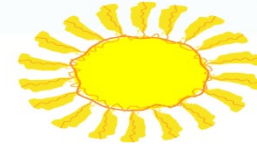Grange Primary School

Primary Curriculum

Leaflet for parents

2014-2015

From September 2014, a new primary curriculum became statutory. The existing programmes of learning and attainment targets will be replaced. This leaflet outlines the major changes to subject areas within the curriculum.

English:
- Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1)
- Reading is at the core of the whole curriculum with a big emphasis on reading for pleasure both at home and at school.
- Handwriting is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy.
- Spoken English is given greater emphasis, with children being taught debating and presentation skills.

Mathematics:
- Simple fractions (1/4 and ½) will be taught from Key Stage 1, and by Year 6, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (eg 0.375 = 3/8)
- By the age of nine, children will be expected to know their times tables to 12x12 (currently 10x10 by the end of primary school)
- Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of Key Stage 2, to encourage mental arithmetic.
- The ability to solve mathematical problems is a key skill which runs through all strands of the new curriculum.
- Children will be taught formal written strategies of vertical long multiplication and long division when they are secure with the standard written methods we currently teach.

Science:
- Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms.
- Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time.

Computing:
- Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs.
- From the age of 5, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data.
- From the age of 7, children will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet.
- Internet safety will be taught throughout the computing curriculum.

Design and Technology (DT):
- Design and Technology has become more important in the new curriculum, setting children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future.
- More sophisticated use of design equipment such as electronics and robotics.
- In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world.
- Greater emphasis on cookery with a focus on savoury dishes.

Geography:
- Greater use of atlases and maps including o/s maps and digital maps.
- Children are expected to know and locate countries, capitals, major cities, mountains and rivers.
- In depth studies of a European, North/South America country and a region of the British Isles are required.

History:
- Greater emphasis on British History taught in chronological order from Stone Age to 1066. The Tudors are no longer taught in KS2.

Languages:
- The term Languages replaces the term modern foreign languages.
- Previously not statutory but now mandatory in KS2.
- Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language.

Physical Education (PE), Music, Religious Education:
- The study of these subjects remains largely unchanged.