



Understanding the Year 2 Curriculum

A Guide For Parents

Contents

Introduction	2
The school curriculum in England	2
The National Curriculum	3
How will we know how well your child is doing?	3
Outline of the core subjects	4
Mathematics in Year 2	4
Number and Place Value	4
Fractions	4
Measurements	4
Shape	4
English in Year 2	4
Speaking and Listening	4
Reading Skills	5
Writing Skills	5
Science in Year 2	5
Scientific Investigation	5
Living Things and their Habitats	6
Plants	6
Animals including Humans	6
Everyday Materials	6

Introduction

This guide is intended to help parents understand what will be taught to their child during this school year. Obviously it would be impossible to set out in detail everything your child would learn, but by providing an outline of typical content and some background information about how the curriculum and assessment works, hopefully it will help you support your children in making the most of their education.

The school curriculum in England

Schools must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society,
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils.

The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum forms only one part of the school curriculum. The aim of the National Curriculum is to introduce pupils to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens.

A new primary curriculum was introduced in September 2014 for Years 1/ 3/4/5 and 2015 for Years 2/6. Much of the curriculum remains the same, with similar content, but there are some changes.

English, Maths and Science remain very important and are considered **core subjects**. The National Curriculum sets out in some detail what must be taught in each of these subjects, and they will take up a substantial part of your child's weekly learning time. Alongside these are the **foundation subjects**: Art, Computing, Design & Technology, Foreign Languages (Year 3 upwards), Geography, History, Music, and Physical Education, which are taught through our Creative Curriculum. As an Academy we are not required to follow the National Curriculum but must ensure our curriculum includes English, maths and science.

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 and less emphasis on the creative aspects.

How will we know how well your child is doing?

The DfE announced that there would no longer be National Curriculum levels and that schools would have to set up their own way of assessing pupils. At New Chapter we have a half termly formal assessment cycle, whereby children are tested on the work they have been taught over that 6 – 8 week period of time. Teacher assessment is also used and this is based on independent work produced throughout the half term, these are part of our normal classroom routine. The aim is for all children to be secure in that year's National Curriculum by the end of the year.

At New Chapter we will be using the following key on our reports to show children's current attainment.

M = Mastery	Working at a greater depth of understanding
S = Secure	Working at the end of year expectations for this year group
D = Developing	Yet to be working at the end of year expectations for this year group
E = Emerging	Currently unable to access the end of year expectations

Under the old levels system children who were exceeding might have moved into the next level. The DfE now want children who are in the exceeding bracket to add more depth and breadth to their knowledge, and to have more opportunities to develop their using and applying skills. They are calling this phase of learning Mastery.

Only exceptional children will move into working towards the end of year expectations from the year above. Similarly, children who are likely to be emerging at the end of the year may work towards the expectations from the year below.

The 'SATs', the externally set and marked National Curriculum Tests, are still compulsory for children at the end of Year 2 and Year 6. Children in these year groups will undertake tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling. The test results will be reported to schools and parents at the end of the year.

Outline of the core subjects

Mathematics in Year 2

Number and Place Value - Place value is central to mathematics. Recognising that the digit '5' in the number 54 has a different value from the number 5 or the '5' in 504 is an important step in mathematical understanding.

Recognise place value in two-digit numbers, e.g. knowing that the 1 in 17 represents 10 - Read and write numbers up to 100 as words - Count in 2s, 3s and 5s - Compare and order numbers up to 100 - Use the < and > symbols to represent the relative size of numbers

Calculations

Recall number bonds up to 20 fluently - Add and subtract numbers mentally and using objects, including two-digit numbers - Show that adding two numbers can be done in any order, but subtracting cannot - Recognise that addition and subtraction are inverse operations - Learn the multiplication and division facts for the 2x, 5x and 10x tables - Show that multiplying two numbers can be done in any order, but dividing cannot - Solve problems using the x and ÷ symbols

Fractions - Find $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an object or set of objects - Find the answer to simple fraction problems, such as finding $\frac{1}{2}$ of 6

Measurements - Use standard units to measure length (centimetres and metres), mass (grams and kilograms), temperature (degrees Celsius) and capacity (millilitres and litres) - Use the £ and p symbols for money amounts - Combine numbers of coins to make a given value, for example to make 62 pence - Tell the time to the nearest five minutes on an analogue clock - Know the number of minutes in an hour and hours in a day

Shape - Identify the number of sides and a line of symmetry on 2-d shapes - Identify the number of faces, edges and vertices on 3-d shapes - Use mathematical language to describe position and direction, including rotations and turns

English in Year 2

As children move through Key Stage 1, the new curriculum intends that almost all children will secure the basic skills of decoding so that they can become fluent readers. As their reading confidence grows they can begin to write their own ideas down.

At the end of Year 2, all children will sit the National Curriculum Tests for Key Stage 1. These will include two short reading tests, a grammar and punctuation test, and a spelling test of twenty words.

Speaking and Listening - The Spoken Language objectives are set out for the whole of primary school, and teachers will cover many of them every year as children's spoken language skills develop. In Year 2 some focuses may include:

- Articulate and justify answers and opinions - Give well-structured explanations and narratives, for example in show-and-tell activities, Talk 4 Writing and poetry.

Reading Skills

Read words aloud confidently, without obvious blending or rehearsal - Learn letter patterns so that decoding becomes fluent and secure by the end of Year 2 - Blend letter sounds, including alternative patterns, e.g. recognising 'ue' as the 'oo' sound - Read aloud words which contain more than one syllable - Recognise common suffixes, such as -ing and -less

Read words which don't follow phonetic patterns, such as 'one' and 'who' - Become familiar with a wide range of fairytales and traditional tales - Discuss favourite words and the meaning of new words

Check that what has been read makes sense, and make corrections where necessary - Make predictions about what might happen next in a story

Writing Skills

Child will focus on the following:

- Form letters of the appropriate size, using capital letters where appropriate
- Use appropriate spaces between words when writing
- Begin to use joins between letters where needed
- Spell longer words by breaking them into their sound parts
- Learn to spell some common homophones, recognising the difference between them
- Use the possessive apostrophe in simple phrases, such as 'the boy's football'.
- Write about real events and personal experiences
- Plan out writing in advance, including by writing down key words
- Re-read writing to check that it makes sense and to make corrections, including punctuation
- Use question marks, exclamation marks, apostrophes and commas in lists
- Use the present and past tenses correctly in writing
- Begin to write longer sentences by using conjunctions, such as 'and', 'but', 'if' or 'because'

Science in Year 2

In the first years of schooling, much of the science curriculum is based around real-life experiences for children. This includes everyday plants and animals, as well as finding out about different materials and the four seasons. There are likely to be lots of opportunities for exploring scientific ideas both in the classroom and the local surroundings.

Scientific Investigation - Children are encouraged to carry out their own observations and experiments to further their scientific understanding. In Year 2 this may include learning to: Use scientific apparatus to make observations, such as magnifying glasses - Collect information about what they have seen - Make links between observations and their scientific understanding

Living Things and their Habitats - Compare the difference between things which are alive, which are dead, and which have never been alive - Understand that different animals are suited to different habitats - Identify some plants and animals in different habitats - Describe how animals feed on other plants or animals

Habitats are simply the different types of places living things are found. This can range from the vast, such as oceans and rainforests, through to local features such as rock pools, or to the small, such as under a single log.

Plants - Describe how seeds or bulbs grow into plants - Understand that plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow

Animals including Humans - Notice that all animals have offspring which grow into adults, including humans - Know about the basic survival needs of animals, such as food, water and air - Describe the importance of exercise, healthy diet and hygiene to humans

Everyday Materials - Identify and compare the uses of different materials including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard - Find out how some solid objects can be changed by squashing, bending or stretching.