

# **St Winifred's RC Primary School**



***Learning and Achievement for All***

**A Guide for Parents to the new  
Primary Curriculum  
September 2014**

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

This leaflet has been designed to highlight the changes to the new primary National Curriculum which became statutory in September 2014 (for all years except Y2 and Y6).

At the end of the Key Stage, children will no longer be given levels (such as Level 4b at the end of Year 6). A new system of formal assessment will be introduced, but full details have not as yet been released by the Department for Education.

Children who will be in Year 6 in the year 2014/2015, will continue to study and be tested on the old primary curriculum in Maths, English and Science. They will sit SATs in May 2015 based on these old programmes of study. All other subjects such as Geography and Computing will follow the new curriculum.

From May 2016, a new assessment procedure based on the new curriculum will be implemented. We will of course provide you with the details of these new style tests when they become available to us.

We are busy planning new units of study to meet the requirements of the new curriculum, but which more importantly provide exciting and engaging learning opportunities for your children. As usual we will provide you with a termly summary of the planned learning for each year group. These will be entitled "Curriculum Forecasts" and will be presented in a new format from autumn term 2014.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Nish

Headteacher

From September 2014, a new primary curriculum will become statutory. As detailed below, the existing programmes of learning and attainment targets will gradually be replaced. This leaflet outlines the major changes to subject areas within the curriculum.

### **English**

- 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**

- Simple fractions ( $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) will be taught from Key Stage 1. By the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g.  $0.375 = \frac{3}{8}$ ).
- By the age of nine (end of Year 4), children will be expected to know times tables up to  $12 \times 12$  (was  $10 \times 10$  by the end of Year 5).
- Calculators will not be introduced until the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6), to encourage mental arithmetic.
- 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 written strategies of vertical long multiplication and long division when they are secure with the standard written methods we currently teach.

### **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.
- Non-core topics like caring for animals will be replaced by topics such as the human circulatory system.

## **Computing**

- 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 (Year 3), 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 (DT)**

- 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 nor is WWII.

## **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.
- RE is a core subject in Catholic schools which occupies 10% of weekly teaching time. We currently use the scheme that all Diocese of Salford schools use: *The Way, The Truth and The Life*.

For more curriculum details, please see *I can* statements on the school website or ask for a copy from your child's teacher.