

English Primary Section

The school is committed to a curriculum of core and foundation subjects within a structure that follows the English National Curriculum. The focus of the English National Curriculum, together with the wider school curriculum, is to ensure that pupils develop from an early age the essential literacy and numeracy skills they need to learn; to provide them with a guaranteed, full and rounded entitlement to learning; to foster their creativity; and to give teachers discretion to find the best ways to inspire in their pupils a joy and commitment to learning that will last a lifetime.

THE FOUNDATION STAGE

For children aged between 3 and 5 years of age the school provides a Nursery and a Reception class. This is called The Foundation Stage. There are six areas of learning which form the basis of the foundation stage curriculum. These areas are:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication, language and literacy
- Mathematical development
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development

Each area of learning has a set of related early learning goals. Most children will achieve and some, where appropriate, will go beyond the early learning goals by the end of the Foundation Stage.

KEY STAGE 1

For children between 5 and 7 years of age the school provides a Year 1 and a Year 2 class. This is called Key Stage 1. Outlines of the programmes of study for the core subjects are as follows:

Speaking and listening: Children learn to speak clearly, thinking about the needs of their listeners. They work in small groups and as a class, joining in discussions and making relevant points. They also learn how to listen carefully to what other people are saying, so that they can remember the main points. They learn to use language in imaginative ways and express their ideas and feelings when working in role and in drama activities.

Reading: Children's interest and pleasure in reading is developed as they learn to read confidently and independently. They focus on words and sentences and how they fit into whole texts. They work out the meaning of straightforward texts and say why they like them or do not like them.

Writing: Children start to enjoy writing and see the value of it. They learn to communicate meaning in narrative and non-fiction texts and spell and punctuate correctly.

Mathematics: Children develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematics through practical activity, exploration and discussion. They learn to count, read, write and order numbers to 100 and beyond. They develop a range of mental calculation skills and use these confidently in different settings. They learn about shape and space through practical activity, which builds on their understanding of their immediate environment. They begin to grasp mathematical language, using it to talk about their methods and explain their reasoning when solving problems.

Science: Children observe, explore and ask questions about living things, materials and phenomena. They begin to work together to collect evidence to help them answer questions and to link this to simple scientific ideas. They evaluate evidence and consider whether tests or comparisons are fair. They use reference materials to find out more about scientific ideas. They share their ideas and communicate them using scientific language, drawings, charts and tables.

KEY STAGE 2

For children aged between 7 and 11 years of age the school provides one class in each of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. This is called Key Stage 2. Outlines of programmes of study for the core subjects are as follows:

Speaking and listening: Children learn how to speak in a range of contexts, adapting what they say and how they say it to the purpose and the audience. Taking varied roles in groups gives them opportunities to contribute to situations with different demands. They also learn to respond appropriately to others, thinking about what has been said and the language used.

Reading: Children read enthusiastically a range of materials and use their knowledge of words, sentences and texts to understand and respond to the meaning. They increase their ability to read challenging and lengthy texts independently. They reflect on the meaning of texts, analysing and discussing them with others.

Writing: Children develop understanding that writing is both essential to thinking and learning, and enjoyable in its own right. They learn the main rules

and conventions of written English and start to explore how the English language can be used to express meaning in different ways. They use the planning, drafting and editing process to improve their work and to sustain their fiction and non-fiction.

Science: Children learn about a wider range of living things, materials and phenomena. They begin to make links between ideas and to explain things using simple models and theories. They apply their knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas to familiar phenomena, everyday things and their personal health. They begin to think about the positive and negative effects of scientific and technological developments on the environment and in other contexts. They carry out more systematic investigations, working on their own and with others. They use a range of reference sources in their work. They talk about their work and its significance, and communicate ideas using a wide range of scientific language, conventional diagrams, charts and graphs.

PROMOTING SKILLS ACROSS THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

At both key stages, children learn, practise, combine, develop and refine a wide range of skills in their work across the National Curriculum. Some of these skills are subject specific (painting in art and design), some are common to several subjects (enquiry skills in science, history and geography). Some skills are universal, for example the skills of communication, improving own learning and performance, and creative thinking. These skills are also embedded in the subjects of the National Curriculum and are essential to effective learning.

Each National Curriculum subject has an attainment target: a particular level of skills, knowledge and understanding. The level descriptions provide the basis for making judgements about children' s performance at the end of key stages 1, 2.

Pupils are formally tested in Numeracy and Literacy, each year from Year 2, using authorised testing materials supplied by the QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority). The results at the end of each Key Stage, Year 2 and Year 6, are reported to parents.

Further information regarding the English National Curriculum can be found at National Curriculum online www.nc.uk.net/index.html

FRENCH

It is vital to the well-being and social life of the children, that they integrate with the school environment, their peers and the wider community in which they are living. Living between two languages is often difficult, and at times confusing and upsetting. To facilitate their acquisition of this new language, the children will receive instruction four times a week in the French language,

using a recognised scheme aimed at young learners of French as a Foreign Language. In addition, the children may have some lessons eg. Art and Craft, Music and PE, with French speaking teachers.

Curriculum newsletters, for Reception to Year 6 are posted on the English Section of the School Website and an information booklet will be sent to you, before your child begins school in September.