

# The National Curriculum

# What's changed?

English, Maths and Science are known as the **core subjects**. These take up a substantial part of your child's learning week. We try and plan these into as many **cross curricular lessons** as possible to provide real-life learning experiences and making their learning fun.

The Foundation subjects – Art, Computing, Design and Technology, Foreign Languages (7+), Geography, History, Music and Physical Education. With the cross curricular approach we use these lessons to **apply understanding and make key links** to the core subjects.

A noticeable change has been the **higher expectations** in various subjects. In maths, for example, there is a greater focus on mental arithmetic and working with fractions. In English more attention is to be paid to SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar).

# Maths

**Fractions** – Higher focus on fractions -  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$

Children are expected to work out calculations like  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 6 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 28.

**Ways to help** – Whenever possible talk about fractions. When cutting a cake or pizza for example/dividing up a packet of biscuits.

**Number families** – Children are expected to know number bonds and pairs to 20. Understanding not only that  $5+15=20$  but also that  $14+3=17$ .

**Ways to help** – Quick mental sums to play in the car or quick fire questions during

**Money** - Something we have noticed in Year 2 is how the children can struggle to grasp the concept of money. (Counting it, different coins, notes.)

**Ways to help** – ways to earn a little pocket money, money sorting at home to help (sorting 10ps etc) trips to the shops and they have to pay for something.

**Time** – Children tend to need a lot of help when understanding time. For example the length of the hour and minute hand, specific vocabulary – quarter past, quarter to, half past.

**Ways to help** – Talk about the time you are doing things – dinner time, bath time, visiting grandparents. Have analogue and digital clocks visual in the house.



# English



**Phonics** – High frequency words in homework diaries need to be learnt especially how to spell so they can use in their independent work. Focus on extending vocabulary.

## **Ways to help:**

- regular reading with your child at home – school books, bug club books and other books from their own collection
- Spot any of their high frequency words from their homework diary
- If possible have a thesaurus at home and attempt to find some wow words together!

**Handwriting** – Still high expectations for presentation. But a big focus on capitals/lower case and beginning to join writing.

## **Ways to help:**

- whenever your child wants to do some writing at home, encourage correct letter formation and maybe pick out your favourite letter they have done to show how neat it is.
- Spot capital letters in text around them at super markets or on car number plates etc.

# Tests



## Year 2

- Subject tests continue. Getting them ready for the end of year test – sitting quietly, working independently.
- End of Year National Curriculum tests.
- Spelling tests will continue once a week, generally on a Friday, with words the children will be set to learn as part of their homework.
- We need to test for phonics screening with your children as they missed it in Year One. The government have advised this needs to occur in Autumn 2.
- TOP TIP: School attendance and punctuality are a key factor to success.