



Our Curriculum

Like all schools nationally we launched our new curriculum in September 2014 following several months of piloting in Y3 & 4. This document is a brief overview of our curriculum. Please refer to the various systems docs for more detailed information regarding Reading, Writing, Maths and our learning environment. We use 'Cornerstones' as the basis for our foundation subjects so please refer to their website for further details of this approach. There is also a board inside the staff room with sample documents and an overview.

www.cornerstoneseducation.co.uk

A day in the life at Hoo St Werburgh primary

Maths is taught discretely every morning. 'Monkey Maths' sessions on a Monday focus on recalling and using times table facts at speed. Pupils work their way through Monkey Maths Challenges resulting in pupils knowing their 12x12 tables and all associated division facts. Reasoning and problem solving tasks are regularly given in lessons so that we use and apply our learning. Children are encouraged to see links in their learning and we are developing a mastery approach to maths using White Rose Maths hub resources alongside our existing Abacus scheme.



Reading in FS and KS1 follows the read Write Inc programme of synthetic phonics, alongside sessions to develop wider reading skills such as comprehension. Termly 'Love to read' class texts are used to draw pupils into reading and develop reading for pleasure. The school works closely with the PTA to provide pupils with personal copies of these books to help them develop their home library. Good links and regular visits to our local library and regular in-house library sessions extend this further.



In KS2, daily whole class guided reading lessons based mostly around the class text support pupils to develop their comprehension skills. Phonics are still taught daily for those who need it. Years 2 - 6 use the Accelerated Reader programme to monitor pupils' reading in and out of school. This programme assesses pupils' comprehension and vocabulary to provide a suitably challenging reading range. Pupils spend 20 minutes per day reading to build their stamina and take a quiz on the iPad when they have finished a book to ensure that they have understood the contents. This is not a 'reading scheme' as AR uses books from a range of publishers and genre so there is something to interest everyone. Look out for the numbered orange stickers in the class libraries! Timings for guided reading and AR reading time vary across the school.



The rest of each day is given over to the wider curriculum and writing activities are embedded into a range of subjects linked to the theme as well as discrete English lessons.

We have a daily assembly, which could be whole school, phase or class. Regular input from our local church and faith groups such as the Family Trust help to develop pupils' spiritual, social, moral and cultural awareness. Assemblies are often values based and help to bring the pupils together in a

common sense of purpose. We regularly link our assemblies to the various fund raising efforts which are planned monthly throughout the year. In this way, assemblies are used to develop a sense of social responsibility, 'respect' and 'belonging'. Merit (FS/KS1) & Celebration (KS2) assembly on Friday is a time to reflect on learning and other achievements.

It's not all Reading, Writing and Maths!



Physical Education across the school is delivered by our team of specialist sports coaches and the class teacher. We have retained our commitment to 2 hrs of sports teaching a week and using our sports fund grant we provide additional opportunities for pupils to compete in local events and access after school sports clubs they would not otherwise be able to travel to. As part of our adaptation to making our curriculum fit local need, the proximity of the village to water and the local marina means that we ensure that all pupils have at least 5 terms of swimming instruction before they leave KS2 (2 terms in Y3). We aim to have all pupils swimming 50 meters instead of the expected 25.

Music in FS and KS1 focuses on singing and responding to different types of music.

Basic percussion instruments are introduced at this stage. In KS2 music is delivered by an external specialist teacher in Y3 & 4 who teaches pupils how to read a musical score and play a tuned instrument (currently the recorder). In Y5 & Y6, in-house music



specialists build on these skills providing opportunities for composition across their year groups as blocked activities linked to topics. The school has a strong focus on singing as a positive collective activity and on teaching specific singing skills. Each key stage has a weekly singing assembly led by a singing teacher alongside normal music lessons. Peripatetic music teachers come in weekly to provide tuition for a range of instruments. We also have group Ukele & Clarinet classes at lunchtime.



Spanish is taught so that we are better able to prepare our pupils for secondary school who now mostly offer Spanish in year 7. Spanish is undertaken as a club in KS1 and through games and songs which are introduced in Y2. In years 3 – 6 Spanish is taught weekly. Class teachers reinforce this learning throughout the week within general classroom routines.

Science sits within our themed work wherever possible but we also follow the Kent scheme of work to ensure we cover all the required scientific knowledge and enquiry skills. Science workshops and practical experiments form a core part of science teaching and pupils get to undertake at least 1 scientific investigation per term, usually involving outdoor learning, data logging technology or unusual materials.



Art & Design and Design Technology take place within our themes. Every class has the opportunity to follow the full design cycle each year and 'make something, for somebody, for some purpose'. This evolves as pupils move through the school with pupils investigating need before they create products. Workshops with visiting artists and lessons with our specialist art teacher, allow for more in depth study of artistic genre and pupils experience the full range of arts during their time at school. Pupils' sketchbooks travel with them from class to class as they grow up so they are able to see their artistic journey and reflect on how their skills have developed in this medium.

Computing at Hoo is exciting! Pupils use our class sets of Ipads and laptops for all sorts of creative tasks in lessons to support their learning. Pupils also have weekly computing lessons in our ICT suite focusing on coding and e-safety to ensure they have the 21st Century skills needed to make the most of the technology at their fingertips. In FS this starts with basic programming to control our families of Beebots, moving onto simple animations and control technology, and finally more refined programming when pupils get the chance to create their own apps in Y6.

Active learning – ‘making it real’



‘Trips and visitors’ form a core part of our curriculum offer and ‘learning outside the classroom’ is central to how we work. Each theme includes at least one external learning experience and this is planned throughout the year to ensure that pupils get a mix of using the school grounds, outdoor learning in the immediate vicinity, trips to places slightly further afield, a range of visitors into school and online learning through our learning platform (DB primary). Our termly ‘Family Learning Projects’ menus encourage pupils and their families to undertake a range of activities linked to a whole school at home and during days out. Teachers plan a range of activities which reflect real life situations and provide a context for learning. For example, this could be using area to calculate how many rolls of wall paper are needed in Maths, to writing to a local MP about the plans for a local airport.



Life skills



As part of our wider curriculum our Y6 pupils follow an enrichment programme to help prepare them for secondary school and greater freedoms. E-safety and cyber bullying issues are revisited in greater depth through theatre workshops. Bikeability, road safety training (including using seatbelts and safe conduct when walking on roads) and a full first aid course from St John’s Ambulance all take place in the summer terms.

Actors from the corps at The Hazlitt Theatre work intensively over several weeks with Y6 pupils to develop their speaking and listening skills leading to the final Y6 production, which is always a highlight of the year. This specialist support enables all pupils to understand and feel confident in the basics of public speaking and for those who have a flair for the dramatic to develop their skills further. Regular class assemblies from foundation stage upwards also provide opportunities for pupils to develop these skills and confidence. Supporting children to develop their ability to use Standard English regardless of accent or dialect is high profile in school and is modelled by staff at every opportunity.



CHALLENGER TROOP CIC

Through our partnership with Challenger Troop, all pupils across the school have the opportunity to take part in outdoor activities focused on leadership development and team building. Our values of courage, confidence, respect and belonging are developed through activities such as these which challenge the pupils physically, mentally and emotionally.

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