

Our Curriculum

We want pupils to have a smooth transition between key stages and year groups, and plan carefully for this. We have developed strong links the feeder playgroups and local secondary schools.

The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to equip our children with the skills necessary to become lifelong learners. We endeavour to develop lively and enquiring minds, where children are curious about the community and the world they live in, and become responsible, confident citizens who are able to make a positive contribution to the school and community. We are committed to ensuring that the potential of all children is reached and so we differentiate the pupils' learning experiences so that all pupils are challenged and their needs are met. The children are taught using a variety of methods and styles including some individual, groups and class teaching, drama activities and practical experiences.

Assessment is an integral part of learning and teaching so that we know our children's strengths and understand their weaknesses, thereby motivating children to see how progress can be made. We support our children in assessing their own learning and that of their peers as this really supports moving understanding forward.

Early years and foundation stage curriculum

Our children begin school in the Foundation Stage and are taught through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, which enables them to have the best possible start in life. The children are taught through a themed approach which promotes the importance of play both indoors and out. There are seven areas of the Foundation Stage Profile. Within these are four specific areas of learning. These are literacy, mathematics, understanding of the world and expressive arts and design. We provide children with activities and experiences to support all of the seven areas to support a rounded approach to child development. The EYFS seeks to provide quality and consistency, a secure foundation, partnership working and equality of opportunity.

Years 1-6

When a child reaches the end of the EYFS they are then able to access the National Curriculum, which fulfils all statutory requirements. The curriculum develops learners' skills, knowledge, understanding and personal qualities through a range of themes and approaches. Children are aware of their targets in mathematics, reading and writing. They also have an opportunity to respond to marking so that they know if they have achieved the lesson objective and how to improve further. Children also receive targeted interventions focussing on key skills in handwriting, phonics, grammar and punctuation and mathematics. We currently teach mathematics and English separately but look for links with other areas of learning so that children can apply and practise their developing skills in a range of subjects.

Curriculum Enrichment

We supplement our curriculum in a variety of ways to make it as exciting and as enjoyable as we can. We invite many visitors into the school including theatre groups and mathematical magicians. If you

were taught on Canvey you may remember Chris and Sue, the back to school missionaries, who are still popular visitors to the school.

Educational Visits

These are arranged throughout the school year and bring alive learning experiences for our pupils. They change yearly to reflect our curriculum but popular visits include Imperial War Museum, Marsh Farm, Crucial Crew, local police and fire stations. Year 5 and 6 go on residential school trips to activity centres and thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Big Write

We have introduced the Big Write throughout the school. Children have the opportunity to talk about a particular subject at home and at school to inspire them to write during the Big Write session. The Big Write sessions are held every week and children write in a relaxed atmosphere, sometimes listening to classical music to set the mood. The children are aware of their levels and targets to improve their writing. Parents also receive copies of Big Writing.

Homework

Children all have yellow homework books. They receive homework every week for mathematics, reading and writing. We have recently introduced spelling and mental mathematics homework. Homework is marked and returned back to the children on a weekly basis. Parents are very supportive of this system.

Curriculum Events

We have regular curriculum events where we immerse ourselves in a curricular area and invite visitors into school to work with our children. For example, authors working with particular groups of children, historic themed workshops and a whole school trip to Buckingham Palace to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.