visit
- Matilda Theatre Trip
- Royal Wedding Celebrations
- Enterprise week

English

SPAG - Over this half term, we will revise all grammar, punctuation and spelling knowledge needed for the SATs tests.

Reading - Our class novel will be Wonder, once we have completed 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.

Writing - Firstly, we will look at how to write an entertaining school report for an imaginary character. The children will then write their own version for a chosen character. We will write an explanation text based on a science investigation. During Enterprise week, children develop their persuasive writing skills for presentations and radio/TV advertising.

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.

Mathematics

We will be focusing on revising any areas that require further attention for our individual sets so that the children are prepared for their Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) at the end of May.

Times table challenge and arithmetic tests will continue as normal.

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

PE – we will start tennis this term, having been snowed off for most of last half term. This will be basic tennis strokes before starting to play games.

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: Continuing with Living things and their habitats.

The children will be learning about animals and their habitats, concentrating on how and why animals are classified according to common observable characteristics. Furthermore, we will look at how animals adapt to their environment.

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 writing complex sentences describing animal characteristics.

Computing

This half term, we will be looking at databases, how they work and what they can be used for. We will be learning how to use all the various Excel tools including writing formulas to perform calculations, before planning a party, holiday or trip to a budget.

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 – sustainability

This term we will look at different ways in which we can be sustainable, including looking in depth at how cotton can be used in a sustainable manner. We will look at the journey cotton makes from the field to the shop and also at shops that sell sustainable cotton items.

The children will research products that are easily made from recycled cotton (or another material) and then design and make their own version. During this time, we will teach the children a range of sewing skills.

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 the use of plastic in everyday life and its effect on the environment.

RE

The religion being taught this half term is Islam, however other religions will be consider as well when talking about the key question: Does belief in Akhirah (life after death) help Muslims lead good lives? The children will learn to identify ways in which Muslims try to lead good lives and how their belief in Akhirah influences this. Furthermore, they will learn to challenge stereotyping through understanding different Muslim interpretations of Jihad and how this links to getting to Heaven.