

Newcomen Primary School

Year 5 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.

English

More than any other subject English – and 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 his acclaimed novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom.' 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, articulacy 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, fluently 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 principal focus of mathematics teaching in upper key stage 2 is to ensure that pupils extend their understanding of the number system and place value to include larger integers. This should develop the connections that pupils make between multiplication and division with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. The mathematics curriculum is split into four major strands – number, measurement, geometry and statistics. These will be visited each term and systematically built upon as the year progresses. All children will need to know and practise their maths facts and vocabulary which are given to them on a daily basis and especially their multiplication tables up to 12 times. 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 arithmetic. To develop this, at the start of the day, children complete a series of 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 maths task.

The Wider Curriculum

In **History** the children will be learning about the Ancient Greek and Maya civilisations as well as exploring the significant impact Gertrude Bell had on our local history and the wider world. In **Geography**, the children will have the opportunity to enhance their mapping skills by looking at 4 and 6 figure grid references. We will also be exploring how the countries around the world have many contrasting biomes. The children will record vocabulary in a specialised knowledge book and explore the etymology of these given words learnt in Geography and History. Weekly quizzes will take place to help your child commit key facts to their long-term memory. Knowledge is power!

In **Art**, we will be looking at the design of interactive installations. We will move onto using paints and mixed media to create portraits before focusing on the formal elements of drawing more closely. During **Design Technology**, we will be asking ourselves how we could become healthier through cooking and nutrition. We will then be exploring mechanical systems - producing our own Doodlers and studying electrical systems.

In **Science**, we believe that a high-quality science education provides the foundations for understanding the world. The children will be learning about the following exciting strands of Science this year: Living Things and their Habitats, Animals – including Humans, Properties and Changes of Materials, Earth and Space, and Forces. As well as learning about the key concepts of these areas, the children will also have the opportunity to work scientifically by conducting fascinating experiments.

In **Religious Education (RE)** the children will be examining some very pertinent religious questions such as what Christians believe about God, how Christian groups differ in their expression of faith and why the birth of Jesus is important to Christians. We will also be learning about Islam with a focus on why Muhammed and the Qur'an is important to Muslims.

Computing is an essential part of the curriculum as it prepares the children for the digital age in which they live. Over the course of the year, the children will be learning the skills of Coding, 3D Modelling and Concept Mapping. They will also be working on Online Spreadsheets, Databases and Game Creators. Online safety permeates all aspects of the computing curriculum.

Physical Education (PE) will include a focus on health and fitness, stamina and agility. The children will go on to study modules of dance, strike and field activities, invasion games and gymnastics throughout the year. Additionally, Year 5 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 the sharing of appropriate texts. Topics include greetings, counting and using numbers in a range of contexts and the French classroom. Aspects of French grammar will also be introduced.

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 and to use their voices to create and compose music on their own and with others. Children will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (a glockenspiel and recorder) and perform 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: 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 11 PE on a Friday and Class 12 on Tuesday. 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 – Y5 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 and Reading Books every day.