



Dream Believe Achieve

The School Curriculum

The aim of the curriculum at Rivermead Primary School is to ensure that all children, regardless of ability or background, achieve high standards of learning and enjoyment. Through the new National Curriculum implemented in 2014/15 the school is required to teach ten subjects. We provide a curriculum that is broad-based, engaging and relevant and has progression and continuity throughout the school.

The children are taught subjects either separately or through carefully planned cross-curricular themes or enrichment weeks which they thoroughly enjoy. The children learn History, Geography, Art, PSHE, RE and ICT through an inquiry-based curriculum, which enables the subject's knowledge and skills to be taught for different and relevant purposes. Children find that topic work is not only exciting but satisfying to pursue and even parents become engrossed in them. This in turn promotes effective learning and enhances the invaluable partnership between our school and home.

The children in EYFS follow the Early Years Curriculum, while Key Stages One (Years 1 - 2) and Key Stage Two (Years 3-6), have a rolling two-year programme which is based on an inquiry approach, following the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The curriculum is based on the 'Early Years Foundation Stage', which is organised into seven areas of learning –

Three 'Prime' areas of learning:

- Communication & language
- Physical development
- Personal, social & emotional development

Four 'Specific' areas of learning:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive arts & design

The areas of learning will be accessible both within the classroom and outside in our learning area. There are opportunities for children to engage in activities planned by adults and those initiated or planned by themselves.

Core Subjects

English

The school is working with the new National Curriculum in English, where children develop skills in speaking & listening, reading, writing, spelling, punctuation & grammar. Literacy skills are used in almost all aspects of the curriculum and in life. It is important for children to develop skills they can transfer into other areas, and these are provided through links made with other subjects in a cross-curricular way.

Reading

The love of reading is very important at our school and children are encouraged to read widely and regularly for both pleasure and information. We promote "100 Books children should read" for each Key Stage. We use a combination of discussion through "Book Talk" and a comprehension approach for group reading, which is enjoyed by the children. The teaching of phonics through the Read, Write, Inc scheme, is now a central part in the learning of early reading. We have a large, renovated library which provides a huge range of



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books for children to choose and enjoy. The school is part of a programme that allows children to access E-Books at school and home.

Writing

Children are encouraged to become writers from the beginning of their school life. Lessons provide opportunities for the children to learn how language works and to write for a variety of purposes and audiences. Improving their work is encouraged through proof-reading and editing. Punctuation, grammar and spelling knowledge & skills are taught explicitly and within lessons to support the development of writing.

Speaking and Listening

We place importance on speaking and listening skills and encourage our children to express themselves clearly, creatively and imaginatively, as this helps to communicate effectively in both speaking and writing. Skills are developed through formal and informal situations.

Mathematics

The school has implemented the new Mathematics Curriculum. Maths is taught using the strands required, which the school has placed into three groups:

Number:

- Place value
- Addition & Subtraction
- Multiplication & Division
- Fractions, Decimals & Percentages
- Ratio & Proportion
- Algebra

Measurement:

- Measure
- Statistics

Geometry:

- Properties of Shape
- Space & Movement

Opportunities are provided for the children to make use of their mathematical understanding in other subjects. In both KS1 and KS2 the teaching is within ability groups and will learn in a variety of ways: independently; pairs; small groups and as a whole class.

We believe that it is important to make mathematics relevant to children's lives and where possible, they learn through hands-on and practical activities.

Science

Children look at the following areas of science from the new National Curriculum during their time at Rivermead:

- Working Scientifically
- Plants
- Animals, including humans
- Everyday materials
- Seasonal changes
- Living things and their Habitats
- Rocks
- Light
- Sound
- Electricity
- Forces & Magnets
- States of matter
- Properties and changes of materials
- Earth & Space
- Evolution & inheritance

An exciting part of the learning in science is carrying out practical investigations in contexts that the children can easily understand. This develops their ability to observe, predict, test, evaluate and record what they have done. We encourage children to explore, discover and raise questions about what they are learning and in this way we develop their scientific skills and understanding.

Computing (formerly ICT)

Computing has links with other curriculum areas, particularly maths, science and design & technology. Computing aims for children to have



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an understanding and be able to apply principles and concepts of the subject to become computing and digital literate. Examples of areas they will cover include coding, algorithms, and using a variety of technologies and software.

The children have access to 100 laptops, and other tools including Easi-speak microphones, digital cameras, digital microscopes, robots, coding software and data handling resources. Where possible, computing is linked to other subjects which allows for more than just the learning of practical skills but ensures the skills are meaningful and have purpose.

Each class has access to an interactive whiteboard which provides a range of interesting resources for the teacher, and pupils benefit from being able to become more involved with the lesson through the white board. Wireless internet is installed across the school which is secure, and provides a reliable and fast connection.

Foundation Subjects

History

History introduces children to the past, through the use of different viewpoints and information.

Findings will be presented in a variety of forms including drama, writing, computing and art.

During their time at Rivermead, the children will gain knowledge and understanding, learning about British and the wider world history, including ancient civilisations, empires and societies.

Geography

Throughout the geography curriculum the children will develop a knowledge of global significant places, understand physical and human geographical features of the world, and develop geographical skills. As they go through the school the children will investigate, collect, analyse and interpret a range of sources, data and information.

Music

Class music lessons offer children opportunities to widen their understanding and appreciation of music, learn skills to create their own music, enjoy performing compositions and evaluate music across genres. All Year 3 children learn a musical instrument through a specialist teacher from The Berkshire Maestros Wider Opportunities Group. Peripatetic teachers from Berkshire Maestros visit on a weekly basis to offer tuition in violin, recorder, clarinet, flute, guitar and brass instruments. We are proud of our school choir who perform both in and out of school at various events, including a performance at the O2 with 10, 000 other children! We also have a very good partnership with 'Rocksteady' which children can join and form a 'rock band'.

Productions

Over the year each team puts on a production and performance to parents and relatives which involves all the children.

These productions engage the children in a whole range of performance skills such as: acting, singing and playing instruments as well as making costumes, props and working the lighting.

Art & Design

The children through the curriculum have the opportunity to explore their ideas, record experiences, understand historical and cultural developments in art, produce creative work and evaluate and analyse their art.

We attempt to ensure that children have a wide range of experiences in art, based around the topics. Aspects include: painting, junk modelling, collage and working with clay, with the school having the benefit of a large kiln.

Design & Technology

As with other subjects, design and technology is taught through a topic approach. It is a practical subject and children have great fun in designing and making things. The children use many different



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materials including food and textiles, and learn how to use tools and materials properly and safely. In so doing they draw upon skills and knowledge from other curriculum areas, particularly science, mathematics and art.

French - Parlons Français!

Since September 2006, all children in Key Stage Two have been enjoying learning to speak French. The emphasis is on providing an opportunity to try out the new language skills learnt with each other in an enjoyable way. We are very fortunate to have access to French specialists through staff, Waingels College staff and current parents. Children in Key Stage One have the option of attending a lunchtime French club.

Physical Education

Our aim is for all children to develop a positive and active attitude towards physical education which they can carry forward into future life. Throughout the curriculum we promote the value of healthy life-styles. Children participate in two hours of PE per week which will include activities to master basic movement, co-ordination and ball skills, develop tactical awareness, and participate in team games, gymnastics and dance. In Year 5 swimming instruction is given at a local swimming centre.

Sport

We make use of our extensive field facilities and offer a fun and where appropriate a competitive sports day for all the children within each Key Stage in July. The children take part in Wokingham and Woodley competitive sport competitions – with many of the children in KS2 representing the school in competitive leagues and tournaments:

- Netball
- Tag rugby
- Cricket
- Cross country
- Athletics
- Football

Extra-Curricular Activities

We aim to provide a range of extra-curricular activities for all children throughout the school, both at lunch times and after-school. These are provided by teachers or external providers (for which parents have to pay).

Over the years, children have had the opportunity to join a variety of clubs:

- Judo
- Dance
- Creative mindfulness
- Art
- Football
- Cricket
- Hockey
- French
- Netball
- Cross-Country
- Athletics
- Gardening
- Gymnastics
- Cheerleading
- Tag Rugby
- Chess
- Choir
- Drama
- Card Making

Sex & Relationships Education

Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE) is a significant part of learning for the children in our curriculum and our Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is an important aspect.

With the SRE programme we encourage parents to be fully involved and invite them into school to view beforehand the resources that are used and to discuss with staff any concerns and issues that they may have. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from our Sex and Relationships Education.



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Religious Education

Religious Education is taught according to the Wokingham Agreed Syllabus. Pupils learn about key features of Christianity and the other main religions to promote positive attitudes to all people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs and towards living in a diverse society. We are keen to help our children develop tolerance, respect and appreciation for the feelings and views of others.

Collective Worship

Collective worship or assemblies are an integral part of the school day, and are an opportunity for the school to come together where the themes embrace SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural). When religious issues are discussed we value all faiths, but they are broadly Christian in outlook. The school values the contributions made by other faiths and discuss significant religious festivals and events. Where appropriate and possible we invite speakers in to talk to the children. Parents may request that their child be withdrawn on these occasions when collective worship is taking place or religious issues are being discussed and taught. Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

On Fridays we have a 'Sharing Assembly' when each class will share their learning termly with the rest of the school. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend these assemblies. Dates of your child's assembly are published at the beginning of each term in the '*Rivermead Round-Up*' newsletter, allowing time to plan so you are able to join us.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are fully integrated into the life of the school and receive the same high quality education and recognition of achievements as all young people.

The school has three Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO). It is important that any difficulty is identified early.

The four areas of SEN are:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Behavioural, emotional & social development
- Sensory and/or physical

All schools follow a similar procedure that requires the school to record pupil's individual needs on the SEN register. This is maintained by our Inclusion Manager, who is responsible for working alongside staff and parents to ensure all children reach their full potential.

We regard the partnership between parents of children with special educational needs and teachers as crucial to the child's educational progress. We encourage parents to meet regularly with their child's teacher so that both parties may be kept informed about any issues regarding their child's well-being and progress.

Parents are welcome at any time to arrange an appointment to discuss any concerns with the Headteacher or SENCO.

More detailed information about special educational needs provision at Rivermead may be found in our Special Educational Needs Policy available from the School Office or on the school's website.

More Able Pupils

Our curriculum and the way we teach ensure that more-able pupils are fully challenged in a range of ways, including the use of 'Blooms' questioning, provision of work and activities that extend and enrich learning. In addition children are set for maths and in some cases, literacy. Children who have prodigious talents that have been developed out of school are fully supported, encouraged and recognised.



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Home Learning

Children will be provided with a variety of activities to carry out at home on a weekly basis that supports, enhances or re-enforces the learning in class.

Throughout the school, children take home reading books and are expected to read every day. Other homework can include:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Spellings
- Where appropriate, research associated with their learning topic.

The level of home learning will depend on the child's age and time of year.

However, we do encourage parents to deepen their child's learning in other ways and the termly '*Learning & Teaching News*' outlines the topics covered by each team complete with relevant websites and places to visit.

Visits and Visitors

At Rivermead every opportunity is explored to enrich the children's learning in meaningful ways through going out on visits and arranging for visitors to come into school. These learning opportunities enhance and bring the curriculum alive for the children. Year 6 children can take part in a residential trip e.g. to Swanage where they have the opportunity to learn about coastlines and take part in outdoor adventurous activities. A thorough Risk Assessment is carried out by the Headteacher and members of staff before each trip to ensure the venues are suitable. Visits and events are funded through voluntary donations from parents.

"The two things that I like best about school are probably English and managing to have time to talk to my teachers."

Year 5 pupil