

WESTERN ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
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February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 4. The school value that we are focussing on this term is 'Pupil Voice', and this is being marked by the whole school in the following ways over the coming weeks:

- We will be electing new school councillors. To be considered, candidates will make a speech for their classmates before everyone casts their votes. A letter will be coming out about this soon.
- We will also be starting an Eco Council this school term, comprised of representatives from each year group. These roles will be filled by considering letters of application from interested children. There will be more information about this shortly.
- Miss Knight, our ICT subject lead, is also going to be recruiting technicians this term by inviting children to apply and interviewing candidates. Again, please look out for an upcoming announcement about this.
- It is still possible for children to contribute to this year's poetry anthology. This week, your child will be bringing home a poem they have written in class, which they can then type up and submit via Seesaw if they wish. This is open to everyone, but if your child has already contributed by sending a poem to Lucy Foss, they should mention this when submitting a second poem via Seesaw.

To complement the Pupil Voice school value, we have a brand-new enquiry question this term, 'How has Activism Shaped our World?' Through this topic, we will be learning about the activist Thomas Paine, who has strong links with Lewes, and comparing and contrasting his actions and achievements with modern-day activists and activism movements such as Extinction Rebellion, Malala Yousafzi, Greta Thunberg and Black Lives Matter. We will consider how we can use peaceful means to raise awareness about causes we care about, and reflect on the ethics of activism where there is a risk that peace will be disturbed.

To enrich our understanding of how we can use our voices to make a difference, we will be completing a special art project this term. As environmental and conservation issues are causes that are important to the class, we will be working together to produce a large piece of artwork to raise awareness of the extinction crisis. Each child has been assigned a species that has been classified as extinct since the turn of the century. Over the coming weeks, they will research this species and also practise drawing it in a variety of ways, in preparation for adding it to the whole-class artwork.

In English, we will be using the Talk for Writing approach to write information texts about the endangered species that are featuring in our art project. We will be exploring and analysing a model text to identify the key features, and then using this as a basis for our own reports. We will use our writing as a vehicle to embed specific spelling patterns and grammar points. Each week, children will be set five spellings to practise at home via Seesaw, and we will be practising these in class too. In guided reading, we will be reading Holes, by Louis Sachler. We have enough copies of the text for one between two. Children who have their own copies of the text can bring them in from home; please ensure these are named.

In maths, we will mainly be focusing on fractions, decimals and percentages this term. Through our Power Maths series, we will be embedding associated vocabulary, generalisations and stem sentences to help us retain and apply our knowledge to solve a range of fluency and reasoning problems. Please ensure that your child continues to prioritise learning any times tables that they are not secure with. When finding common denominators and converting fractions, it is essential that children are fluent in times tables in order to keep up with the tasks.

In Science, we will be learning about lifecycles of plants and animals. We will be covering reproduction processes and growth in plants and animals, observing and comparing lifecycles of animals in our local environment with those in different environments around the world (we are excited to be working with a local bee expert to learn about honey bees and will then compare these with animals native to the Amazon to complement our English text). This module will also allow us to examine the work of renowned naturalists.

In French, the class will be building on their fluency with recalling numbers.

In PHSE, we will be continuing to work on understanding our health and wellbeing. In particular, we will focus on the importance of rest, how we can take responsibility for our feelings and how we can embrace 'failure' in order to build on skills and learn.

We have PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term. This term's focus is bat and ball games. This will comprise hockey, tennis and badminton. We will also continue to have a weekly yoga session too.

As you know, we have Forest School this term too. This will happen each Thursday afternoon – the class has been split into two groups, and will receive three sessions each. Please see the email that was sent out at the beginning of last week about this.

Homework will continue to be set on Fridays and is due in the following Wednesday unless otherwise stated. This will include an activity related to a lesson during the week, a maths task (usually on Mymaths) and spellings to practise. As usual, homework will be shared via Seesaw and Mymaths should be returned as a picture/ response on Seesaw where possible.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to see us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hamilton and Miss Patience