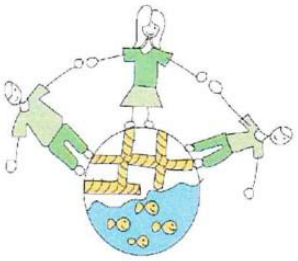

The New National Curriculum a guide for Y4 Parents

The new curriculum came into schools in September 2014.

All year groups, from September 2015, now follow the new curriculum.

We hope that you find this guide useful. If you have any questions, or want to find out more information – please either visit our school website or talk to a member of staff.

What's changed?

English, Maths and Science remain very important and are considered the core subjects in both primary and secondary education. The National Curriculum sets out in some detail what must be taught in each of these subjects, and they will take up a substantial part of your child's learning week.

Alongside these are the familiar foundation subjects: Art, Computing, Design & Technology, Foreign Languages (age 7+ only), Geography, History, Music, and Physical Education. For these foundation subjects, the details in the curriculum are significantly briefer: schools have much more flexibility regarding what they cover in these subjects.

Much of the publicity about the changes to the curriculum has focussed on **'higher expectations'** in various subjects, and it is certainly the case that in some areas the content of the new primary curriculum is significantly more demanding than in the past. For example, in mathematics there is now much greater focus on the skills of arithmetic and also on working with fractions. In science, a new unit of work on evolution is introduced for Year 6; work which would have previously been studied in secondary school. In English lessons there will now be more attention paid to the study of grammar and spelling; an area which was far less notable in previous curriculums.

High Achievers

If your child is achieving well, rather than moving on to the following year group's work we will encourage more in-depth and investigative work to allow a greater mastery and understanding of concepts and ideas.

Tests your child will take

Lots of schools use tests at all stages of their work. For the most part, these are part of a normal classroom routine, and support teachers' assessment. However, at certain stages of schooling there are also national tests which must be taken by all children in state schools. Often informally known as 'SATs', the National Curriculum Tests are compulsory for children at the end of Year 2 and Year 6. Children in these year groups will undertake tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling. The Year 6 tests will be sent away for marking, and results will be reported to schools and parents at the end of the year.

Where previously these tests – and other teacher assessments – were graded in levels (between 1 and 6) from 2016 the tests will be reported as a scaled score, with a score of 100 representing the expected level for each age group.

Mathematics in Year 4

By the end of Year 4, children will be expected to know all of their times tables up to 12 x 12 by heart. This means not only recalling them in order but also being able to answer any times table question at random, and also knowing the related division facts. For example, in knowing that 6 x 8 = 48, children can also know the related facts that 8 x 6 = 48 and that 48 ÷ 6 = 8 and 48 ÷ 8 = 6. This expertise will be particularly useful when solving larger problems and working with fractions.

Number and Place Value

- count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1,000
- count backwards, including using negative numbers
- recognise the place value in numbers of four digits (1000s, 100s, 10s and 1s)
- put larger numbers in order, including those greater than 1,000
- round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000
- read Roman numbers up to 100

Graphs and Data

- Construct and understand simple graphs using discrete and continuous data

Roman Numerals

I= 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, C = 100

Calculations

- Use the standard method of column addition and subtraction for -values up to four digits
- Solve two-step problems involving addition and subtraction
- Know the multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 = 144
- Use knowledge of place value, and multiplication and division facts to solve larger calculations
- Use factor pairs to solve mental calculations, e.g. knowing that 9 x 7 is the same as 3 x 3 x 7
- Use the standard short multiplication method to multiply three-digit numbers by two-digit numbers

Discrete data is data which is made up of separate values, such as eye colour or shoe size. Continuous data is that which appears on a range, such as height or temperature.

Fractions

- Use hundredths, including counting in hundredths
- Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator, e.g. 4/7 + 5/7
- Find the decimal value of any number of tenths or hundredths, for example 7 /100 is 0.07
- Recognise the decimal equivalents of 1/2, 1/4 and 3/4
- Divide one- or two-digit numbers by 10 or 100 to give decimal answers
- Round decimals to the nearest whole number
- Compare the size of numbers with up to two decimal places

Measurements

- Convert between different measures, such as kilometres to metres or hours to minutes
- Calculate the perimeter of shapes made of squares and rectangles
- Find the area of rectangular shapes by counting squares
- Read, write and convert times between analogue and digital clocks, including 24-hour clocks
- Solve problems that involve converting amounts of time, including minutes, hours, days, weeks and months

Shape and Position

- Classify groups of shapes according to the properties, such as sides and angles
- Identify acute and obtuse angles
- Complete a simple symmetrical figure by drawing the reflected shape
- Use coordinates to describe the position of something on a standard grid
- Begin to describe movements on a grid by using left/right and up/down measures

Children will be expected to know times tables to 12 x 12