

# Arden Primary School 'Together We Care'



## Curriculum 2014— a guide for parents and carers

### The Curriculum at Arden Primary School

The National Curriculum in England is currently in a process of transition. During the course of this academic year and beyond into 2015, the obligation to teach programmes of study from the old National Curriculum will be disapplied and be replaced by new programmes of study and attainment targets.

### Why the big curriculum change?

The main aim is to raise standards. Although the new curriculum is intended to be more challenging, the content is actually slimmer than the outgoing curriculum. Curriculum 2014 focuses on essential core subject knowledge in the form of age related targets

### The main changes

The table below summarises the main changes in the core subjects:

| Subject | What's new?   |
|---------|---|
| English | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stronger emphasis on <b>vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation</b> and spelling (for example the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1)</li><li>• <b>Handwriting</b> (not assessed under the outgoing curriculum) is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy</li><li>• <b>Spoken English</b> has a greater emphasis, with children taught debating and presenting skills.</li></ul>   |
| Maths   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Five year olds will be expected to count up to 100</b> (compared to 20 in the outgoing curriculum)</li><li>• <b>Simple fractions</b> will be taught in KS1</li><li>• <b>By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12</b> (compared to 10x10 by the end of primary school in the outgoing curriculum)</li><li>• A strong focus will be placed upon the children's ability to work <b>fluently and to reason</b> within maths.</li></ul> |
| Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong <b>focus on scientific knowledge and language</b>, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in imaginary terms.</li><li>• <b>Evolution</b> will be taught in primary schools for the first time.</li><li>• Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system</li></ul>   |

### **How is Arden meeting the requirements of Curriculum 2014?**

The new programmes of study for English, Maths and Science in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 have been adopted in full from September 2014. The changes in Year 2 and 6 will be introduced from September 2016, in line with guidance from the Department of Education.

To allow us to meet the Curriculum 2014 changes brought in to the programmes of study for non-core subjects e.g. History, Geography, Music, Design and Technology and Art we have adopted the Cornerstones curriculum.

Cornerstones is a creative and thematic approach to learning that is mapped to the programmes of study to ensure coverage of national expectations. The curriculum is delivered through Imaginative Learning Projects such as Towers, Tunnels and Turrets, Scrumdiddlyumptious and Beast Creator which provide exciting and motivating learning activities

### **Curriculum 2014— changes to assessment.**

#### **Assessment at Arden Primary School**

In 2014-2015 there will be little change to assessment in EYFS, Year 2 and 6. Assessment in Year 2 will continue to be largely teacher assessed, with judgements informed by internally marked reading and maths tests. At the end of KS2, children in Year 6 will take externally marked tests in reading, maths and grammar punctuation and spelling. Writing will be teacher assessed.

### **Is it true that levels have gone in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5?**

Yes, the new National Curriculum is not aligned to the old system of levels. The increased expectation placed upon children in the core subjects means that the old system of levels is no longer an accurate tool for assessment.

All schools are currently developing systems that will allow them to track progress for these year groups. Tracking of children's progress will continue to take place however far greater emphasis will be placed upon a range of assessment strategies and to evidence of children's progress contained within their books.

**We hope that some of your questions about the new National Curriculum 2014 and its implications have been answered but if not please do contact us at school for further information.**