

Newcomen Primary School

Year 4 Curriculum Overview

Introduction

At Newcomen Primary School, we are passionate about enthusing our children with a love of learning which is both meaningful and relevant. Our curriculum is designed to allow our children to develop all important human qualities and dispositions. While knowledge is integral to the design of our ambitious curriculum, the key driver is the ethos and values of our school. We have a holistic approach where pupils can access a knowledge rich, vocabulary focused curriculum which builds skills and reinforces learning. We offer children an exemplary education in a safe, calm and purposeful environment. Our aim is to nurture well-rounded, respectful and resilient children who will develop skills for life-long learning. We aspire for all our children to be respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. Please remember that we are here to help so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

English

English, especially reading, gives pupils access to the rest of the curriculum and is fundamental to their educational success. At Newcomen Primary School, we aim to promote a shared love and understanding of English whilst nurturing an appreciation of language and the use of high level vocabulary. During the Autumn Term, we will be focusing on narrative writing and continuing our work on the links between speaking, listening, reading, writing and drama. We will be studying the work of Michael Morpurgo through her acclaimed novel 'The Dancing Bear.' The children will interrogate this quality text in its entirety and will be given the opportunity to write creatively using the book as a stimulus. Other genres of writing will be explored later in the year. Additionally, your child will continue to develop their comprehension skills in discrete, focused reading lessons where they will study a wide range of interesting and meaningful reading material in order to enhance levels of text comprehension. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling lessons will occur on a weekly basis to promote high standards of Literacy, articulation and the correct use of standard English. Your child will be given spellings each week on a Friday afternoon and will be tested on them the following Friday. Head Teacher stickers are awarded to those achieving 100% and are highly valued by the children. Moreover, the most successful class will be visited by our beloved school mascot Leonardo for the entire day!

Reading

Reading is a vital skill in all areas of primary education and lies at the heart of our curriculum. We recognise it is essential that your child not only reads accurately and with prosody but also develops robust language comprehension skills that allow them to make sense of words, sentences and concepts they hear or read. Reading is a crucial skill that will support your child in all areas of the curriculum where they encounter text. In school, emphasis is placed on reading aloud with clarity, prosody and intonation. Every child in Key Stage 2 will receive a Collins Big-Cat colour-banded book and a Reading for Pleasure book to enjoy at home with an adult. Children, who experience regular reading at home, benefit from improved confidence and reading skills. Therefore, your support with reading at home is valued and appreciated. Please allow time for your child to read to you and discuss their understanding of the text. The government recommends daily reading with your child stating that parents who engage their children in books prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers. Parents have the power to transform the attitudes of their children towards reading. If a child is unable to read with accuracy and confidence, they will struggle to access all aspects of the curriculum.

Maths

At Newcomen Primary School, we believe that a high-quality mathematics education provides a foundation for understanding the world. The mathematics curriculum is split into four major strands – number, measurement, geometry and statistics. The principal focus of mathematics teaching in lower key stage 2 is a solid understanding of number and place value. This understanding will ensure that the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) are used with confidence. The National Curriculum for Year 4 states that, "Pupils should be taught to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 x 12". The Multiplication Table Check is a national assessment which takes place in June each year and assesses the rapid recall of multiplication tables up to 12 x 12. It is crucial your child knows their multiplication and maths facts and spends time at home learning them. Emphasis within the school day is also placed on mental arithmetic. To develop this, at the start of the day, children complete a series of mental arithmetic questions to help them improve their understanding of mathematical concepts. Due to this fact, it is essential that your child arrives at school on time to complete their daily mental maths task.

The Wider Curriculum

In **History**, the children will begin by learning about how the Anglo-Saxons and Scots settled in Britain and move chronologically to the achievements of the earliest civilisations – Ancient Egypt. In **Geography**, the children will study rivers including an in-depth study of the River Tees, longitude and latitude and the water cycle.

In **Art and Design**, the children will explore shading using a range of tones to create a three dimensional effect. During **Design Technology**, children will create a stable, free-standing and aesthetically pleasing structure using a range of construction techniques. Later in the year, they will create a mechanical car complete with functioning chassis and axels.

In **Science**, the key focus is to enable the children to broaden their scientific view of the world around them. They will do this through exploring, talking about, testing and developing ideas about everyday phenomena and the relationships between living things and familiar environments. The topics the children will be learning about this year are living things and their habitats, animals including humans, electricity, sound and states of matter.

In **Religious Education (RE)**, the children will learn to understand the views taken by different religions about the environment. Following this, they will explore the origin of Hinduism and the traditions of Divali. Other topics include prayer, Lent and religious buildings.

Computing is an essential part of the curriculum as it prepares the children for the digital age in which we live. Over the course of the year, the children will be learning the skills of coding, animation and effective searching. They will also be working on music and spreadsheets. Online safety permeates all aspects of the computing curriculum.

Physical Education (PE) will begin by focusing on health and fitness, stamina and agility. The children will go on to study modules of hockey, dance, gymnastic, athletics and orienteering throughout the year. Additionally, Year 4 pupils will take part in swimming lessons in the Spring Term.

In **French**, the children will develop their love of learning another language predominately through fun speaking and listening activities including songs, role play and games. Topics include clothes and getting dressed, numbers, calendars and birthdays and French food.

In **Music**, the children will listen to, review and evaluate various genres of music learning how to identify pulse, rhythm, dynamics and tempo. Moreover, they will learn to sing Mama Mia! by the phenomenal ABBA (Miss Pusztai's favourite!) and Blackbird by The Beatles. Children will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and perform and improvise songs within a class setting.

Your children's well-being is of paramount importance. As such, our weekly **Relationship Education (RE)** sessions will be designed to support the children with this. We are very much looking forward to using the curriculum to offer our children guidance, support and reassurance. The key themes we will be exploring are: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me.

Important Information

Attendance - 'Attend and Achieve' is a motto we are very proud of at school. If your child is not here, then they cannot learn. Please work with us to ensure that your child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

PE – School have provided children with their own individual P.E. kit to wear during lessons. Please ensure that your child has this kit in school on their P.E day and it remains in school throughout the week. Class 9 have P.E. on a Thursday and Class 10 have P.E. on a Monday. The only jewellery acceptable is a watch and stud earrings (which are removed for PE) or taped up. Asthmatic children need a named inhaler in school at all times.

Spellings – Year 4 have spelling tests on a Friday. Please ask your child for their spelling log and ensure that you review the spelling rule with your child when they are learning their spellings at home. Thank you so much for your support with this.

Equipment – Children are expected to bring their Maths Knowledge, Spelling Logs, English Knowledge Book, Reading Record, Vocabulary Book and Reading Books every day.

Thank you and best wishes.