

# Westfields JUNIOR SCHOOL

School Lane, Yateley, Hampshire, GU46 6NN

Tel: (01252) 408218 Fax: (01252) 408216

Headteacher: Miss J Redman

[www.westfields-jun.hants.sch.uk](http://www.westfields-jun.hants.sch.uk)

 @westfields\_jun

UNITE - INSPIRE - EXCEL

Friday 11th January 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy 2019! We hope you have all had an enjoyable and festive Christmas break and are feeling refreshed for the new term. We have lots of exciting opportunities this Spring Term. This letter will give you an overview of what the children will be learning and also share some useful information and reminders.

Our new topic this term is centred around 'Water' and as part of this we will be exploring where water is located in the world. If you have visited any rivers, lakes or mountains, it would be lovely if your child could bring in photographs or guides you have for the children to share with their class or you could even arrange to come in and share them with the children yourself!?

Please take note of the following reminders:

**PE kits** - Whilst there are timetabled sessions for PE each week, it is vital children have their PE kits in every day in case rescheduling needs to occur (usually due to the weather). It would also help greatly if you could ensure every item is clearly named. As the cold weather continues, please ensure kit contains a plain black pair of jogging bottoms and a black Westfields jumper.

**Home Learning** – Thank you for all the support you have given your child(ren) so far this year. Tasks will continue to be set on a Thursday and collected on a Tuesday. Most maths tasks will be set via MyMaths and we have set a pass rate at 80%. All activities set will generally consolidate the learning we have been doing in class and is age appropriate and differentiated. If your child(ren) is finding tasks difficult, please offer them some support or let us know. There are lessons they can watch to refresh their memory on MyMaths and the tasks can be repeated by visiting the results section of this website.

**Spellings** - As an essential skill spelling is a key priority. We have been really impressed to see how the majority of children have improved their spelling scores under our spelling scheme but there is still room for some improvement; spellings will continue to be set on a Tuesday and tested weekly on a Monday. Please encourage and support your child in practicing them several times throughout the week using their booklets to really secure their learning of these.

**Times tables** – We have also been impressed to see how many children have achieved their Number Fluency and Times Tables certificates as a result of changes to the time and format of the 'Magicians' Guild'. There are a few children who are still finding these a bit tricky so please help them to persevere and practice little and often. There are lots of fun songs and games online to help them with this and if you need some suggestions, please just ask!

**Reading** – This term we have been assessing the children's reading ability under the benchmarking scheme and many children have now improved their reading stage. Please be aware that these books are designed to progressively support the development of their reading across a range of genres, but if you have any concerns regarding this, please see your child's class teacher. We would appreciate your continued support with this essential life skill. Reading aloud to an adult at least twice a week will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their intonation, expression and understanding, particularly if you are able to ask a few comprehension questions. Again, if you need any advice, just get in touch or look at the resources for parents on the school website.

**Parent helpers** – While we truly appreciate the support we have already received this academic year, we are still keen for more parents (or grandparents) to come and help children with learning spellings, times tables and listen to readers. Please let us know if you can spare any time at all – even if it is just the last half an hour of the day before school pick up!

We are looking forward to another successful term.

Kind regards,



Miss Cornall  
Year 4 Team Leader



Miss Barrand  
Year 4 Class Teacher



Mr Ratcliffe  
Year 4 Class Teacher

# YEAR 4 SPRING TERM 2019

## WATER WATER EVERYWHERE

### English



This half term we will be looking at a topical issues to develop arguments for a persuasive letter and delving into another fiction text by writing our own warning stories. There will be a particular focus on developing precise language choices and further developing our understanding of a range of sentence lengths and structures. After the half term break, we will we writing rhythm and rap poems, exploring the exciting world of storm chasers and writing a news report about extreme weather. Grammatical elements will continue to develop the children's understanding of different sentence types and develop language choices for different purposes.

Guided reading sessions are carried out through a carousel approach to allow us to adapt learning for different groups of children. Each week, groups will have time to explore a fiction or non-fiction text, and discuss and develop comprehension skills with the teacher and independently.

### Maths

During lessons this term, Year 4 will be developing their understanding of multiplication and division. A huge part of this will be applying children's times tables knowledge, so some extra practice on these would really set them on the right path to succeed! We will also be exploring problem solving and reasoning opportunities to look at patterns and puzzles with these skills, including calculating the area of simple shapes.



Following on from this, in the second half term, we will be learning about fractions. The children will find fractions of shapes and numbers, as well as apply multiplication and division skills to find equivalence between fractions with different denominators. They will finish the term by exploring decimal numbers.

### Topic and Science

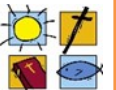
This term's topic is 'Water, Water Everywhere' and combines key elements of Science and Geography. We will begin by exploring geographical elements of rivers and mountains including where they are found, key landmarks and how they are formed. Our Science work will begin by exploring states of matter and how changes of state happen from solid to liquid and gas. There will be lots of hands on exploration to help make this practical and we will be developing accurate use of a range of scientific equipment. After the half term break, we will explore how states of matter change by linking our understanding with the water cycle in nature. Following on from this, we will explore sound and how sound waves travel. We will be learning about pitch and frequency and how these can be changed.

### Computing



This term's Computing will develop desktop publishing skills, using a range of software including Microsoft Word and Publisher, as well as focussing on developing efficient web research skills. In our coding sessions, we will complete a selection investigation, whereby children will write their own simple code to their sprite sense and respond to different stimuli. As part of our E-safety work we will discuss the importance of keeping personal information and photographs private.

### RE



This term's concepts are Myths and Rituals. The children will learn about similarities in these concepts between Christianity and other world religions.

### Music



This term we will develop our singing and percussion skills in Music through the Wonderful Waterworks Unit.

### PE



To begin with, we will develop hockey skills in PE as well as creating gymnastic routines. Next half term, children will learn co-ordination and ball control skills in tennis and also choreograph dances with a water theme.

### French



Children will develop their spoken French through the consolidation of prior learning and a French presentation. They will also learn vocabulary about Family so they are able to share and understand details orally and in writing.

### Art and DT



In Art, we will explore the concept of Water through different cultures and produce several different final pieces along this theme using a range of medium.

In DT, we will be designing and making creatures with moving parts by applying our understanding of how different levers work to our own creative designs.

### PSHE

In PSHE lessons, children will develop their understanding of how to assess risks to their personal safety and stay safe.



We will also explore the value of difference and how important it is to recognise this within the communities we are a part of.