



The New National Curriculum

From September 2014, a new primary curriculum will become statutory. As detailed below, the existing programmes of learning and attainment targets will gradually be replaced. This information outlines the major changes to subject areas within the curriculum.



At the end of the Key Stage, children will no longer be given levels (such as Level 4b at the end of Year 6). A new system of formal assessment will be introduced, but full details have not as yet been released by the Department for Education.

Children in Year 6 in the year 2014/2015, will continue to study and be tested on the old primary curriculum in Maths, English and Science. They will sit SATs in May 2015 based on these old programmes of study. All other subjects such as Geography and Computing will follow the new curriculum.

From May 2016, a new assessment procedure based on the new curriculum will be implemented. We will of course provide you with the details of these new style tests when they become available to us.

We have been busy planning new units of study to meet the requirements of the new curriculum, but which more importantly provide exciting and engaging learning opportunities for your children. As usual we will provide you with a termly summary of the planned learning for each year.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Why the big curriculum change?

The main aim is to raise standards. Although the new curriculum is intended to be more challenging, the content is actually slimmer than the current curriculum, focusing on essential core subject knowledge and skills such as essay writing and computer programming.

English - What's new? Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1)

Handwriting(not currently assessed under the national curriculum) is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy

Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children to be taught debating and presenting skills.

Maths - What's new? Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100 (compared to 20 under the current curriculum) and learn number bonds to 20 (currently up to 10)

Simple fractions ($\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$) will be taught from KS1, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. $0.375 = \frac{3}{8}$)

By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12×12 (currently 10×10 by the end of primary school)

Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic.

Science - What's new? Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms

Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time

Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system

Design & technology - What's new? Design and Technology has become more important in the new curriculum, setting children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future

More sophisticated use of design equipment such as electronics and robotics

In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world.

ICT - What's new? Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs

From age five, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data

From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet

Internet safety – currently only taught from 11-16 – will be taught in primary schools