

## Curriculum subjects

I have hugely enjoyed teaching and learning with your children over the last half term; we've had fun and also concentrated, persevered and achieved a lot together. I look forward to more great learning this half term, and am grateful for your support with home learning. If you have any comments or questions about your child's learning, please get in touch.

### Phonics and Spelling

We continue to expand our understanding of how letters and sounds work. We will be learning how certain letters can be pronounced in more than one way, and from there build our understanding that for a given sound, there is a "family" of possible spellings, some of which are more common than others. With the new graphemes we learnt last half term, our focus will start to move from not only recognizing and decoding them, to also being able to spell words containing those graphemes.

### Reading

Please continue to listen to your child read for 15 minutes daily and log this in their reading record at least 3 times a week. It makes a very visible difference to their progress when they enjoy this support at home, so thank you for making the effort. In class, we complete a rotation of reading tasks through the week, developing different reading skills. We are introducing the children to the Lexia phonics and spelling learning programme and will be sharing with you how your children can access this learning opportunity at home.

### Writing

We continue to build our independence in sentence composition, remembering to include capital letters and full stops, use our phonic knowledge to help with spelling, and checking our writing as we go to make sure it makes sense. We will be using writing opportunities to develop our use of adjectives and prepositions, and to think more carefully about how we want to sequence our ideas in a simple story. We have been concentrating on achieving an effective pencil grip and consistent letter formation in our handwriting, and once we have this sound foundation for clear cursive handwriting, will start to learn how we can join our letters together.

### Maths

We have concentrated on number knowledge and addition and subtraction skills within 10 so far, but will be expanding our number handling skills up to 20 this half term, as well as learning to recognise and name a range of 2D and 3D shapes. Mental and oral practice continues to be vitally important, so we are confident counting backwards and forwards, manipulating numbers mentally and in particular building rapid recall of number facts, especially number bonds up to and beyond 10.

### Religious Education

We will be looking at the Christian story of Christmas, and seeing if we can answer the question "Why does Christmas matter to Christians?"

### Computing

We will consider the importance of 'E-Safety'; how to stay safe when using the internet and computers. This half term we will also learn how to build a sequence of instructions to allow a robot to navigate from one place to another, avoiding hazards on the way.

### Topic/History

I hope our topic, 'The Great Fire of London' will capture imaginations. It's an opportunity to find similarities and differences between then and now. We have already assembled our home learning research into a fact wall about the fire, and will turn this into a timeline of events. In turn this will set us up for creative writing about the Fire itself, to see if we can bring history 'alive'. We will be making comparisons between life at the time of the Great Fire and nowadays.

### Music

This half term the class will be linking their music to their class topic of the Great Fire of London. The class will be focusing on duration in music and will be learning 2 new songs "London Bells" and "We need a Leader" developing their rhythmic and melodic memory. The class will also be creating a short piece of 'fire' music. The class will also be preparing for the Christmas Carol Service.

### PE

The children will be focussing on developing their gross motor skills. This includes balances and core strength exercises.

### SEAL/PSHE

The focus this half term is 'Other people are special too'. We will be discussing the values of friendship and looking at how we can care for other people, animals and the environment.

## Other Information

### Home Learning

We will continue to use our home learning to help consolidate what we are learning in Phonics, English and Maths. Reading continues as a vital component of our home learning, both becoming fluent in decoding words and also developing our ability to think about the meaning of what we are reading.

### Core Learning Values

We are learning to think about the skills we need to be independent, work together, be a critical and creative thinker and be reflective in our learning.

### PE

Your child will need a named kit and suitable footwear. We will be going outside for some sessions so your child will need named outdoor footwear and tracksuit bottoms/leggings. PE takes place on Mondays and Thursdays.

### Dates for your diary:

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Non-uniform day: please bring a tombola contribution

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need Fundraising Day

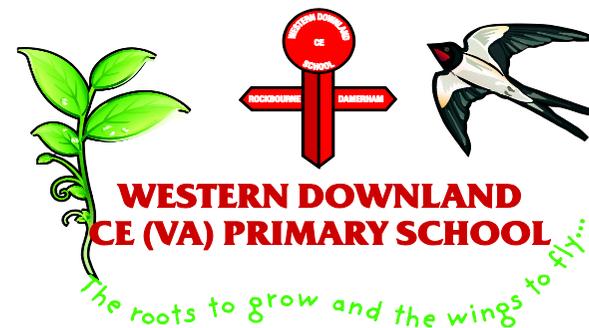
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Christmas fair (evening)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Flu Jabs

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Services 1.45pm and 6.30pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas lunch

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Last day of term!



## Year One Willow Class

### Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn 2 Term 2017

Mr Richard Thackray  
Mrs. Sam Kirkcaldy

*“The Great Fire of London”*