

Dear Parents/ Carers

This leaflet has been designed to highlight the changes in the new primary curriculum which came in to force this September 2014. Prior to the start of term, the staff worked hard to plan engaging and challenging themes and lessons based on the new programmes of study. As usual we will continue to provide you with a half termly/termly over view summary of the planned learning for each year group.

All year groups, other than Year 2 and Year 6 this year, will be measured against the new curriculum 'programmes of study'.

Children in Year 6 in the year 2014/2015 will continue to study and be tested on the old primary curriculum in Maths, English and Science. They will sit SATs in May 2015 based on these old programmes of study, and will be awarded a level, e.g. 4b. All other subjects such as Geography and Computing will follow the new curriculum.

Obviously this is a time of change for children, teachers and parents. It is not the first time (nor likely to be the last) that the curriculum has been radically changed. As we go through next year we will keep you updated so that as parents you have a clear picture of what, when and how your child will learn.

Our school strategy to cope with these changes is to focus on ensuring that we incorporate them in such a way that our children will continue to thrive and progress not only academically, but spiritually, morally and socially too. We will, of course, ensure that our children remain at the heart of all we do, and if we all work together to take on the challenge of change I'm sure that by September 2015 (after one year of the new curriculum), these new requirements will simply be part of our everyday school life.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Jo Newman Headteacher



**A guide for parents to the new
Primary Curriculum
September 2014**

From September 2014, a new primary curriculum became statutory. As detailed below, the previous programmes of learning, and attainment targets, will be replaced. This leaflet outlines the major changes to subject areas within the curriculum.

English

- Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and 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 both at home and at school.
- Handwriting (not assessed under the old national curriculum) is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy.
- Spoken English is given greater emphasis, with children being taught debating and presentation skills.

Mathematics

- Simple fractions ($\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$) will be taught from Key Stage 1, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. $0.375 = \frac{3}{8}$).
- By the age of nine, children will be expected to know their times tables up to 12×12 , previously 10×10 .
- Calculators will not be introduced until the end of Key Stage 2, to encourage mental arithmetic.
- The ability to solve mathematical problems is a key skill which runs through all strands of the new primary curriculum.
- Children will be taught formal written strategies of vertical long multiplication and long division when they are secure with the standard written methods we previously taught.

Science

- Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms.
- Evolution is to be taught in primary schools for the first time.
- Non-core subjects like caring for animals has been replaced by topics such as the human circulatory system.

Computing

- Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs.
- From age five, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data.
- From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet.
- Internet safety – previously only taught from 11-16 – will be taught in primary schools

Design and Technology (DT)

- Design and Technology has become more important in 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 Key Stage 2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world.
- Greater emphasis on cookery with a focus on savoury dishes.

Geography

- Greater use of atlases and maps including O/S maps and digital maps.
- Children are expected to know and locate countries, capitals, major cities, mountains and rivers.
- In depth studies of a European, North/South American country and a region of the British Isles are required.

History

- Greater emphasis on British History taught in chronological order from Stone Age to 1066. Tudors no longer taught in Key Stage 2.

Languages

- The term Languages will replace the term modern foreign languages.
- Previously not statutory, a modern foreign language or ancient language such as Latin or Greek is now mandatory in Key Stage 2.
- Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language.

Physical Education (PE), Music, Religious Education (RE)

- The study of these subjects remains largely unchanged.