

Oakdene Primary School
New National Curriculum and Assessment Procedures
Information for Parents

Many of you will know that the National Curriculum has been taught to our Children since they have been in Year 1. The children have been assessed by levels with 2B being average for a Year 2 Child and for Year 6 an average of 4B.

For the current Year 2 and Year 6 Children, these assessment levels will remain. They will undertake Standard Assessment Tests in the Summer of 2015 with results being reported using levels. The curriculum they are being taught is unchanged and children are being assessed on what they have been taught in the current and previous years.

For Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 the National Curriculum has now changed. The subjects that are being taught have remained the same although Information and Communication Technology has been renamed Computing as there is now more programming in the Curriculum. The subjects now have more content and different themes can be taught. See below for the main changes:

Subject	What's new?
English	Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1) Handwriting is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children to be taught debating and presenting skills
Maths	Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100 and learn number bonds to 20. Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) will be taught from KS1, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. 0.375 = 3/8). By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12 (previously 10x10 by the end of primary school) Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic
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. Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system
Design & technology	Afforded greater importance under 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
ICT	Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs From age five, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet Internet safety - currently only taught from 11-16 - will be taught in primary schools
Languages	A modern Foreign Language is now compulsory in Key Stage 2 of the School. At Oakdene this is French. Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in French.

At the forthcoming Parents Evenings, more detailed accounts of the new curriculum will be given to Parents. Information about the Reception Curriculum will also be available.

Alongside the core Subjects of English, Maths and Science there are the familiar foundation subjects: Art, Computing, Design & Technology, Foreign Languages (age 7+ only), Geography, History, Music, and Physical Education. For these foundation subjects, the details in the curriculum are significantly briefer: we will have more flexibility regarding what we cover in these subjects.

Much of the publicity about the changes to the curriculum has focussed on 'higher expectations' in various subjects, and it is certainly the case that in some areas the content of the new primary curriculum is significantly more demanding than in the past. For example, in mathematics there is now much greater focus on the skills of arithmetic and also on working with fractions. In science, a new unit of work on evolution is introduced for Year 6; work which would have previously been studied in secondary school. In English lessons there will now be more attention paid to the study of grammar and spelling; an area which was far less notable in older versions of the National Curriculum.

If your child is achieving well, rather than moving on to the following year group's work, they will be taught more in-depth and investigative work to allow a greater mastery and understanding of concepts and ideas.

From this year for Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 children's attainment will be reported on whether your child is 'beginning to achieve the age related expectations', is 'developing their knowledge of age related expectations', is 'secure with the age related expectations' or has 'exceeded age related expectations'. This will be recorded on your Child's Annual Report issued in July. The format of the report will be changed from previous years with more emphasis on English, Maths and Science with progress reported in these subjects and a review of what has been taught in RE, Computing, History, Geography, Art, Music, Design Technology, PE and MFL for Key Stage 2 Children - French in our School.

In 2016, Year 6 and 2 will be assessed on the new National Curriculum and will not be reported by levels but by a scaled score with a score of 100 representing the expected level for each year group. Progress throughout the years will be measured against the age related expectations with an indication of whether the children are working towards, have met or have exceeded their age related expectations.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum had some changes made to it some years ago and so this remains the same for the forthcoming years. However, next year, a new Baseline Assessment will be introduced at the beginning of the Reception Year in order for Schools to measure progress from the time that they start school.

This is a period of great change in education, and for our school, but we have extremely skilled Teachers who are very competent in delivering what is required for your child. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask your child's Class Teacher at Parents Evening.