



Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm writing to you as part of the second curriculum newsletter of this school year – how quickly time goes by!

Some of the highlights of our curriculum last term were Explorer Day and the planetarium visit in Year 5, Greek Day and cooking Tzatziki & Flat Bread in Year 6, then exploring the work of the artist Grayson Perry and visiting The Commandery in Year 7. On another positive note, it's also really encouraging that so many children across school have been assessed by their teachers as achieving Age Related Expectations and/or Greater Depth Standard across all subjects of our wider curriculum. Subject leaders and class teachers have now analysed teacher assessments across all subjects of our curriculum, helping us to inform planning and identify target areas of learning for the term ahead.

As with last term's letter, you will receive an overview of what your child will be learning across the curriculum alongside this letter in the form of a Curriculum Jigsaw detailing the skills your child will be developing in both core subjects and foundation subjects during the current Spring term.

All of the Knowledge Webs for the current term have been uploaded to our school website at <https://www.westacre-middle-school.co.uk/curriculum-knowledge-webs/> should parents also wish to find out more about the knowledge children will be developing across the wider curriculum in school. For children in Key Stage 2, this includes the Knowledge Web for your child's current Creative Curriculum topic (a term's work, around a theme or idea, predominantly within their Art, Design Technology, Geography and History lessons). Following staff training earlier in the year and further engagement with educational research, Year 7's curriculum will be more subject-specific this term as they continue their Key Stage 3 journey. The webs represent the main knowledge (facts) that children will be taught and challenged to recall in their lessons, as part of a planned scheme of learning and enquiry, and how they overlap and inter-link (hence web) within each subject. Children's recall of these facts will be assessed in a variety of ways in school, including, "Can We Still?" questions and low stakes quizzes throughout the term.

Within each Knowledge Web for your child this term, please also note the key vocabulary they will be learning. Those marked with * are the most important words and definitions all pupils will work towards applying correctly in class. These words and key spellings will help pupils have a better understanding of what they are learning in all subjects.

We now look forward to a new term of exciting learning, which has started with the History Man visit and investigating materials and their properties in Year 5, and a topic launch day in Year 6 which involved the children entering a departure lounge and being greeted by a pilot and cabin crew, ready to take them on a journey around the world! In Year 7, the children have studied how the Normans shaped Britain after the Battle of Hastings in 1066 in History, explored current global issues in Geography, and brought Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet to life through reading and performance in English and Guided Reading.

Yours in partnership,

Mr P Barber

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