

Dear Parents/ Carers,

New Curriculum 2014

This leaflet has been designed to highlight the changes which have taken place due to the existing national curriculum being replaced by the 'new national curriculum' in September 2014.

Whilst at Harrold Lower School your child will make the transition to their next school at the end of Year 4, you may find it useful to know about all the changes that will take place across both Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2, ages 5 - 7) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 - 6, ages 7 - 11).

In order to meet the requirements of the 'new curriculum', we have planned new units of study over a two-year rolling programme to provide even more exciting and engaging learning opportunities for your children. The units of study are presented on a series of 'Curriculum Maps' which are available on each of the Class Pages on the school website.

Other changes to the curriculum include changes to the assessment system. At the end of each Key Stage, children will no longer be given levels (such as Level 2b at the end of Year 2). A new system of formal assessment will be introduced, and the Head Teachers across Bedford Borough and the Local Authority are working together to agree on a consistent system which will monitor and track your child's progress.

Children who are in Year 2 this year will continue to study the previous Key Stage 1 curriculum. They will be assessed using the former assessment procedures for their Key Stage 1 SATs in May 2015.

Children who are currently in Year 1 will be assessed using the 'new' Key Stage 1 assessments in May 2016 when they are in Year 2. We will, of course, provide you with the details of these new style tests when they become available to us.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



Learning and Achievement for All

A Guide for Parents to the New Curriculum 2014

English (no longer known as Literacy)

- Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1)
- Reading is at the core of the whole curriculum with a big emphasis on reading for pleasure both at home and at school.
- Handwriting (not currently assessed under the national curriculum) is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy
- Spoken English is given greater emphasis, with children being taught debating and presentation skills.

Mathematics (no longer known as Numeracy)

- Simple fractions ($\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$) will be taught from Key Stage 1. By the end of Primary School (Year 6), children should be able to convert decimal fractions (to 3 decimal places) to simple fractions. (eg $0.375 = \frac{3}{8}$)
- By the age of 9 years (Year 4), children will be expected to know times tables up to 12×12 (up to July 2014, it was 10×10 times tables at this stage)
- To encourage the use of mental arithmetic, calculators will not be introduced until the near to the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6, 11 years old).
- The ability to solve mathematical problems is a key skill which runs through all strands of the new primary curriculum.
- Children will be taught formal strategies of vertical multiplication and long division when they are secure with the standard written methods currently taught in school.

Science

- 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 (Year 6)
- Non-core subjects such as 'caring for animals' will be replaced by topics such as the human circulatory system.

Computing (no longer known as ICT)

- 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

Design and Technology

- 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.
- Greater emphasis on cookery with a focus on savoury dishes

Geography

- Greater use of atlases and maps including O/S maps and digital maps
- Children are expected to know and locate countries, capitals, major cities, mountains and rivers
- In depth studies of a European, North/South American country and a region of the British Isles are required

History

- Greater emphasis on British History taught in chronological order from Stone Age to 1066. Tudors no longer taught in KS2

Languages

- The term Languages will replace the term modern foreign languages
- Currently not statutory, a modern foreign language or ancient language such as Latin or Greek will be mandatory in KS2.
- Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the Language.

Physical Education (PE), Music, Religious Education (RE)

- The study of these subjects remains largely unchanged.