

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Foundation Stage

Children in the Foundation Stage experience a wide range of learning opportunities that are based on the Foundation Stage Curriculum. They are assessed on entry and are continually assessed throughout their time in this year group in order to plan for their next steps. A final assessment is made at the end of the year which is based on how well the children have succeeded in a wide range of activities. When children enter Year 1 their learning is based on the National Curriculum.

The National Curriculum

At Little Waltham Primary School we provide our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum based on the requirements of the National Curriculum. We use recommended schemes of work from QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority) and other schemes to support our provision for progression in the different subjects across the year groups.

Since all our classes have mixed year groups, teachers plan according to the main theme and the needs of the children in their class. Accommodation is made for children to receive a differentiated curriculum, ensuring that they cover the appropriate objectives for their ability.

English

Most of the planning for English follows the National Primary Strategy. Text work, which supports the teaching of reading, is taught with an emphasis on enjoyment, developing reading skills and reading for meaning. The teachers use a wide range of resources including film to provide a range of stimulating experiences.

Younger children are encouraged to use their phonic knowledge and word building skills, to 'have a go' when reading. They are encouraged to predict meaning of text when they meet unfamiliar words and discuss the text.

Speaking and listening skills are very important for all children, and teachers include activities within their planning which will encourage and develop these areas.

As part of the daily Literacy lessons, all classes have a timetabled session for Guided Reading. The children are organised into groups according to ability and are supported by an adult. Alongside this, all children are encouraged to read independently at school and at home. Each class follow a structured approach to the teaching of phonics and spelling (word work), and grammar and punctuation (sentence work).

Pupils' writing is developed by making links with their reading and by encouraging them to have a go and become independent writers, using imaginative vocabulary choices even if they haven't quite mastered the spellings.

Mathematics

The Mathematics Curriculum is based on the Primary Strategy which identifies the objectives and mathematical skills to be taught for different age groups and levels, allowing for work to be differentiated in order to meet the needs of the individual pupils.

All children have a daily mathematics lesson. Emphasis is on teaching the children mathematical skills which support their understanding, enabling them to use and apply confidently and to develop their mental skills for problem solving.

Five strands of mathematics are taught to each year group:

- i. Numbers and the number system
- ii. Calculations
- iii. Solving problems
- iv. Measures, shape and space
- v. Handling data

As strands are taught, teachers build on the children's previous knowledge. Each class teacher will teach the children strategies to help them use mathematics confidently and with understanding. Some strategies may be different to those which you were taught.

Science

The children follow a rolling programme in Science. As they move through the school, concepts and factual information are taught and practical lessons given to widen their knowledge of the subject. You can help your child to develop their learning of the science areas at home, by talking to them, through visits to the library, museums, out of school venues and by using books, encyclopedias, CD Roms and the Internet. If you have particular knowledge of any aspect in science (e.g. you are a dentist, nurse, doctor, or health worker or work in the natural environment), please let us know. It is often helpful for adults to come and talk with the children and share their experiences.

Information Communication Technology

The atrium is fully equipped as an IT suite and has recently been updated with nine computers all linked to the Internet. There are also printers and a scanner. Each class has an allocated afternoon to use the computers in the atrium to develop their IT skills following the programme of study. Familiarity with the keyboard, mouse, printer, CD

Rom and scanner and Internet will be taught, along with the ability to use word processing, data handling, tables, graphs, graphics and control programs. In addition, each classroom has two computers which the children use to support learning throughout the curriculum and an interactive whiteboard. All the computers and interactive whiteboards are linked to the Internet and are all networked.

The children are taught to use other items of ICT. These include: tape recorders, television, record player, CD player, overhead projector, calculator and cameras. The children learn to respect these aids to learning and to select the most appropriate for the task.

Each class has a digital camera and a "Digital-blu" camera which the children use frequently to capture selected images and develop the use of the moving image. The school has an additional five digital-blu cameras which enable the children to take pictures, add features and make short animated films. The use of film and multi-modal texts is a developing area within the curriculum.

Religious Education and Daily Act of Collective Worship

During the year, aspects of religious knowledge are explored with the children in the classroom and during Worship times. Although the main focus of study is Christianity, other world faiths (in particular the Jewish and Hindu religions) are discussed, and visitors are invited to share their traditions and customs about their faith. Major Christian festivals are celebrated either in school or at St. Martin's Church. Pupils share an act of Collective Worship each day and include a range of visitors from different churches and groups from the community.

Talk with your child about their feelings and ideas about faith. Decisions made in life are dependent upon being well informed. It is useful to share stories with a strong moral theme with your child, and encourage them to discuss different aspects with you. Likewise, life experiences should be talked about and learnt from.

Foundation Subjects

At Little Waltham School we endeavour to make learning as interesting and meaningful as possible by linking subjects together and many subjects are taught with a themed approach. Teachers plan the work to be covered for the children in their classes on a termly basis and use a variety of approaches to stimulate and motivate their pupils e.g. books, paintings, film, music. Wherever possible a cross-curricular structure is used.

Equal Opportunities

At Little Waltham Primary School, we aim to guarantee all pupils equality of access regardless of gender, ability, race or religion as laid out in our Equal Opportunities Policy.

Multi-Ethnic Education

In Great Britain there exists a multi-ethnic society and there is a need for children to understand and empathise with this. Issues relating to such a society are taught through R.E., History and Geography and other areas of the curriculum as appropriate. In previous summer terms, the school has participated in Multicultural weeks in which the children have found out about traditions, customs and ways of life focusing on different countries, cultures and faiths. This has enabled the children to develop their understanding of people and places other than those that are more familiar to them.

Charging and Remissions

Generally no charges are made for materials used in school time which are part of the National Curriculum. Occasionally parents are asked to make a small contribution to help pay for the costs of more expensive materials and resources. No child is excluded from a curricular activity based on a parent's inability to pay. The only exception is for additional instrumental music tuition as stated in the additional activities.

School Visits

To make outside activities and visits possible, the cost has to be met by voluntary contributions from parents. Any family finding payment difficult should, in the first instance, discuss any problems informally and in confidence with the Office Manager.