

Curriculum Newsletter Summer 2016 by Mrs Olive



KS1 and KS2 Curriculum Changes

September 2014 saw the implementation of the new Primary National Curriculum for all pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2. Although Maths and English have always been viewed as the most important subject areas, they now take up an even larger proportion of the national curriculum. Both Maths and English have had many of their learning objectives moved from one year group down to another. In all year groups both subjects are now significantly harder and achieving the 'expected standard' is more difficult than in previous years. Within new Maths SAT tests at the end of year 6 pupils are now expected to be able to use long multiplication, long division and find the answer to questions such as: $555 + 656$, $120 - 15 \times 5$, 2376×15 and identify the missing fraction in $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + ? = 1$.

History is another subject area which as seen some significant changes and some year groups have changed their topics in line with statutory guidelines. New topics include: Celts in Year 3, Victorians in Year 5 and Mayans and Aztecs in Year 6.

At St Andrew's we strongly believe all pupils should experience a broad and balanced curriculum. Maths and English lessons continue to be taught every morning with other curricular subjects in the afternoon. Despite the national changes to the curriculum, here at St Andrew's, we will continue to ensure all subjects are taught through interesting outstanding lessons and that all of our pupils continue to achieve to the highest standard. We will also endeavour to foster and value talents within all curriculum areas, for example sports and the arts.

Home Learning Topics

Home learning topics at St Andrew's continue to be a great success and form part of our unique curriculum. In completing these topics pupils are able to take responsibility and extend their own learning. Using the special skills and talents they have they are able to choose how they present their own learning—with some pupils choosing to present work using their creative skills and others making the most of ICT. Home learning pieces of work are completed at home over a period of time alongside their class topic. Teachers throughout the school continue to be astounded at the time and effort pupils (and parents!) put into the completion of these topics (see Tudor house on right). Pupils have had great fun in sharing these high quality topics and teachers have reported that they have been a pleasure to read and mark. Topics are often displayed in the classroom, around school and year group assemblies. Please feel free to ask your child's class teacher any questions regarding the topics and encourage your child to use the school library where necessary.



Visiting Curriculum Specialists

At St Andrew's we believe visiting curriculum specialists bring a wealth of expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm to the classroom. We endeavor to ensure all pupils have a broad range of experiences from a range of visiting specialists relating to their curriculum topic area throughout their time in school. To date we have had a range of visiting specialists in school, some of these include: different PE coaches, a dinosaur excavation experience, a sculptor, Paul Frost (music) and a drumming workshop. During the Summer term year 4 will begin a small writing project working in school alongside staff from the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester and St Ambrose Barlow RC High School, Swinton. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their writing with professional script writers, editors and producers of a recent theatre production. We're sure the children will thoroughly enjoy it and enhance their writing skills at the same time.



Look how fantastic our work is....!

St Andrew's has a long tradition of our children producing excellent pieces of work presented to the highest quality. Pupils' books are a pleasure to read and mark and are a wonderful keepsake as they get older. Pupils work hard to always do their best and present their work to the best of their ability. Look at these exemplar pieces of work...

