



Newsletter for all Parents

The New National Curriculum

As you may be aware, the Government announced plans to overhaul the national curriculum. These changes have taken effect for Years 1 to 6. During the past academic year staff have been preparing and planning for the new curriculum. The new curriculum for the Autumn Term will be published on our school website and distributed to parents at the Welcome Evening on Thursday 11th September.

The Aims of the New National Curriculum

The national curriculum aims to provide pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge they need to be educated citizens. Although the new curriculum is intended to be more challenging, the content is actually slimmer than the current curriculum, focusing on essential core subject knowledge and skills for each year group of the school. The national curriculum makes it very clear that children are not to move through the curriculum at too fast a pace. Instead, they are to broaden and deepen their knowledge so that at the end of an academic year they are confident and proficient in the core skills for their year group.

The Main Changes

English

Encouraging the love of reading is at the heart of the new curriculum. The main change that we are making to our English curriculum is that children are going to be taught through a 'key text'. The key text will form the context of all the children's work for that term, including grammar, punctuation, word reading, reading comprehension, writing composition and spoken language.

We will provide a class set of key texts for the children to work on in school. In Key Stage 2, you may want to buy a copy of your child's key text. This would really benefit them in class and support with homework they may be set. If your child does purchase their own copy, **we would urge them not to read ahead of the pace of the class** as this could hinder the teachers planning of key skills such as predicting the next part of the story, solving the mystery of the story, etc. If you would like to buy a copy of your child's key text then the table below shows the key texts children will be using.

There is no need to purchase the key texts in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2).

Key Texts in Term 1: September 2014

Barton	You Choose by Pippa Goodhart Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae Mr Men by Roger Hargreaves Wriggle and Roar by Julia Donaldson Tasty by Jill Bennet Noisy by Jill Bennett Oliver's Vegetables by Vivian French Information books featuring lists, labels and captions.
Palmer	Eat Your greens, Goldilocks A Story About Eating Healthily by Steve Stallman Blow Your Nose, Big Bad Wolf A Story About Spreading Germs by Steve Stallman The Boxtrolls: Make your Own Boxtroll Punch Out Activity Book
Moore	The BFG by Roald Dahl I'll Take You to Mrs Cole by Nigel Gray / Michael Foreman Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish by Nigel Gray / Michael Foreman
Cameron	Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo

Vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and spellings. (VGP and S)

There is a stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling. More complex punctuation such as the use of apostrophes will be taught in KS1, hence raising expectations for all the children. The way we teach spellings will also change slightly. Rather than sending home a list of spelling words to learn, a spelling rule will be sent home with some example words and children will be encouraged to find other words that follow that spelling pattern. At school, children will be tested on words that follow that pattern in a form of dictation.

Handwriting

By the end of Year 6, children's handwriting is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy. To this end we will be modelling cursive writing and encouraging all pupils to take pride in their handwriting and overall presentation of work. Children from Year 3 can earn a pen licence once they have produced three exemplary pieces of handwriting in their work, as identified by the teacher.

Spoken English

Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with core skills like debating, presenting, storytelling and reciting poems being integral to each unit of work the children undertake.

Maths

Again, there are higher expectations within the new maths curriculum. From Year 1 children will be expected to learn to count up to 100 rather than 20 and learn their number bonds to 20 rather than 10. Simple fractions ($\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$) will be taught from Year 1 and by the end of Year 6 children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions. Times Tables will now be taught up to 12×12 rather than 10×10 and algebra is introduced in Year 6.

Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of Key Stage 2, to encourage mental arithmetic. We have introduced a new maths scheme called 'Abacus' which is a tool that provides motivational resources which can also be accessed and used at home. We will continue to use 'Mathletics' to consolidate their learning.

Science

Within the science curriculum there is priority given to scientific knowledge and understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics in order for the children to understand the uses and implications of science today and for the future. Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time. In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in science have shaped the world.

Computing

Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs. From Year 1, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data. From Year 3, children will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet and by Year 6, children will be creating their own APPs! There is a strong emphasis on ESafety in the new curriculum and this will be taught as an integral part of the new curriculum as a running theme throughout each topic.

Design & technology

Design and Technology has afforded greater importance under the new curriculum, setting children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future. More sophisticated use of design equipment such as electronics and robotics. In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world.

Languages

We will now be teaching French from Reception and children will be expected to master basic grammar, accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in French.