
Curriculum Overview

Phonics

Phonics is taught daily using the Letters and Sounds progression document. This is a six phase teaching programme that develops children's phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting within the Early Years Foundation Stage, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers and have a basic understanding of spelling by the end of Key Stage One. Phonics lessons also focus on the reading and spelling of tricky words that are unable to be decoded phonetically but are essential for children to read and write. Phonics interventions are taught in addition to quality first teaching to all pupils who need it. Parents can click on the link below to find out more about the Letters and Sounds Programme. <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

Reading

The teaching of reading is currently high priority. All pupils have a daily Reading lesson and have many other opportunities to practise and improve their reading skills throughout the week. Pupils are encouraged to read widely and take a book home every day and Bug Club is used to support Reading at home.

In the early years of reading acquisition, pupils first learn to read by sharing simple texts aimed at developing early phonics and sight vocabulary. Colour banded books are read alongside more challenging 'real' books that enables reading comprehension skills to be taught from an early age. As children's confidence develops through improved sight vocabulary, phonics skills and comprehension skills they will thrive as independent readers.

Alongside developing phonics skills and sight vocabulary, reading comprehension continues to be taught throughout KS1 and 2 using a combination of approaches and resources:

- Reading lessons are taught every day with the focus on reading for meaning and vocabulary extension.
- Every child has access to a wide range of books. All children take quality texts home to read every day and have a range of ability appropriate books in their Bug Club account. Children in Year 5&6 can use personal kindles at home and school.

Writing

Writing is closely linked to topic work in order to immerse pupils in experiences and rich vocabulary in the first phase. We aim to use 'WAGOLLS' that are grammatically driven to use and apply skills learned in class. Grammar, punctuation and spelling is taught throughout school, both explicitly through dedicated lessons and discretely, where appropriate. Spelling booklets are specifically designed to be used in class every day and taken home for spelling practice. Following the national curriculum and a plan, write, edit format pupils write for specific audiences and purposes. Most children will be expected to join their writing by the end of Year 2 and to have developed a fluent, confident and individual style of joined writing by the end of Year 6.

Maths

We are currently use 'White Rose Maths Hub' materials. We are focusing on the teaching of conceptual understanding rather than 'process' to ensure that our pupils are able to achieve mastery of maths. Pupils are encouraged to use a range of resources (such as diennes, numicon and number lines) and teachers regularly use models and images to support understanding of mathematical concepts.

Wider curriculum

Science has an enquiry or investigative aspect each half term with an opportunity to use and apply English and Maths skills previously taught. The rest of the foundation subjects and Computing are taught through topics with a continued focus on developing basic skills in English and Maths. As well as this, visits and visitors are organised throughout the year to provide much needed experiences for our children and to develop the vocabulary for EAL learners. Art and DT activities are incorporated into topic work. Children have many opportunities to participate in music based activities, which are supported by a peripatetic teacher for all classes with opportunities for singing and playing instruments.

PE and Sports

Children in Early Years are provided with a range of physical activities in their ongoing provision that will support and challenge their physical development. Children throughout school develop their physical education both indoors and out in Gymnastics, Sports and Dance. Sports UK deliver high quality PE alongside staff in school and children have an opportunity to take part in tournaments competing against other schools. The coach also provides a diverse range of sporting activities after school for all children.

SMSC

As a multi-faith school which includes children and adults from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, we value and celebrate the differences and diversity of our setting. Alongside educating children about different religions and cultures, we teach children the importance of British values. Topics across school include: Identify society and equality; Mental health & emotional well-being; Keeping safe and managing risk; Drug, alcohol and tobacco education; physical health & well-being; and relationship and sex education. Alongside these we celebrate those faiths of our local community.

Each class has a role-model learning hero: Martin Luther King, Malala Yousafzai, Stephen Hawking, JK Rowling, Anne Frank and Mo Farah.

In 2018/19 we will be redeveloping our curriculum further to introduce challenge based learning to instil interdependence, collaboration and problem solving skills. We are also to take part in an Oracy project (through Voice 21) with a cluster of other schools across Leeds and Bradford.