

# Newcomen Primary School

## Year 6 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. The Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) take place during the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Therefore, additional whole year group booster sessions will be provided during the Easter break alongside weekly group sessions during the Spring Term. A parent email will be sent out with a timetable for SATs week nearer the event. Remember that we are here to help so if you have any questions at all about anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### **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 fluently and with prosody (the patterns of stress and intonation in language) but also develops robust language comprehension skills that allow them to make sense of word, sentences and concepts they hear or read. Reading is a crucial life 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 and intonation. 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. To help facilitate this, the school has invested in a wide range of age-appropriate reading books that have been highly recommended by a range of literary specialists. These 'Reading for Pleasure' books will stimulate your child's enthusiasm for reading. 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, they will struggle to access all 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 divisions with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. Although the mathematics curriculum is split into four major stands – number, measurement, geometry and statistics, a greater emphasis will be placed on arithmetic with the four operations 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 (it is taken for granted at the start of Year 6 your child should know their multiplication tables). It is crucial the children know their maths facts and spend time actively at home learning them on a daily basis as they will provide the foundation for answering any using and applying word problems later on in the year. 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 at 8.30 to complete their daily arithmetic maths tasks.

## The Wider Curriculum

**In History**, the children will be learning a Chronological Study Beyond 1066 – Monarchs – Conflict and Peace and the influence of these monarchs on the history of Britain and also the Battle of Britain.

**In Geography**, the children will know Countries of the World and their Capital Cities, Longitude and Latitude alongside Mapping Skills. Mountains, Volcanoes and Natural Disasters and draw a comparison of UK / Europe / North and South America. We would very much appreciate it if you could assist your child with learning these key facts at home to increase their confidence and further their knowledge and understanding.

**In Art and Design**, the children will explore a journey from the Ancient Maya to modern day street art, how artists convey a message, imagery and symbols as well as drawing techniques and the use of dramatic light and dark. Additionally, children will create a personal memory box using a collection of found objects and hand sculptured forms, reflecting primary school life.

**In Design Technology**, we will designing and creating a model of a new playground featuring five apparatus made from three different sculptures. Moreover, the children will be programming a navigation tool to produce a multifunctional devise for trekkers. We will also be designing and making products for our enterprise scheme to be showcased at the Summer Fair and our Family Day 2024.

**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 strands of science this year: Light and Electricity, Evolution and Inheritance, Animals Including Humans, Living Things and their Habitats. As well as learning about the key concepts of these areas, children will also have the opportunity to work scientifically by conducting experiments.

**In Religious Education (RE)**, the children will be examining some pertinent religious questions such as: Why is Buddha important for the Buddhist? How do Buddhists' beliefs affect the way Buddhists lead their lives? What do the gospels tell us about the birth of Jesus? Why are Good Friday and Easter Day the most important days for Christians? What do religions believe about life after death?

**In Computing**, it is essential the curriculum 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, 3D Modelling and Concept Mapping. They will also be working on Online Spreadsheets, Databases and Game Creators. Online safety permeates all aspects of the computer curriculum throughout the year.

**In Physical Education (PE)**, we will be focusing on health and fitness, stamina and agility. Children will go on to study modules of dance, strike and field activities, invasion games and gymnastics throughout the year. Additionally, Year 6 pupils will take part in swimming lessons on Wednesdays in the Autumn Term.

**In French**, the children will be counting numbers to 100 and applying these to money. Children will learn days of the week, months of the year and seasons. They will have a simple conversation including describing their birthdays. Moreover, they will be describing the layout of French homes and the inhabitants as well as planning a French holiday involving travel, what to pack and places to visit.

**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 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 include: 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. Suitable labelled clothing for colder weather must be brought in from home. Class 13's P.E. lesson will take place on a Monday afternoon and Class 14's on a Friday afternoon. The only acceptable jewellery is a watch and stud earrings which are removed for P.E.

Asthmatic children require a named inhaler in school at all times. During the Autumn Term, the children will be attending Redcar Leisure Centre on a Wednesday afternoon for a five week swimming block for each class (Class 14 18<sup>th</sup> September – 16<sup>th</sup> October inclusive and Class 13 23<sup>rd</sup> October – 27<sup>th</sup> November inclusive). This will count as their P.E. for that week.

**Spellings** – Year 6 have a spelling test 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 Log, English Knowledge Book, General Knowledge Fact Book and Reading Book every day and to spend time at home revising these key facts which will be added to on a daily basis.

Thank you and best wishes.