



The New Primary National Curriculum ~ A Guide for Parents

In September 2014, a new Primary National Curriculum became statutory in schools across the country.

The new curriculum is intended to be more challenging and this leaflet provides information for parents and carers on the major changes.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

From September 2014, a new Primary Curriculum became statutory. This leaflet outlines the major changes to subject areas within the curriculum.

English

- Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation & spelling eg use of commas & apostrophes will be taught in Key Stage 1
- Reading is at the core of the whole curriculum, with a big emphasis on reading for pleasure at home & at school
- Handwriting, not currently assessed under the National Curriculum, is expected to be fluent, legible & speedy
- Spoken English is given greater emphasis, with children being taught debating & presentation skills

Mathematics

- Simple fractions, $\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{1}{2}$ will be taught in Year 1, & by the end of Year 6 children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions eg $0.375 = \frac{3}{8}$
- Year 4 children will be expected to know multiplication tables up to 12×12 , previously 10×10 in Year 6
- Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of Key Stage 2, to encourage mental arithmetic
- The ability to solve mathematical problems is a key skill that runs through all strands of the new Primary Curriculum
- Children will be taught formal written strategies of vertical long multiplication & long division when they are secure with the standard written methods we currently teach

Science

- Strong focus on scientific knowledge & language, rather than understanding the nature & methods of science in abstract terms
- Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time
- Non-core topics like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system

Computing replaces Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

- Greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs
- From Year 1, children will learn to create & debug simple programs, & to organise, store & retrieve data
- From Year 3, children will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet
- Using technology safely & respectfully will be taught to all children

Design & Technology (DT)

- Through designing, making & evaluating Design & Technology has become more important in the new curriculum, setting children on the path to becoming the designers & engineers of the future
- Understanding & using mechanical systems such as gears, pulleys, cams, levers & linkages is expected in Key Stage 2
- Prepare & cook variety of dishes, mainly savoury
- Understand seasonality of food, & where & how variety of ingredients grown, reared, caught & processed

Geography

- Use atlases & maps, including OS & digital maps, a compass & grid references
- Children are expected to know & locate continents, oceans, countries, capitals, major cities, mountains & rivers
- In depth studies of a European, North/ South American country & a region of the British Isles are required

History

- Greater emphasis on British History taught in chronological order from Stone Age to 1066

Languages replaces Modern Foreign Languages

- A modern foreign language or ancient language such as Latin or Greek is mandatory in KS2
- Children in KS2 will be expected to converse, present, read & write in the language

Physical Education (PE) & Music

These subjects remain largely unchanged

Assessment

During 2014 - 2015 the new Primary National Curriculum for English & Mathematics has been adopted throughout the school. The new changes for other subjects are gradually being introduced.

A new system of formal assessment will be introduced, but full details have yet to be released by the Department for Education.

Children currently in Year 2 will continue to be tested on the old National Curriculum in Mathematics, English & Science. They will complete SATs in May 2015 based on these old programmes of study. Alongside this they will also follow the new Primary National Curriculum.

From May 2016, a new assessment procedure based on the new Primary National Curriculum will be implemented. We will provide you with the details of these new tests as soon as they become available to us.