

# Newcomen Primary School

## Year 1 Curriculum Overview

### Introduction

At Newcomen Primary School, we are passionate about enthusing our children with a love of learning which is both meaningful and relevant. Our curriculum is designed to allow our children to develop all important human qualities and dispositions. While knowledge is integral to the design of our ambitious curriculum, the key driver is the ethos and values of our school. We have a holistic approach where pupils can access a knowledge rich, vocabulary focused curriculum which builds skills and reinforces learning. We offer children an exemplary education in a safe, calm and purposeful environment. Our aim is to nurture well-rounded, respectful and resilient children who will develop skills for life-long learning. We aspire for all our children to be respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

### English

At Newcomen Primary School, we aim to promote a shared love of reading and use this skill to expand the children's vocabulary. During the Autumn Term, we will spend time studying traditional tales, including the enchanting story of Hansel and Gretel, focusing on the pattern of stories and the language used to create them. Children will retell the tales using picture plans and drama before writing their own versions independently. Along with traditional tales, we focus on narrative writing, instructional texts, report writing linked to animals, diary entries and poetry. As always, we will be continuing our work with links to speaking, listening, reading and developing their application of the writing checklist. As part of our English lessons, children will be expanding their use of spelling and grammar including verbs, nouns, adjectives and tricky words linked to daily phonics lessons. Your child will be given 10 spellings each week on a Friday and will be tested on them the following Friday. Head Teacher stickers are awarded to those achieving 100% and are highly valued by the children. Moreover, the most successful class will be visited by our beloved school mascot Leonardo for the entire day!

### Reading

Reading is at the heart of all that we do at Newcomen Primary School as we know it is an essential skill for life-long learning. We place great emphasis on the teaching of phonics allowing children to word read in a competent and fluent manner; this boosts confidence and self-esteem, which we want for all our children. In school, emphasis is placed on reading aloud with clarity, prosody and intonation, with great importance placed on phonics. As a school, we follow the systematic phonics program Little Wandle Letter and Sounds Revised, which ensures that children commonly write and read well. We have daily discrete sessions developing understanding of the different sounds and teach the children how to segment and blend words in order to read them. During the Summer term, Year 1 children will have a Phonic Screening Test in June which ensures they use their decoding skills to read real and pseudo (alien) words. The government recommends daily reading with your child stating that parents, who engage their children in books, prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers. Parents have the power to transform the attitudes of their children towards reading. If a child is unable to read, they will struggle to access all aspects of the curriculum. To further instil their love of reading, children chose a 'Reading for Pleasure' book from an incredible selection of inspiring and imaginative children's books, to share and enjoy at home. Quiet reading time with your child is something to cherish and value for you both. Your support with reading at home is valued and appreciated.

### Maths

At Newcomen Primary School, we believe in rigorous mathematics lessons. The principal focus of mathematics teaching in lower key stage 1 is to ensure that pupils learn a thorough understanding of the building blocks of numbers on which every other aspect is built upon. This includes developing a deep understanding of the number system, ordering numbers and finding connections which can be applied to support calculations, such as learning the number bonds to 10. The mathematics curriculum is split into four major strands – number, measurement, shape and space – and will be revisited and built upon as the year progresses. All children will be encouraged to find maths links within everyday life, whether it is counting money in their money boxes or spotting numbers on the way home from school. Maths is everywhere! As we develop, we will promote the rapid, random recall of these facts. All children in Year 1 are expected to know and rapidly recall their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. This is the National Curriculum expectation. To develop their skills, at the start of the day, children complete a series of mental arithmetic questions to help them improve their understanding of mathematical concepts. Due to this fact, it is essential that your child arrives at school on time to complete their daily mental maths task.

## The Wider Curriculum

In **History**, the children will be learning about changes within living memory as well as exploring the lives of significant individuals such as Mary Anning, David Attenborough, Neil Armstrong and Mae Jemison. In **Geography**, the children will have the opportunity to learn about the continents and oceans and learn how to use world atlases. We will also be learning how to name and locate UK countries and capital cities. We will introduce the children to hot and cold locations and link this to our exploration of the four seasons in Science.

**Art and Design Technology** will give the children the opportunity to explore their creativity. We will make moving story books, 3D windmills and fruit smoothies after carefully designing them. Children will experiment with colour and materials to create different artwork linked to famous artists.

At Newcomen, we believe that a high-quality **Science** education provides the foundations for understanding the world. The children will be learning about the following exciting strands of Science this year: Animals – including humans, seasonal changes and weather, everyday materials and plants. As well as learning about the key concepts of these areas, the children will also have the opportunity to work scientifically by conducting fascinating experiments.

In **Religious Education (RE)**, the children will be examining some very pertinent religious questions such as what it means to belong to a faith community and what people believe about God. We will also be learning about Judaism with a focus on how Jewish people worship at home. Learning how both Jews and Christians believe the world was created will allow us to compare this with other creation stories.

**Computing** is an essential part of the curriculum as it prepares the children for the digital age in which we live. Over the year, the children will be learning the skills of Online safety, coding and animation. They will also be working on online maze explorers, pictograms and other applications on Purple Mash (a safe online platform which all children have received log in details and passwords). Online safety permeates all aspects of the computing curriculum.

**Physical Education (PE)** will begin by focusing on Health and wellbeing. This is an area of education that we constantly discuss with the children and it will take centre stage in PE in the Autumn Term in addition to team building activities. The children will go on to study modules of gymnastics and ball skills throughout the year. In the Summer Term as the warmer weather returns, we will focus on locomotion, which looks at how we move.

In **Music**, the children will listen to, review and appraise various genres of music, including hip-hop, reggae, blues, folk, film, big band jazz, pop and western classical. We will learn to identify pulse, rhythm, dynamics and tempo and apply these skills when singing a range of songs for each genre. Children will also have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (a glockenspiel) and perform within a class setting.

Your children's well-being is of paramount importance. As such, our weekly **Relationship Education (RE)** sessions will be designed to support the children with this. The key themes we will be exploring: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me.

## Important Information

**Attendance** - 'Attend and Achieve' is a motto we are very proud of at school. If your child is not here, then they cannot learn. Please work with us to ensure that your child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

**PE** - School have provided children with their own individual P.E. kit to wear during lessons. Please ensure that your child has this kit in school on their P.E day and it remains in school throughout the week. Class 3 and 4 have PE on a Monday. The only jewellery acceptable is a watch and stud earrings (which are removed for PE or taped up with plasters from home). Asthmatic children need a named inhaler in school at all times. Children have been given a red sports equipment bag to enjoy being active at home. Please return them in the Summer term ready to be reused the following year.

**Spellings** – Y1 have spelling tests on a Friday. Please ask your child for their Spelling Book and ensure that you review the spelling pattern with your child when they are learning their spellings at home. Thank you so much for your support with this.

**Equipment** – Children are expected to bring their Spelling Books every day. Reading Records and practice reading books will be sent home on a **Thursday** to be returned to school on **Monday**. 'Reading for Pleasure' books are chosen by the children on a **Wednesday** and should be returned to school the following **Monday**.

Thank you.