



The national curriculum

A guide for parents

Year One

Introduction

For generations, parents have found themselves visiting primary schools with their children only to hear themselves saying, "It's not like when I was at school." Things change quickly in education and this guide is intended to support parents of primary school children. Obviously, it would be impossible to set out in detail everything your child would learn during their six years of statutory primary education, but by providing an outline of typical content and some background information about how the curriculum and assessment works, hopefully it will help parents support their children in making the most of their education. *We, at Crestwood Park are determined to design a curriculum that is relevant and appropriate for our unique set of learners. With a clear intent to achieve high standards at its core, we review our curriculum design and implementation, to ensure it has breadth and balance and has a positive impact on children's academic outcomes and their personal development.*

High Achievers

If your child is achieving well, rather than moving on to the following year group's work schools will encourage more in-depth and investigative work to allow a greater **mastery** and understanding of concepts and ideas. This is about application of knowledge and skills to show how the child has **mastered** the concepts and ideas taught.

What does the curriculum look like?

English, Maths and Science are very important and are considered the core subjects in both primary and secondary education. 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 learning week.

Alongside these 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: schools have much more flexibility regarding what they cover in these subjects.

This curriculum has focuses on 'high expectations' in various subjects, and it is certainly the case that in some areas the content of the 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 unit of work on evolution is taught in Year 6; work which would have previously been studied in secondary school. In English lessons there is close attention paid to the study of grammar and spelling; an area which was far less notable in previous curricula.

Assessing your child's progress and attainment

Lots of schools use tests at all stages of their work. For the most part, these are part of a normal classroom routine, and support teachers' assessment. However, at certain stages of schooling there are also national tests which must be taken by all children in state schools. Often informally known as 'SATs', the National Curriculum Tests are 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 tests will be sent away for marking in Year Six and are marked internally in Year Two. Results will be reported to schools and parents at the end of the year. The National Curriculum Tests for children in Year 2 and Year 6 will take place each summer. We also have a programme of internal tests for all year groups throughout the year. These, alongside teacher assessments are used to measure progress so we are always assessing your children and know how well they are doing, and it makes attending those parents' evenings all the more important! Additionally, we share your child's progress and attainment annually with you through their annual summer report. Children in Year One also undertake a statutory test of their reading through a phonics test in the summer term.

English in Year 1

During the early years of compulsory schooling, much of the focus is to develop confident readers, mainly using the phonics approach. At Crestwood Park we use a variety of resources and hold a meeting for parents in Year One to let you know about the upcoming phonic screening and how you can help your child.

Phonics is the relationship between printed letters and the sounds they make. Children will first learn the most common letter sounds, and then look at more difficult patterns such as recognising that 'ow' sounds different in 'cow' than in 'low', or that both 'ai' and 'ay' make the same sound in different 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 1, some focuses may include:

- Listen and respond to adults and other children
- Ask questions to extend their understanding
- Learn new vocabulary related to topics or daily life

Reading Skills

- Learn the 40+ main speech sounds in English and the letters that represent them
- Blend sounds together to form words
- Read aloud when reading books that contain familiar letter sound patterns
- Listen to, and talk about a range of stories, poems and non-fiction texts
- Learn about popular fairy tales and folk stories, and retell the stories
- Join in with repeated phrases in familiar books
- Make predictions about what might happen next in a book

Writing Skills

- Hold a pen or pencil in the correct and comfortable way
- Name the letters of the alphabet in order
- Write lower-case letters starting and ending in the right
- Place
- Write capital letters, and the digits 0 to 9
- Spell simple words containing the main sounds they've learned in reading
- Spell the days of the week
- Learn to write words with common endings, such as -ed, -ing, -er and -est
- Plan out sentences aloud before writing them
- Write simple sentences, and those using joining words such as 'and'
- Begin to use full stops and capital letters for sentences
- Combine some sentences to make short descriptions or stories

Parent Tip

School can offer books to read at home; these will range from a mix of books which your child can read to you, and those which are more complex that they can listen to you read to them – both are important skills. Children can also join the local library service and choose books of their own.

Mathematics in Year 1

As children begin their compulsory schooling in Year 1, schools will naturally work to build on the learning that takes place in the Reception year. Here are some of the main things your child is likely to be taught during their time in Year 1.

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.

- Count, both forwards and backwards, from any number, including past 100
- Read and write numbers up to 100 as digits
- Count in 2s, 5s and 10s
- Find 'one more' or 'one less' than a number
- Use mathematical language such as 'more', 'less', 'most', 'least' and 'equal'

Calculations

- Use the +, – and = symbols to write and understand simple number calculations
- Add and subtract one- and two-digit numbers, up to 20
- Solve missing number problems, such as $10 - ? = 6$
- Begin to use simple multiplication by organising and counting objects

Fractions

- Understand $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ to explain parts of an object or number of objects

Measurements

- Use practical apparatus to explore different lengths, weights and volumes
- Use language such as 'heavier', 'shorter' and 'empty' to compare things they have measured
- Recognise the different coins and notes of British currency
- Use language of time, such as 'yesterday', 'before', days of the week and months of the year
- Tell the time to the hour and half-hour, including drawing clock faces

Shape

- Recognise and name some common 2-d shapes, such as squares, rectangles and triangles
- Recognise and name some common 3-d shapes, such as cubes, cuboids and spheres
- Describe movements, including quarter turns

Parent Tip

There are plenty of opportunities for maths practice at home, from counting objects to simple games, such as dominoes and Snakes & Ladders. You can also begin to explore using money and clocks both in play at home and when out and about.

Other Subjects

The rest of the subjects mentioned including science are delivered through the thematic approach where subjects are linked together. This is planned over a two-year rolling programme. We also include English by using books that relate to themes and will also often link some maths to the theme. The only subject which tends to be completely unrelated is PE however any dance activities are usually related.

The themes in Year One and Two are:

Year	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
One	Geography Based theme	History based theme	Science based theme
Two	Geography Based theme	History based theme	Science based theme

As all the themes are launched with a stunning start we don't want to give too much away as the stunning start helps to hook the children into their learning and we try to make the themes irresistible!

We have already published guides on supporting your child with reading, writing and maths which are available in the foyer and also on this website

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to ask and we hope you find this guide useful.