

WEST LYNN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a wonderful summer holiday. We have enjoyed a lovely first few days settling in to the routines of school again. This letter is to let you know of the topics, curriculum content and homework your child will be working through until Christmas.

In **Maths** we will focus on a specific theme each week, which we will also return to across the year to continue to build skills and understanding. This term, our weekly focuses will include: number and place value, length and mass/weight, addition and subtraction, 2D and 3D shapes, sequencing and sorting, fractions, capacity and volume, money, and time.

Each half-term we shall focus our learning on a different topic.

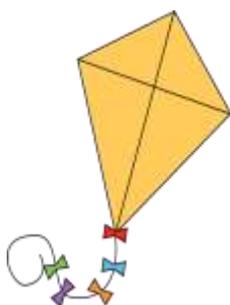
Our first topic is 'Toys'.

- In **English**, we will be exploring the story 'Traction Man' by Mini Grey. We will create storyboards, use drama and role-play to retell the story, and create our own stories inspired by the original. Children will also develop their understanding of poetry, as we explore and compare different poems about toys.
- In **history**, we will consider our favourite toys from today before looking at how these are different to Victorian toys. Throughout the unit, we will develop a range of skills such as asking and answering questions, identifying different sources and recognising change and how this affects us today.
- In **D.T** we will be looking at moving pictures. This will include sliding and moving mechanisms, how they work and creating our own.



Our second topic will be 'Blown Away'.

- In **English** we will be focusing on non-fiction texts, composing factual sentences and writing diary entries, using maps to recall sequences and ask questions about events, linked to the theme of weather. We will also revisit poetry, linked to our theme.
- In **geography** we will be learning about seasonal and daily weather patterns, as well as hot and cold places around the world.
- In **art and D.T** we will be experimenting with colour-mixing and collaging, and constructing kites.



Phonics

In phonics, children will be consolidating their phonics knowledge from reception, and will be introduced to and practise new sounds and how these can be written. This will take place within the daily morning phonics session, where children will also practise their blending and segmenting skills to help them read and write. Children will also be encouraged to apply their growing knowledge and skills across the curriculum when writing.

Science

We will be focusing on 'Everyday Materials'. We will be learning about different properties of materials and considering how they are used. Linked to our 'Toys' topic, children will be investigating the best materials to create suitable outfits for our character Traction Man! We will then move on to 'Sensing Seasons', where we will identify the seasons and differences between them. We will be looking around our own environment for clues of the current season and exploring using our senses.

R.E

Our theme this term is 'Our Wonderful World'. Pupils will think about things that make our world wonderful whilst studying different religious creation stories. Pupils will read stories, explore photographs of the world and discuss what makes our world special. We will then move on to our second unit, 'Why do Christians give gifts at Christmas?'

French

In French pupils will learn numbers 1-10, say hello and goodbye, ask and say their name and learn some musical instruments. They will also get to meet Mrs Grimmer's puppet Jean-Claude - who only speaks French!

Spellings and Homework

As children get to grips with phonics, spellings are an important way to help them feel confident with different phonic and spelling rules. **Spellings will be tested every Monday, before new spellings are sent home on Wednesday.** As well as teaching and practicing the spelling rule, following each lunchtime children will have the chance to spend a quiet 5 minutes practicing the week's spellings on their 'Look Say Cover Write Check' sheet. A copy of this sheet will also go home to enable children to practice outside of school.

To secure maths knowledge and skills covered at school, **5 maths questions will also be set every Wednesday**, based on the week's maths focus. ***Please can these be handed in by the following Monday***. This will run alongside the regular reading and spellings that are set. Please could you help your child with their homework, but allow them to complete this work independently.

As well as weekly spellings and maths questions, a range of 6 possible projects linked to the topic will be sent home in a letter at the beginning of the half term. These project suggestions are a fun way for your child to engage further with our topic - your child is welcome to select the challenge that they will enjoy completing most!

Reading Books

Every Monday we will ask the children to hand in their reading records at the beginning of the day. If they have read at least 3 times at home in the previous week, they will receive a reading superstar sticker. If your child has finished their reading book and would like this to be changed then they can place their reading book and record together in the 'home tray' in the morning.

I hope you have found this letter useful. If you have any other issues please feel free to drop in after school and do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Evans
Year 1 Class Teacher