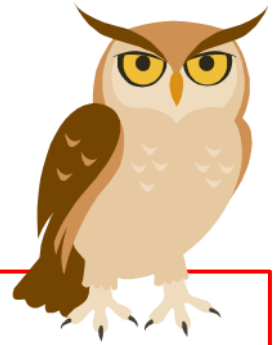


The Lower School Curriculum

Core subjects



English

The elements of English in the National Curriculum are taught daily across the school. These are Reading and Comprehension (decoding and understanding the text), Handwriting, Composition (structure of the writing), Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation. Sometimes this will be through discrete teaching of specific skills and content (e.g. finding adjectives in a printed piece of text) and at other times it will be delivered through work on cross-curricular themes (e.g. writing the diary entry of a Roman Soldier).

Speaking and listening activities are developed throughout the curriculum. The children are encouraged to communicate clearly and express themselves through drama, school assemblies and class work. Year 4 pupils are encouraged to lead school assemblies, by choosing their own theme and presenting it to the whole school.

We aim to encourage fluency, understanding and enjoyment of reading. All children take part daily in individual, shared or group reading activities. Children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 are encouraged to choose a book which is specifically banded at a level to suit their ability. These books feature key phonic sounds and common tricky words. They are often brightly illustrated so that reading is enjoyable and a source of discussion. Once children are fluent (usually as they approach Key Stage 2) they may move on to “free readers” where a selection of books are available which have greater depth of vocabulary. Each child has an individual reading record book to record their progress. They bring home reading books on a daily basis and parents are encouraged to sign and add comments about their child’s reading.

Writing skills are developed through most areas of the curriculum and will range from simple lists and mark making in the foundation stage to the study of poetry, report writing, letter writing and stories at Key Stage 2. Strong emphasis is placed on good presentation and handwriting skills.

Mathematics

Maths in the National Curriculum focuses on Number, Measurement (length, mass, volume), Geometry and Statistics. Emphasis is placed on practical work (number squares, cubes, place value cards) and the understanding of concepts using a variety of games and teaching materials to support this work. Formal recording methods are taught at a later stage and pupils are encouraged to explain calculations and give reasons for their conclusions.



More information on the curriculum can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-framework-for-key-stages-1-to-4>