



Our Curriculum

Year 2



The Year 2 curriculum encourages children to become active learners. There are many opportunities for learning through practical tasks, observations and discussions; following the

children's own ideas where possible to promote thinking skills and learning through discovery. We use the broad topics below to link a number of curriculum areas together. This year, we will be implementing the New 2014 National Curriculum in all subjects with the exception of English, Maths and Science, as governed by the curriculum statutory requirements. Therefore, some of the curriculum outlined below is subject to change as we continue to develop the new 2014 content and objectives.

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
The Sea	Fit and Healthy	Living Things
Fire		Castles

English

We have daily English sessions developing the skills of spoken language, reading, writing, spelling, punctuation, vocabulary, grammar and handwriting. Phonic skills, for both reading and spelling, are taught in short sessions; following the Letters & Sounds programme. All work is planned to match the needs of the individual child through grouping or the task set.

Writing and Handwriting

Children learn to write in styles appropriate to a variety of purposes. We support them in formulating and refining their ideas, often rehearsing their writing orally first. There is a focus on basic punctuation and grammar, as appropriate to each child and we provide structure and support in assisting the children to understand how to improve their own writing by focusing on very specific skills. Joined writing is taught through dedicated handwriting sessions, and encouraged in all writing activities. Spelling is taught in the context of phonic word families and in topic words linked to specific activities.

Reading

There are many contexts in which the children develop reading skills. Each child will read to an adult on a fortnightly basis and their reading sets and levels adjusted as appropriate. We aim to ensure each child also takes part in a guided reading session once a fortnight, where the children work in a small group under the guidance of a teacher or teaching assistant. We encourage decoding using the children's phonics skills, but also aim to develop a deep understanding of what they are reading. We encourage lots of discussion and oral comprehension, moving on to written comprehension activities as the year progresses. We also aim to foster a love of language and reading by sharing books for pleasure and reading to the children as often as we can. We strongly encourage reading at home on a regular basis; where you can discuss stories, learn new facts and discover different ways to 'work out' unknown words. The children have an opportunity each day to change their reading book if they have finished it; they do not need to re-read it many times.

Spoken Language

We support children in developing their spoken language skills by providing continuous opportunities for questions and answers, discussion and listening to each other's ideas with respect. We encourage active listening whilst others are sharing information. We value the use of talk in all aspects of learning; aiming to develop the children's vocabulary by exploring new words through the topics we meet as well as modelling a diverse range of vocabulary. We frequently use "talk partners" in all subjects and particularly value the use of Talk for Writing, which helps to develop children's written skills. Drama is valued within English lessons as a tool for developing confidence and practising spoken language skills.

Maths

We have daily maths lessons. Work is tailored to meet the individual current learning needs of each child through grouping and differentiated tasks, thus ensuring that they meet the objectives at the right stage for their own mathematical development. Each stage of learning builds on and extends previous learning. We support the children in developing a secure understanding of number including ordering numbers, odd and even numbers, number bonds and place value. We begin with extending the strategies for effective addition and subtraction, moving on to multiplication (including times tables) and division as the children are ready. We place much emphasis on using a variety of recording methods alongside the use of equipment and verbal explanations of how they worked out the answer. We enjoy lots of problem solving activities that require the children to apply the number skills they are developing. Each term we revisit and extend the children's understanding of money, time, measurement, shape and space. We emphasise the role of maths in everyday life and try to apply mathematical skills across the curriculum.

Science

In the Autumn term we will be exploring electricity using batteries and wires. We will consider electrical safety and create working circuits. We will also look at different materials, their properties and the effects of heating and cooling. During the Spring term we investigate the effects of gravity and friction. We will also be discussing food groups and how to stay healthy. In the Summer term we learn about plants and animals; exploring habitats, understanding food chains, and setting up an experiment to discover the needs of plants. Throughout the Science curriculum we aim to encourage the children to ask thoughtful, inquisitive questions, set up experiments and develop fair tests to find answers.

Computing

We have weekly sessions where the children will have access to laptops and iPads in order to complete specified tasks. We aim to include illustration, photography and animation, alongside basic skills in the correct use of ICT equipment, word processing and carefully controlled research for a purpose. Knowledge and understanding of e-safety (e.g. keeping personal information private, where to go for help etc) is emphasised inline with the appropriate units of work. We will also use cross-curricular Computing in other subject areas, such as researching sea life and handling data. The Computing curriculum has also been expanded to take into account the programming aspects of the subject. In Year 2 this includes learning how to control a Bee-bot and recording the sequence of instructions used; this is the initial stage of computer programming.

Art

Our Art sessions will mainly be connected to our thematic work. The children will develop their knowledge and understanding of art/craft and design. They will communicate in visual form using a range of media, recording what they observe, remember and imagine. We hope to study art from different periods, traditions and cultures and will begin to identify, compare and experiment with some of the methods used by specific artists.

Music

In Music sessions, we will be using percussion and tuned instruments to explore the inter-related dimensions of music. These include making long and short sounds, exploring tempo and changing pitch. We will also learn the words and melodies to a variety of songs throughout the year as well as listening to a range of music with concentration and understanding.

Design and Technology

The DT curriculum sees us testing a variety of joining techniques to explore which is best for particular materials. During the year we will also plan and make a variety of objects. We will be testing the properties of various materials in science, and carry this knowledge through to design, make and test a boat to see how well it floats with a load. Whilst exploring gravity and friction, the children will research different types of axles and use this research to help them to design and make their own moving vehicle. Later in the year we will be making a model of a castle gatehouse; constructing a winding mechanism to

create a working drawbridge. We will also be developing our food technology skills through the year.

History and Geography

A lot of our History and Geography content is covered during literacy sessions. Initially we will concentrate on the British coast; looking at maps, planning a town and using historical sources such as photographs to identify differences between the seaside now and in the past. We will then begin to explore sea creatures and their habitats. Our Fire topic covers the Gunpowder Plot, fireworks and the Great Fire of London. In the Spring term we study the life and work of Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Louis Braille using short videos, the internet, pictures and books. We will also be learning about a significant local historical character. Our History curriculum concludes with our summer topic on castles, whilst in Geography we will be looking at continents, climates, plant life and animal habitats.

PE

In the Autumn and Spring Terms we teach outside games and either gymnastics or dance each week. In the Summer Term we teach outside games and athletics. Year 2 attend swimming lessons at the local leisure centre each Tuesday afternoon in the Spring Term. In games we teach skills and strategies that apply to many different sports. We teach how to control equipment and our bodies. In dance we cover both creative dance and English Country Dancing; aiming to develop control, use imagination, work with others and express ourselves to perform with confidence and precision. In gymnastics we learn basic movements to create and perform simple sequences on the floor, using mats and on apparatus. We aim to develop strength, flexibility and control. Swimming sessions are taught in small groups focusing on water safety and confidence, alongside correct techniques.

Personal, Social & Health Education

We cover our PSHE curriculum through discussions, circle-time, watching short video clips, listening to stories, involvement in charity events and direct teaching. Although we have specific PSHE sessions much of the curriculum is covered in a cross-curricular manner and many issues are addressed when circumstances provide a timely opportunity. In this way we can support children in developing the skills to manage their feelings and relationships with their peers. Main topics for the year are Building Healthy Relationships, Building Healthy Bodies, Building Healthy Environments, Building Healthy Communities and Building a Healthy Future.

Religious Education

We will continue to follow Suffolk's Agreed Syllabus for RE this year. We explore what some families believe about God, the natural world, human beings and a significant figure. In the Spring we will be discussing which celebrations are important in religion and why, and look at important symbols and artefacts. In the Summer we will explore the roles of religious teachers and leaders and study some stories that are important to certain religious groups. As part of the Agreed Syllabus we focus mainly on Christianity and Judaism.

Philosophy

Last year, we started to teach the children philosophy in dedicated sessions. The main aim of the subject is to develop and expand thinking skills. There is a focus on listening to peers express their views and learning how to appreciate, respect and respond to them in a thoughtful and appropriate manner. The techniques used have had positive impacts on discussions across the curriculum and we will continue to develop our teaching of philosophy as the year progresses.