

# National Curriculum

## THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

John Henry Newman Academy follows the National Curriculum from Year 1 to Year 6. Our curriculum design is based firmly on the principles of good learning matched to the specific needs of the children in our school.

Each year group studies a topic over the half term. This enables us to provide meaningful and cross-curricular learning experiences for our children, which enable them to make connections with the world around them.

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, the curriculum includes the core areas of learning which are fundamental to each child's future learning:

English

Mathematics

Science

Computing

Humanities – Design & Technology, History and Geography,

Expressive Arts - Music and Art & Design

Physical Education

Religious Education

Languages

If you would like further information about our curriculum, please contact the school office.

### **English**

English is made up of Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing. Children come to school with a wide range of skills and at different stages of development. English is taught in a daily Literacy lesson where specific skills are taught and practised as well as at other times of the day in different subjects.

## **Speaking and Listening**

Talk is a key part of our curricular experiences and we encourage children to use language and communication in a purposeful and clear way, appropriate for different occasions and which invites responsive listening. Talk partners are a part of all our lessons and children practice their speaking and listening skills in lessons as well as through drama and role-play. Children have many opportunities to listen carefully to stories and discussion and to respond in different ways. We foster an ability to respect and respond to the views of other children and adults in an appropriate way.

## **Reading**

Reading is a key skill and we want children to have a love of books as well as to become fluent and life-long readers. We actively involve parents and carers to be involved in reading with their children, both at home and at school through enjoying and sharing books together. We have a wide range of quality resources and texts to support children's reading. Reading is taught every day through guided reading lessons in each class.

## **Phonics**

We teach phonics using the Letters and Sounds scheme of work. Phonics teaching starts in Nursery and continues until the children are secure in applying their skills to reading. Each day the children are taught a different phonics skill, letter sound or blend and they take part in different activities to practice and consolidate the sounds they have learnt.

## **Writing**

From when children start school, we encourage them to have a go at writing and they learn, through highly differentiated teaching, to be able to write using standard English. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are taught through writing and children learn to write for a range of different purposes.

## **Mathematics**

We teach children to be confident in the use of mathematics in a meaningful way. Children are taught number, measurement and statistics through a daily Maths lesson. They are also taught how to use and apply mathematics in everyday life contexts and how to tackle mathematical problems.

## **Science**

Science is linked to our topics and children learn scientific skills and content in a meaningful and cross-curricular way. They will have opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding through first hand experiences, as well as using books, charts and pictures and web-based resources to support their learning. They are encouraged to design and carry out their own investigations as well as communicate what they have found out to others in a variety of different ways.

## **Computing**

We teach children to use computing following the new scheme of work which includes programming and algorithms. We have an IT suite where children can learn new skills and Year 6 are supported by an IT teacher. We also have laptops, which the children are able to use in class to support learning across the curriculum

## **EXPRESSIVE ARTS**

### **Music**

Music is an important part of our school. Each class receives a weekly lesson. Children sing a wide repertoire of songs in assemblies,

### **Art and Design**

Children have opportunities to build on their understanding and appreciation of art in a variety of forms and style and from a variety of cultures through a cross-curricular topic approach. They learn to use different art techniques and develop an awareness of shape, colour, texture and pattern as well as understand the properties of materials.

## **HUMANITIES**

### **History**

Children have the opportunity to develop an awareness of the past, an understanding of how and why things change and how events shape the present and future in British History. They use a range of historical resources including artefacts, books, pictures and photographs. Children are encouraged to ask questions about the past and to discover

more about their lives and surroundings as well as learning about what it means to be British.

### **Geography**

In Geography, children learn about their own environment and other areas in different ways. They learn to follow directions, map read and make their own maps as well as explore the weather and carry out surveys and collect and present data. Children also learn economic factors about the environment including the use of land and the effect of their actions on the world around them and the climate.

### **Physical Education (PE)**

This covers gymnastics, dance, game skills and athletics in a progressive rolling programme year on year. Children in Year 4 have weekly swimming lessons throughout the school year. All children have two PE sessions per week. The school employs a full-time dedicated sports coach to ensure that children have high quality sports provision.

### **Religious Education (RE)**

Our scheme of work for Religious Education is based on the Oxfordshire agreed syllabus, which covers the world's major religions. At John Henry Newman Academy, we value the diversity and wide variety of religious backgrounds represented by our staff and pupils. We reflect these traditions in our teaching and seek to promote high levels of understanding and tolerance.

### **Languages**

All children in Key Stage 2 have an opportunity to learn a Modern Foreign Language.

Please see our curriculum map for 2017-2018.