



ST. ANDREW'S CURRICULUM NEWS: 2



KNOWLEDGE-RICH CURRICULUM

The St. Andrew's curriculum is designed with knowledge at its heart, to ensure that children develop a strong vocabulary base and an extensive understanding of the world. Our curriculum promotes long-term learning and we believe that progress means knowing more and remembering more. We have developed a curriculum built to ensure that pupils secure a solid base to build on as they move through school, into Key Stage 3 and beyond. We place particular emphasis on children knowing information off by heart and building rich webs of knowledge. Parents can support this work through quizzing children on the knowledge organisers available on the school website.

MEMORY

When teaching, the information we share with our class passes initially into the working memory where it is processed. The working memory is small and fixed and can only think about a limited number of things at any one time. Once the working memory reaches its limit, overload often occurs.

We want to make sure that the information in the working memory makes it into the long-term memory. The long-term memory is vast and can store a huge amount of information. Once something has made its way into the long-term memory it tends to remain stored. Our challenge as teachers therefore is to ensure children's memories of critical learning remain accessible and durable and the way we do this is by requiring children to revisit them regularly.



RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

Put simply, retrieval practice is a technique we use in school which enables children to remember and recall what they have learnt. It strengthens knowledge retention and encourages learners to engage with and use new skills and knowledge. We use retrieval regularly in all lessons and all subjects, with the aim being that regular retrieval of knowledge will move learning into the long-term memory of our pupils. Throughout our teaching, we plan and provide opportunities for our children to retrieve and recall critical knowledge easily and automatically.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Retrieval practice is a common feature in all teaching from Nursery to Year 6. Most often we use regular, quick and low-stake quizzes, that ask the pupils to verbally recall information. Sometimes we will ask them to write about a topic they have learnt, which shows us what they can remember. Teachers might also use iPads to set up online whole-class knowledge retrieval quizzes, which pupils enjoy. At the end of every unit of work from Y1 onwards, children complete a post learning quiz so that teachers can see what they have remembered. Throughout the year teachers put 'show what you know' stickers in children's books, which give the children questions to answer based on a unit of learning they have just completed, or on a unit of learning from a previous term or even year group. All of these strategies help our pupils to store knowledge in their long-term memory.



EXAMPLES OF OUR RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

ST ANDREWS C.E. WORSLEY SCHOOLS
 Show what you know
 Victorian

3. Explain the positive change Dr Barnardo made.	
2. How are Victorian houses different to modern houses?	
1. Name 2 inventions from the Victorian era.	

1. An organism is a _____ thing.
2. A feature of an organism is called a _____
 __ e.g. birds have feathers.
3. Where an organism lives is called its _____.
4. A characteristic of an organism that helps it survive in its habitat is an _____.
5. Name at least 3 ways a camel has adapted to its habitat.

Question 8: What type of tree do conkers come from?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Sycamore tree		
Pine tree		
Horse chestnut tree		

Answer these questions on your whiteboard:

1. What do plants need to grow?
2. Name three parts of a plant and their functions
3. What is seed dispersal?

What's the Question?

Brasilia
 Sao Paulo
 60% of the Amazon rainforest
 6,992km
 A layer of the rainforest with overlapping branches about 30m high.
 Countries that the Amazon River flow through.
 Tropic of Capricorn
 Portuguese
 Tropical climate
 11 hours

Question 10: what does <i>un cadeau</i> mean?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
A present		
A dog		
A Christmas tree		
A shoe		
TOTAL SCORE	START	END

<https://www.st-andrews-worsley.salford.sch.uk/curriculum-information/>

Please look at the knowledge organisers online and use them as an opportunity to discuss the facts about the topic and how much they have learned. Share them together, quiz them about what they know and learn facts and vocabulary together.

Mrs Clay

