



# Curriculum at St James' CE Junior School

The school delivers an exciting range of learning experiences through a broad based, balanced curriculum. This is planned thematically on a two year cycle, taking into account the Department for Education recommendations, the **new National Curriculum** and the specific needs and interests of our pupils. (See website for copy of new National Curriculum document.)

We are working now on the new, 2014, National Curriculum subjects; English, Mathematics, Art, Music, History, Geography, PE, Science, Design Technology, Computing, Modern Languages [French] and Religious Education.

Our teaching and learning is a balance of whole class, small group and individual work. In planning and evaluating we examine carefully the Essential Knowledge and Key Skills the children are required to learn and apply a process of discreet subject teaching in conjunction with thematic areas of study that develop cross-curricular links. Planning extends across two-year groups to ensure continuity and progression. (English and Maths lessons every morning plus a termly project; any other subjects that do not lend themselves to a cross curricular approach will be taught discretely.)

**We use curriculum 'drivers' that identify key issues for our children in our community.**

Our planning is created around these drivers to give relevance and purpose to the children's learning with opportunities provided for the children to follow their own lines of enquiry.

# SJS Curriculum Drivers

## CREATIVITY

Pupils are encouraged to express their learning imaginatively and are given opportunities to be independent.

Individuality and self-expression is promoted whilst developing pupils' resilience to more challenging tasks.

Learning is fun and actively promotes pupils exploration of knowledge and skills.

## COMMUNICATION

Pupils have the opportunity to communicate their learning through speaking and listening, writing and using ICT.

Pupils are encouraged to give their views and opinions across the curriculum through a range of real life purposeful learning opportunities.

## MY PLACE IN THE WORLD

Pupils develop a good knowledge of the local community and wider world. They are good citizens and are aware of their responsibility to care for the environment. Links to other schools and places broaden pupils understanding. They are aware of world events and have a developing general knowledge.

## ENTERPRISE

Pupils learn to engage with the world of work and have an understanding and awareness of money. Pupils are given the opportunity to develop an understanding of the world of work. They are encouraged to be resilient when faced with a challenge. Team work and problem solving skills are developed across the school.

# SJS LONG TERM CURRICULUM PLANNING

(2 YEAR ROLLING PROGRAMME)

AUTUMN

SPRING

SUMMER

## Me and My School

Children will gain a clearer understanding of their own personal history and their local area, especially the school. Within the topic the children will carry out an in depth study of their locality, the area of Hindpool, and how it has grown and developed. They will understand how to become responsible citizens by knowing how to care for and support their community, including raising money for local and national charities.

Within this theme they will also gain a greater understanding of their own bodies and how to keep safe.

At the end of this theme the children will have developed a personal sense of pride in themselves, their school and the wider community, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

## Eco Warriors

Children will learn about environmental and global warming issues and discover how they can make an impact through recycling, saving energy and water consumption. Using our allotment they will learn about plant life, where food comes from and how to prepare it.

They will experience Anglo-Saxon and Viking life; comparing homes, jobs, travel, beliefs and the impact of invasion on Britain.

At the end of this theme the children will present their learning through hosting an 'Invader Gathering' for parents.

## Creative Minds

Children will develop their creativity through influential people and their subjects. Through Literacy they will study famous writers and develop their own personal unique writing style. They will look at past and present inventions and their impact on modern life, including those from the Egyptian era.

At the end of this theme the children will use their knowledge, understanding and skills to create a product to improve everyday life.

## Bodies and Bath Houses

During this project the children will learn about their bodies including how to maintain a healthy body and mind. The children will gain an in-depth understanding of food groups and use the school allotment to grow fruit and vegetables, learning which parts are edible. They will learn the significance of keeping fit through exercising.

Through studying the Romans they will see how other civilisations enjoyed sport and prioritised health; including keeping clean at bath houses and participating in gladiators games.

At the end of this project children, in collaboration with their parents, will use their Roman art knowledge to create mosaics.

## Wider World

By focusing on the Amazon rainforest children will learn about habitats and food chains and the importance of these to our lives and that of various species of animals. They will compare and contrast different climate zones; using globes, atlases and maps to gain a greater understanding of our world, including lines of latitude and longitude.

Through our work with the church they will look at important festivals from the Christian faith as well as those from other cultures and religions.

At the end of this project they will participate in an 'Around the World Banquet'

## Lights, Camera, Action

This project will not only focus on drama, but will also include the science of lights and shadows and forces. With the use of modern technologies children will present their own mini play scripts.

Through studying the Ancient Greeks they will learn about Greek plays and famous Grecian inventions. The children will create their own emotion masks to be used during a short performance of various Greek myths.

At the end of this project the children will join with parents to participate in and enjoy a Greek themed event.

LOWER SCHOOL  
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LOWER SCHOOL  
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(2 YEAR ROLLING PROGRAMME)

AUTUMN

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## Heroes and Leaders

Our children will investigate and reflect upon the achievements of people's accomplishments, in order to promote ambition in their future lives (i.e. leading by example).

This will include famous historical and religious leaders; leaders in the local community; medical and sporting leadership. These characteristics will also be studied in the lives of ordinary people.

At the end of this theme the children will have developed a sense of self-motivation to achieve success in their future lives.

## Water Exploration

Children will gain a greater understanding of the peninsular on which we live and the importance of water in our lives. This will include the different functions of water- as a tourist attraction and a food for life. Children will gain an understanding of the need for water safety and water conservation, contrasting our locality to desert locations.

At the end of this theme the children will have experienced a tourist attraction in the Lake District.

## The World and Beyond

The children will broaden their horizons of the wider physical world. They will also undertake an in depth local study of the impact of WW2 in this area. It will contrast the importance of belonging to a local community to a swiftly developing world. Children will also gain a greater understanding of the solar system and its importance on their lives.

At the end of this project, the children will have a WW2 themed day.

## Earth Magic

The children will learn to respect and care for the environment they live in. The children will need to understand the need for renewable energy forms, such as wind farms, solar panels and nuclear energy. The children will investigate how energy can cause natural disasters and their impact on lives and land, which will become more commonplace in the future.

At the end of this project the children will have visited a wind farm to fully understand the need for renewable energy sources.

## Ambition and Enterprise

By learning from the changes in workforces over the centuries, the children will realise the need for ambition, to secure future employment. Industrial changes and the impact on lives will be studied in depth; including the development of industry in Barrow. The children will begin to plan their future in education, to challenge and motivate them to inform them of employment opportunities.

At the end of this project the children will have experienced setting up their own business and making a profit, showcasing this to their families and the local community.

## The World of Sport

To promote the physical activity and wellbeing, the children will learn the benefits of sporting and active lives. Through the study of international sporting events, the children will look at the countries competing; sportsmanship; equal opportunities and physical challenge. This will encourage children to participate in local sporting and club and events.

At the end of this project the children will have planned and participated in a round the world sporting competition, supported by the parents.

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