



St John's Primary School

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St. John's Primary School – Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is based around a series of rich and engaging topics which aim to develop a love of learning in all of our pupils. We seek to challenge and motivate our children by teaching topics which tap into their passions – whether that's Lego, dinosaurs, the Ancient Egyptians or chocolate!

We use the Programmes of Study from the 2014 National Curriculum but tailor them to the needs and interests of our pupils, and to our school context and local community. Subjects are integrated into the topics as far as possible, but may also be taught discretely when that is more appropriate. We strive to involve our pupils in planning the topics and give them choices over their own learning.

We make extensive use of resources and expertise beyond the school. Visitors such as storytellers, athletes and theatre groups are invited to St. John's to share their skills and knowledge and to inspire our pupils. Learning is taken outside the classroom wherever possible, whether through Maths in the playground, storytelling on the outdoor stage, Science lessons by the pond or Forest School sessions on the school field. Teachers frequently take their classes on educational visits to extend their learning. Recent destinations have included Wallingford Castle Gardens, Dorchester Abbey, Wallingford Library, the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Museum of Natural History in Oxford, as well as the Royal Observatory and National Maritime Museum in London.

We believe that our pupils learn best when their learning involves real experiences and has a real purpose and audience. Topics culminate in an Open Morning or Open Afternoon where children share their learning with their parents. This may take the form of exhibitions of work, published writing, performances of music, story-telling or dance, or perhaps a sale of pupils' finished work.

Our teachers use ongoing assessments of their pupils' learning in order to ensure that throughout our topics, teaching is well-matched to pupils' needs. Tasks are differentiated in order to provide an appropriate level of support and challenge for each pupil.

Our curriculum is based around using rich texts to promote reading and stimulate high-quality writing. When planning topics, teachers aim to provide as many opportunities for writing as possible. We use Storytelling and Talk for Writing strategies to develop pupils' oral skills and written language.

In Maths, we seek to extend pupils' problem-solving skills while also developing their quick recall of key number facts and their ability to use a range of efficient mental and written strategies for calculations. We are introducing Maths "Superpowers" to extend pupils' mathematical thinking and help them to apply their skills to a range of different contexts.

As a values school, all of our assemblies are based around positive values which we have grouped into categories: *'My teams'*, *'My world'*, *'My well-being'*, *'My choices'* and *'My learning'*. The values also underpin our PSHE curriculum and behaviour policy. In Religious Education we use the Oxfordshire syllabus and cover themes within the four religions of Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. Throughout our curriculum, we actively seek to promote our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

We also have a programme of residential visits which begins with a "Nearly a Sleepover" for Year 2 pupils and ends with our Year 6 pupils enjoying a five day adventure at Yenworthy Lodge in Devon. Our curriculum is further enriched by a range of after-school clubs which are offered by staff and parents.

At St. John's, we seek to develop our pupils' independence, creativity and problem-solving abilities. Our aim is to create inquisitive, confident and knowledgeable learners, with the capacity to work effectively with others. In addition, we strive to build our pupils' resilience so that they cope well with whatever challenges they meet on their learning journey at St. John's, and when they move on to secondary school and into adulthood.

