

Curriculum Summary

What will my child learn at school?

The list is endless!

Early Years' Curriculum - Foundation Stage

When your child is in the Reception Class, he/she will work towards the Early Learning Goals as set out in the Early Years Framework for educating children aged 3 to 5 years.

The teaching and learning will start at a place most appropriate to the needs of your child, irrespective of age, and follow guidance set out in the six areas of learning described in the Early Years framework. These are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional development
- Language and Communication
- Mathematics
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development

The emphasis at this stage of your child's education is on learning through a mix of free, directed and structured play. As your child reaches the age of 5, he/she will participate in more formal lessons.

The Curriculum for Children in Years 1 and 2

The curriculum is planned to ensure that it includes the Programmes of Study for all the subjects of the National Curriculum expected at Key Stage One. The subjects are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Information and Communication Technology
- Personal, Social and Health Education
- Art
- Design and Technology
- Geography
- History
- Physical Education
- Music
- Religious Education

We have designed our curriculum to take account of National Initiatives such as Frameworks for teaching Literacy and Numeracy.

Our English curriculum is based upon the National Literacy Framework.

It includes:

1. Speaking and Listening - Your child will be given opportunities to listen and to speak in small and whole class groups. We encourage children to listen attentively and to speak clearly with expression.

2. Reading - A variety of methods will be used to help your child learn to read. The National Literacy Framework involves children learning to focus closely upon texts and their meanings. School is well resourced with a wide and varied choice of books which are colour coded according to progress levels. Your child will be able to take a reading book home each day in his/her book bag to read with you. It is essential that children are reminded of the importance of sharing and caring for books.

3. Writing - Your child will learn to write for a variety of purposes, i.e. writing lists, reports, stories and instructions. We teach handwriting throughout the school. Good spelling is encouraged from the start though it is important that we always value the child's effort. Please help your child to learn spellings sent home.

Mathematics - Mathematics teaching is heavily influenced by the National Numeracy Framework. Your child will have opportunity for lots of practical activity and discussion to ensure that she /he has a thorough understanding of all aspects of mathematics. Experiences include oral/mental maths, games, puzzles, problem solving, investigation, formal maths and handling practical materials. We encourage the children to solve everyday problems using the mathematical skills they have learnt.

Science - The skills of observation, investigation, record-keeping, discovery and experimentation are developed as the 'tools' of science. The study area increases children's knowledge and understanding of the world about them. We use the school grounds, the local environment, the children's own curiosity and experience to promote interest in this study area. We encourage the children to have enquiring minds.

Information and Communication Technology - We use computers throughout the school to support and develop the children's learning in many other subjects. We provide the children with opportunities to acquire skills in the following aspects of ICT: word processing, data handling, computer art and graphics, the use of the Internet and modeling. Some of the programmes we use help the children to learn more about English, mathematics, science, music, history and geography. The children have regular opportunities to use the computers in our computer suite as well as laptops. We also help the children to become familiar

with a range of technological devices such as videos, tape recorders and digital cameras.

Design and Technology - The curriculum for this subject provides many opportunities for the children to undertake practical tasks linked to the processes of designing, building, testing and evaluating products. We help the children to identify and solve simple, everyday problems such as designing and making model bridges, containers and vehicles. They are taught basic craft and design skills to help them develop an understanding of the properties of materials, and how they can be used for different structures. We also teach the children to use simple tools.

Geography - The geography we teach is closely related to the children's immediate environment. The children are taught to investigate aspects of their local area such as their homes, local streets and shops. They learn about journeys in the neighborhood and further afield. They learn how to read and draw simple maps and plans, and how to follow and give instructions and directions. They also learn about the weather and the seasons. They are taught about the world beyond their immediate locality. They learn about places in the United Kingdom and abroad that are very different from where they live.

History - The pupils are taught to understand some aspects of history by learning about the immediate past. For example, they investigate artefacts such as the toys used by their parents when they were young. They learn to identify how things have changed over time when they notice that their toys are often made of different materials from those of modern ones. They may learn about people and events beyond living memory. They are taught to compare the past with the present and to recognise how things have changed over time. They learn to ask questions about the past through resources such as historical artefacts as well as using pictures, books, videos and computers.

Art, craft and design -The learning activities in this subject help the children to understand and enjoy a range of arts and crafts. The children are taught to record what they see, experience and imagine in drawings and paintings. They learn to select ideas from a range of images and artefacts representative of different periods in history, different artists and different cultures and traditions. The children explore a wide range of materials and tools when they draw, paint, create collages, models and sculptures. They learn to recognise pattern, shape, texture, colour, line and tone, so that they can express themselves in many different ways. They are also given opportunities to learn how to talk about their work and how to respond to the work of others.

Music - The school recognises that music provides a powerful and distinctive medium of expression. We use it to help the children develop a wide range of

creative and expressive skills. The children are given the opportunity to listen carefully to different kinds of music from a wide range of cultures. Playing and singing together requires co-operation and teamwork and these are encouraged in this subject. Music is taught by a music specialist every Friday.

Physical Education - The children are taught about movement and how their bodies respond to exercise. They learn the importance of safe exercise when they perform simple warming-up and cooling-down activities before and after vigorous exercise. They monitor the effects of exercise on their hearts and muscles. The pupils are also taught to behave in a way that does not endanger themselves or others. All of the children take part in gymnastics, field games and dance. Westminster Sports Unit supports the school in the teaching of P.E.

Personal, Social and Health Education- The school provides a range of planned activities and opportunities to help the children develop the personal and social skills they need. They are encouraged to take responsibility for aspects of their own learning and for small routine tasks in the classroom. They are helped to think of the needs of others and to develop positive attitudes to learning.

The school emphasises universal values such as honesty, trustworthiness and care for others. Teachers use circle time (class discussions) to help the children explore personal and social issues that most affect them. Through the activities offered, the children are expected to develop self-confidence, independence and responsibility. They are helped to understand the idea of good citizenship and of the need to learn to respect and value everyone, irrespective of creed, colour or race.

The school provides opportunities for the children to learn how to stay fit and healthy through making sensible choices about food and exercise. We have been accredited with the National Healthy School's Mark.

- **Religious Education-** Religious Education and assemblies are broadly Christian, although we are sensitive to the fact that pupils may practice other faiths. We follow Westminster's Agreed Syllabus.

The school provides opportunities for the children to talk and learn about:

- The world in which we live
- Major events happening outside school
- Families, friends and relationships.

We celebrate the Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas and hold assemblies on the major festivals of other world faiths.

