

Vision Statement

At West Walker Primary School all children are encouraged to achieve success and develop a life-long love of learning through a relevant, broad, balanced, stimulating and memorable curriculum. We will provide a happy, healthy and secure environment that develops good communication and nurtures confidence, social skills and mutual respect. We will promote an understanding of local and global issues enabling us all to make a positive contribution to society.

Curriculum Overview

At West Walker Primary School we follow the National Curriculum. Through our teaching, we aim to help our children succeed and feel positive about themselves, so they may contribute to society as educated, happy and well-balanced young people. We believe that 'happy children learn well'. We aim to meet the needs of all pupils through the provision of a well-structured, stimulating curriculum.

Our classes are staffed with teachers, teaching assistants and supporting adults. We also use specialist music, trumpet, dance and PE teachers in some lessons. Our Reading Specialist also delivers targeted reading, writing and GPS lessons to children across the school.

Our curriculum is designed to support children's natural curiosity and stimulate their creativity. It offers the children the opportunity to work in depth throughout the curriculum, giving them time to reflect, consolidate and transfer their learning. Direct experience is placed at the centre of the curriculum so that teachers draw out and develop children's thinking and capacities in meaningful contexts. Knowledge, skills and understanding are expressed in a range of ways, often making use of the creative arts. Children, adults and parents draw resources from the school, locality and wider community to create a challenging, distinctive and exciting curriculum.

At West Walker, we value highly the importance of developing literacy skills and place great emphasis on reading and writing for pleasure. From Nursery to Year 2, our pupils take part in daily phonics lessons, through 'Letters and Sounds'. GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) is interwoven into the teaching of literacy in all year groups. Children are assigned a levelled text until they become an independent reader. For levelled texts we use a variety of schemes, including Oxford Reading Tree, as well as classic fiction and non-fiction texts. We believe that children benefit from a broad selection of books, which include a variety of authors. Once children are independent readers, they make their own choice of reading book.

Quality literature is at the heart of our English lessons; children are inspired and challenged through a variety of methods including 'talk for writing' and 'reading into writing' techniques.

The teaching of Maths is based around maths mastery techniques. The school has developed consistent strategies and teaching methods over the last 4 years and has been commended by external consultants. A concrete - pictorial - abstract approach is embedded across the school and the children make excellent progress.

I.T. is an area of great importance at West Walker. We have an I.T. suite and iPads in all classrooms. We work with GEM, an innovative educational company who work with staff and children across the school.

Foundation subjects provide a powerful medium for learning, and cross-curricular links are carefully planned across the year groups. We particularly value science and outdoor education and have specialist teachers leading daily / weekly wildlife walks in our forest and river bank areas and OPAL (Outdoor Playing and Learning) experiences. Our Food Technology room provides us with the facility to teach healthy eating and food preparation and our excellent P.E. provision, including before and after school sessions, is essential for improving children's physical and mental well-being.

Organisation and Planning

We plan our curriculum in three phases: long, medium and short term. We use the National Curriculum and a range of planning resources to create the yearly overview for each year group. These long term plans indicate the half termly themes to be taught in each subject and cross-curricular links are carefully planned to ensure coverage, the development of skills and the acquisition of knowledge. Medium term plans give clear guidance as to the objectives to be taught and the progression of skills. Teachers use the long and medium term plans to write their short term plans on a weekly or daily basis.

Please see our Teaching and Learning Policy for further guidance.