

THE KEY STAGE ONE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is delivered through a mixture of individual subject teaching and topic work. It is designed to address the developing needs of all children.

The school curriculum is based on the programmes of study set out in the 2014 National Curriculum and is made up of the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, and the foundation subjects of Art and Design, Computing, Design Technology, Geography, History, Music, and Physical Education. All schools are required to teach Religious Education, at St Nicholas infants school this is an important part of our curriculum offer and it is taught weekly.

From the time each child enters our school their learning will be planned and guided towards a broader and deeper understanding of the world around them and their place within it. The children are encouraged to learn both inside and outside of the classroom and learning through play based activities is an important feature in all year groups.

TEACHING METHODS

Children are taught in mixed ability classes, two of our classes are also mixed-aged classes. A combination of whole class, small group and individual teaching is used as appropriate. Teaching Assistants are employed to help support the children and they work alongside the class teacher and are an integral part of our team.

ENGLISH AND LITERACY

The Primary Curriculum is divided into three areas: Speaking and Listening, Reading, and Writing (which includes spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting). At St Nicholas Infant School, we use the National Curriculum Key Stage 1 programmes of study to teach all aspects of English on a daily basis with very clear intentions of what children will be taught and be expected to know by the end of each term in school.

Speaking and Listening

We aim to develop the children's confidence and ability to speak clearly and articulately, putting forward their points of view and thoughts in a wide variety of situations, including drama. Listening is also a crucial skill, which needs to be learned, and practised.

Reading

Our aims are to teach the children to read so that they become independent readers as soon as possible, developing a love and appreciation of literature, and being able to use books to help in their learning.

The children are introduced to a wide variety and range of interesting, exciting and stimulating texts, both fiction and non-fiction, giving them a breadth of experience. We teach reading through a variety of different methods, but initially when children enter school we focus on the teaching of phonological skills (the sounds of letters, blends and words). Comprehension skills are an integral part of reading and are taught discreetly in weekly guided reading sessions.

All children are given specific books and/or reading activities to share at home. They will have a home/school contact book for parents and teachers to use to record reading progress. We have found that children, who read at home with adult help, reinforcing the work we are doing at school, can make rapid progress with their reading. It is a very important way in which you can help your child with their early learning.

Writing

The children are taught conventional, correct letter formation for lower case and capital letters, children in year 1, begin to learn to join their letters and joined script is encouraged from Year 2 onwards, developing into a comfortable and legible handwriting style.

The children will learn to spell the most commonly used words (high frequency words) from Year R onwards following the expectations for each year group as set out in the National Curriculum Programmes of study.

The children are encouraged to write independently, being given opportunities to write for a variety of audiences and purposes, including imaginative, factual and non-chronological writing, and poetry, plays and reporting. They are also taught basic grammar and punctuation.

MATHEMATICS

It is most important that children learn with understanding so that they are able to use their maths in the real world. The children's experience in maths can be divided into seven areas-

- 1. Number and place value**
- 2. Number- addition and subtraction**
- 3. Number – multiplication and division**
- 4. Measurement**
- 5. Geometry – properties of shape**
- 6. Geometry – position and direction**

In our maths lessons, there is a focus on developing thinking and reasoning skills through pupil talk and discussion. The children apply the skills they have learnt in solving puzzles, problems and carrying out investigations. We develop links with other subjects and the children solve real life problems. Maths homework is set weekly and links with the maths taught in the class.

SCIENCE

The Science curriculum is planned so that children are given the opportunity to develop an awareness of those things which happen around them in the everyday world and to make sense of the events and objects with which they come into daily contact.

The Science work is organised into the following areas:

- Plants
- Animals including Humans
- Everyday materials
- Seasonal changes

As their scientific knowledge increases, children will be shaping and refining their ideas by looking for patterns and testing their theories by experimentation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our school has a distinctive Christian Character. Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Rochester Diocesan scheme of work centred around Christianity and other main religions. This ensures children are provided with a creative and balanced curriculum which offers opportunities for children to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. In RE lessons children think about their own responses to issues and consider the responses of others. Throughout the year we plan visits to the church and cathedral and hold special Christian values days which involve the whole community. Children and staff meet together daily for Collective worship which reflects our core Christian values of Friendship, Justice, Forgiveness and Thankfulness. The children are encouraged to make individual contributions to all aspects of the worship.

COMPUTING

Computers and their use are an integral part of our teaching tools across all curriculum areas. All classes are equipped with interactive whiteboards and computers which are equipped with a wide range of educationally approved software and online access. In addition children are taught how to use digital cameras, digital movie-makers, CD players, tape recorders and programmable toys. Our curriculum embeds the use of technology in all subjects and schemes of work are planned carefully to include internet safety, understanding how to create simple programmes and solve problems, storing and retrieving information. Each year children have the opportunity to revisit skills and extend their learning so that they become confident users of technology.

HISTORY

We use a topic based approach to develop children's understanding and interest in history. We use the history of our locality, the study of famous people and historical events to help the children to develop a sense of chronology and an understanding of how events in the past have influenced people's lives today. Learning experiences include drama, storytelling and visits.

GEOGRAPHY

Our Geography curriculum enables the children to develop knowledge about the geography of their local area, the United Kingdom and the world. We use local trips to enrich learning of basic human and physical geographical features e.g. town, village, farm, shop, forest, hill, and beach. In addition the children compare and contrast Strood with other countries such as India and Mexico to extend their understanding of different geographical features.

ART AND DESIGN

We provide a range of art, craft and design activities throughout the key stage to enable children to use colour, form, texture, pattern and a variety of materials and media to communicate what they see, feel and think. The children are encouraged to explore and discuss the work of artists and designers and use what they have discovered to inspire their own work.

MUSIC

Music forms an important part of our creative curriculum. Children are taught to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. Children also learn to listen with concentration and understanding to a wide range of live and recorded music and experiment with sound and rhythm when creating their own compositions with tuned and un-tuned instruments. Children in year 2 have an opportunity to learn to play the recorder.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Design and technology offers children planning and creating opportunities that link with other subjects. We follow the principles of plan, design, make and evaluate in each year's DT projects. Through a progression of skills children gain experience of a range of material, techniques and products. Children are taught to evaluate their products and to think of ways to improve them.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Physical Education we promote a range of sports activities so that every child can become confident and competent in the basic movements including running, jumping, throwing and catching as well as developing balance, agility and co-ordination. We encourage team games and team work and all children participate in or competitive sports day. Dance also forms an important part of our curriculum. Children can explore patterns and sequences and develop their own dances. Children are encouraged to join afterschool sports clubs to extend their skills.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (PSHE)

Although PSHE is no longer statutory in Key Stage 1 in the 2014 national curriculum it is important to our school and underpins all we do.

We ensure that we provide the children with opportunities to consider and discuss important issues, to consider their own feelings and actions and how they affect others and to be tolerant of others. PSHE helps the children to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Examples of activities that individual and groups of children undertake include:

- Responsibility for classroom routines and jobs
- School carers - helping with the youngest children in the playground at lunchtime
- Charitable fund raising for Unicef, Mary's Meals, Jeans for Gene's and McMillan cancer research