

The Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes which will support children throughout their school lives and into adulthood. These include the basic skills of communication, through speaking and listening, reading and writing, and maths skills. They also include those skills which will help children become independent and confident people who know how to stay safe and keep fit and healthy.

Our curriculum also aims to help children develop positive attitudes towards themselves, towards others and towards the wider world in which they live.

The National Curriculum is organised on the basis of the following stages:

The Early Years/Foundation Stage	3-5 years
Key Stage 1	5-7 years
Key Stage 2	7-11 years

All children are offered a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum which is relevant to their age and ability.

In Foundation, the emphasis is on learning through play. Investigation and first hand experiences are actively encouraged and topics are planned on a half termly basis taking into account the interests of the children. Children will learn the basic skills of number and letter recognition and formation and will bring home words to learn before progressing to a reading book. The Reception teacher will keep you closely informed. Most of the work in Reception is generated by talking, listening and doing, rather than written work, although children who show readiness for writing skills will be encouraged to develop.

In key stage 1, the children follow a two year rolling programme of topics which act as a stimulus and a focus for learning:

KS1	Autumn	Spring	Summer
First year (2015/16)	In the Deep Dark Woods <i>Science</i>	Knights and Castles <i>History</i>	Journeys <i>Geography</i>
Second year (2016/17)	Island Life <i>Science/Geography</i>	Who's that walking on my bridge? <i>History</i>	Home and Away! (Captain Cook) <i>History/Geography</i>

In key stage 2, topic work continues but there is an emphasis on specific subjects when this is appropriate:

LKS2	Autumn	Spring	Summer
First year (2015/16)	The Romans History	Up Pompeii! Geography	Creepy Crawlies! Science
Second year (2016/17)	Light Science	The Ancient Egyptians History/Geography	Staying Alive! Science

UKS2	Autumn	Spring	Summer
First year (2015/16)	Eurika! History	All Change! Science/DT	Staying Alive! Science
		Music and Musicians History	Y5 Sth America Y6 Seahouses Geography
Second year (2016/17)	Victorian Darlington History	Space Science	Bodyworks Science/PHSE
		Inventors and Inventions History	Y5 Sth America Y6 Seahouses Geography

Throughout their time at St John's we strive to provide the children with a curriculum which is enriched with a wealth of different experiences. Each class will take part in an educational visit school every term in order to enhance their learning. In addition to this, we frequently have visitors in school ranging from authors, artists and theatre groups to zoo lab and planetariums; all with the intention of promoting a love of learning.

At St John's we are committed to providing equal opportunities for all. This means we value equally the unique qualities of each individual. We oppose discrimination on the grounds of gender, ability, religion, and race and actively teach the children to recognise and combat discrimination themselves. All children have access to all aspects of the curriculum.