

Simms Cross Primary School **School Curriculum**

In reception and nursery the curriculum is based on the 6 areas of learning:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Many of the activities within nursery include social skill development, such as turn taking, alongside a strong focus on basic skill development. This includes speaking and listening, letter sound work, number skills and fine and gross motor skills.

There is a balance of child and adult initiated activities with many opportunities for children to practice and master new skills in a nurturing and supportive environment.

Staff work in close partnership with parents to ensure that learning continues at home and that children become confident and enthusiastic learners.

Assessment, during the early years, is continuous with staff gathering a variety of evidence to illustrate a child's progress. This may include annotated photos, children's mark making and writing, observational notes and transcripts of conversations.

At the end of reception children are assessed against the areas of learning and a detailed report provided for parents.

Throughout the year parents are encouraged to spend time in class to see how to support their child's learning and to praise progress. Learning reviews are held twice a year in the autumn and summer terms but staff are always available to discuss any worries or concerns.

In KS1 and KS2 the national curriculum is followed with a strong focus on reading, writing and maths. There are daily literacy and maths lessons with many of the foundation subjects, such as music and art, being taught through topic work. A curriculum map is provided each term to enable parents to see what their child will be learning. Teachers plan lessons to ensure that all children are included and that activities are appropriately matched to ability. Teaching assistants and teachers support children through guided group work to ensure that new skills and knowledge are developed and then consolidated through independent work.

In September 2014 the new curriculum 14 became mandatory for most year groups. Detailed overviews of each year groups curriculum are available.

Assessment is ongoing with the termly tracking of progress to ensure children are on track to achieve end of year targets. There are two learning reviews each year to provide the opportunity for children and parents to discuss progress with the class teacher. A detailed end of year report is also provided.

In the early years and KS1 all children are taught phonics that is the sounds that letters make when on their own and when combined with other letters. The school uses Letters and Sounds phases to support this work. Jolly Phonics is used initially to support children in retaining the letter sounds. As children progress they are able to apply their letter sound knowledge to reading and writing becoming fluent and confident in their abilities. Children are generally grouped for this work dependent on the phase they are working at. Assessment is again on going with the Phonic Check completed at the end of year 1 when it is expected that most children will be securely working at phase 5. After phase 6 children move into the KS2 spelling programme.

Reading is recognised as a key skill and is promoted from the early years through to year 6. Reading takes place on an individual basis as well as in guided groups. All children have individual reading records and diaries. Reading at home on a daily basis is strongly encouraged. Reading schemes include the Oxford Reading Tree, Rigby Stars, and Project X. Children are encouraged to read for pleasure and to access the school library.