

## The new 2014 national curriculum- useful information for parents:

**Why the big curriculum change?** The main aim is to raise standards, particularly as the UK is perceived to be slipping down international student assessment league tables. Inspired by what is taught in the world's most successful school systems, including Hong Kong, Singapore and Finland, as well as in the best UK schools, it is designed to produce productive, creative and well educated students. The new curriculum is intended to be more challenging, though the content is slimmer. It focuses on essential core subject knowledge and skills such as essay writing and computer programming.

**Will all schools follow the new curriculum for 2014?** No, because academies and free schools are exempt. This is partly because these schools need more flexibility in what they teach (for example, in the case of faith schools that have a strong emphasis on religious education.) Our school is not an academy or a free school and we are now following the new Curriculum for 2014.

**What are the main changes?** The table below summarises the main changes in the core subjects covered by the National Curriculum:

English (Literacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A stronger emphasis on <b>vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling</b> (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will now be taught in KS1)</li> <li>• <b>Handwriting</b> – not currently assessed under the national curriculum – is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy.</li> <li>• <b>Spoken English</b> has a greater emphasis, children will be taught debating and presenting skills</li> </ul> <p>We will continue to teach phonics in small sessions daily, and focus on developing reading skills.</p>
Mathematics (Numeracy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Five-year-olds are expected to learn to count up to 100</b> (compared to 20 under the old curriculum) and learn <b>number bonds to 20</b> (this was up to 10)</li> <li>• <b>Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) are taught from KS1</b>, and by the end of primary school, (year 6) children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions.</li> <li>• By the age of nine, (end of Year 4), children will be expected to know the <b>times tables up to 12x12</b> (this was 10x10 by the end of Year 4 in the old curriculum)</li> <li>• Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2 (year 5 or 6), to encourage mental arithmetic.</li> </ul> <p>We will continue to teach Maths in a practical way using the planning and activities from our Maths advisor Chris Crispus Jones, you may like to visit her website - 'CCJ Maths'.</p>
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong <b>focus on scientific knowledge and language</b>, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms</li> <li>• <b>Evolution</b> will be taught in primary schools for the first time</li> <li>• Non-core subjects like caring for animals are replaced by topics like the human circulatory system</li> </ul> <p>We will ensure children continue to experience planning and carrying out scientific investigations.</p>
Design and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given <b>greater importance under the new curriculum</b>, setting children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future</li> <li>• More sophisticated <b>use of design equipment</b> such as electronics and robotics</li> <li>• In KS2, (up to Year 6) children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world</li> </ul>
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A modern foreign language or ancient language (Latin or Greek) will be mandatory in KS2.</b> We currently teach French in Years 3 and 4, (lower KS2) and this continues at Middle School.</li> <li>• Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language they are learning.</li> </ul>
I.C.T.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a <b>greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs</b></li> <li>• From age five, children will now learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data. We are using 'Espresso Coding' to teach the children these new skills.</li> <li>• From seven, (Year 3) children will now be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet</li> <li>• Internet safety – currently only taught from 11-16 – will be taught in primary schools</li> </ul>

I hope you find this information useful. Teachers are happy to discuss any questions you may have.