

CURRICULUM

At The Manor we follow the National Curriculum leading towards Key Stage 1 Assessments at the end of Year 2. We also pay close attention to the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies. Continual assessment is made throughout the year and careful records kept. Each class has an interactive whiteboard which is used to help deliver the curriculum.

ENGLISH

Reading

A wide variety of reading schemes are used and children's reading is heard regularly each week either individually or in groups. Reading homework is set every night; when the parent has heard their child read they should note the page numbers and add any relevant comments. Children are encouraged to tackle new words using a variety of strategies.

In Years 1 and 2 the children read individually and in groups. We find this improves accuracy and expression. Children continue to be encouraged to tackle new words using a variety of strategies.

The children also have the opportunity to choose books from the main school Library. The children have a regular time during the week for changing their library book with the help and guidance of Mrs Belcher our Librarian. She is also available every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8.30 - 9am and 3.55 - 4.15pm. We encourage the children to choose books within their range and ask you to support us in this. Should they dislike a library book they can change it. Reading is for enjoyment.

Spelling

When a spelling list is sent home in the reading folder, parents are asked to help their child to practise the words using the rule of "LOOK, COVER, SAY, WRITE, CHECK". Spellings are tested with a dictation and a test. In class they are encouraged to spell much for themselves and use a simple dictionary/word book, both to find words and for the teacher to add new, harder words for them to copy. In Year 2 there may be ability groups for spelling.

Handwriting

The children have handwriting lessons first distinguishing between upper and lower case letters, concentrating on correct pencil hold and grip and formation and size of letters. They work towards a joined style by the end of Year 1, continuing into Year 2.

Writing

The children are encouraged to write independently, producing ordered accounts of real or imagined events. They are taught to write in proper sentences using appropriate punctuation. They are encouraged to understand the basics of story structure.

Different forms of writing are introduced - poetry, creative and descriptive writing, eye witness accounts and simple comprehension exercises.

Speaking and Listening

Children are expected to listen carefully in class, concentrate fully on stories and poems, follow instructions and listen courteously to others thus developing good manners. They are encouraged to participate in discussions and express their ideas coherently. Each week they have the opportunity to bring something from home to 'Show and Tell' to the others in the class.

They have a wide experience of drama. During the year they take part in class assemblies, plays and concerts, taking a variety of roles. These are all designed to promote speaking and listening skills and develop confidence.

MATHEMATICS

In Year 1 much emphasis is put on number bonds to 10. Initially supported by apparatus, number lines and use of fingers then gradually consigned to memory.

The majority of work is based on numbers to 20. It is important that children understand the meaning of tens and units and can practically demonstrate numbers to 20.

Emphasis throughout is on understanding the concepts involved.

Children are taught as a whole class, in groups and individually. Both year groups will learn about shape, measure and data handling.

In Year 2 the children will be set for maths across the year group. Emphasis is placed on number bonds to 20. Initially supported by apparatus, number line and the use of fingers, then gradually memorized.

The majority of work is based on numbers to 100. Larger numbers are introduced. It is important that children understand the meaning of tens and units and can practically demonstrate numbers to 100. This leads on to T.U. sums and later H.T.U.

Emphasis throughout is on understanding the concepts involved. As in Year 1, children are taught as a whole set, in groups and individually. Additional

worksheets may be sent home from time to time to support a concept in class.

SCIENCE

This is aimed at stimulating interest and developing a scientific approach, reasoning and understanding. Specific DVDs may introduce an area of study, followed by practical investigations which cover a wide range of topics such as forces and motion, materials, health and growth, plants, animals and variation, light and sound.

TOPIC WORK

We tend to follow the National Curriculum in Geography, History and Science and choose a range of topics in the year, each of which provides a different emphasis.

In the Pre-Prep the children learn to find out about historical periods, incidents and people by using artifacts, photographs, pictures and accounts. In Year 1 we focus on Homes and Toys in the past and present. In Year 2 topics may include the Victorians, Great Fire of London, Remembrance and Seaside Holidays through time.

In Geography children in Year 1 learn about our school environment and where they live.

In Year 2 the children learn to compare locations such as town and country and a village in India. They also spend time learning about Continents of the world.

FRENCH

French begins in Year 1. The French teacher introduces the children to the spoken language through songs, action rhymes and activities. This is taught in half classes consisting of two fifteen minute sessions per week.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There is a whole school policy on R.E. The children hear Biblical stories from the Old and New Testament and learn about Christian festivals and the life of the church. We learn about other religions by including these in our yearly studies through our assembly programme. The children in Year 1 have their own Manor hymn book from the summer term.

PERSONAL SOCIAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Through “circle time” the children follow a programme of PSHE which will enable them to be more aware of moral issues, e.g. friendships, consideration towards others.

MUSIC

The children usually have two music lessons each week. These include singing, rhythm, pitch, recorder playing, musical appreciation (listening and appraising), percussion, classroom orchestra and simple musical notation. These help develop listening skills, concentration and musical awareness.

ICT

The children are taught each week in half classes using the bank of computers in the Pre-prep ICT suite. They are encouraged to type, use a mouse, print, access information and play games linked to topic work. ICT is also linked into the Curriculum at other times during the week and lessons are delivered using the interactive whiteboard.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

In Year 1 DT is taught in the classroom and their “make and do” projects are linked to the topic, eg toys, puppets. In Year 2 the children have regular access to the DT room with Mrs Law working on topic related projects such as marbled books, bird tables and a house for Incy Wincy Spider.

ART

Children develop their colour mixing, drawing and painting skills as they work on a number of projects throughout the year. They learn about famous artists and try to recreate some of their works. Pencil, paint and pastel methods may all be used as well as experimenting with clay. In Year 2 the children are taught by a specialist Art teacher in the Art Room. Art is taught in the classroom in Year 1.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Years 1 and 2 the children will have a games afternoon and one single lesson, as well as a swimming lesson each week.

The aim of all Physical Education and Games lessons at The Manor is to provide an enjoyable, satisfying and balanced programme with opportunities for all pupils to develop physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively. The physical education curriculum offers a comprehensive range of experiences to meet the needs of each individual pupil and encourage active involvement by all.

The development of confidence and tolerance are considered to be an important part of the learning process.

It is intended that the programme offered will develop skills, team work and attitudes, and be the stepping stones towards an active and healthy lifestyle.

During the games afternoon the children will participate in a range of net games, invasion games and striking and fielding games. The children will have the opportunity to participate in hockey, tag rugby, pop lacrosse, basketball and football in the Autumn and Spring Terms and striking games including cricket, tennis athletics in the Summer Term. During games lessons we will encourage your child to take part in competitive play.

During the single Physical Education lessons the children specialise in dance and gymnastics and our own 'in house' Physical Education skills awards.

In swimming lessons the areas that are covered are water confidence, water skills, stroke technique and endurance swimming.

Sticker charts are used as a symbol of recognition for hard work and excellence.

If your child wishes to progress further there is a wide range of clubs available before school, at lunchtime, after school and Saturday mornings. These clubs will enhance and extend the work covered in curriculum lessons.

This year we will offer 'come and play' evenings where we will play matches in chosen sports to enable the children to take part in a competitive situation and further develop their game play.

We hope to be able to offer fun swimming galas against other schools for the Year 1 and 2 children.

