



## **New Primary Curriculum 2014**

Over the last few years the teachers at Feniton Primary School have invested a great deal of time in reviewing curriculum coverage and adopting a more creative and thematic approach to teaching different subjects. From September 2014 a new National Primary Curriculum is being introduced. Staff have spent the last year researching this curriculum and adapting existing planning to take account of the new changes. Our school website provides an overview of curriculum coverage year by year and this will be soon be updated to reflect recent changes.

### **When will the new curriculum be introduced?**

For most children, these changes will take effect from September 2014, but children in Years 2 and 6 will follow the existing programmes of study until September 2015 in English, maths and science. From September 2013, schools will have the option of either continuing to teach the current curriculum or gradually transitioning to the new curriculum?

### **Why has a new National Curriculum been introduced?**

The main aim is to raise standards, particularly as the UK is slipping down international student assessment league tables. Inspired by what is taught in the world's most successful school systems, including Hong Kong, Singapore and Finland, as well as in the best UK schools, it's designed to produce productive, creative and well educated students.

Although the new curriculum is intended to be more challenging, the content is actually slimmer than the current curriculum, focusing on essential core subject knowledge and skills such as essay writing and computer programming. It also follows on from similar curriculum revamps in Scotland and Wales, which were implemented in 2010 and 2008 respectively and have a similar focus on excellence and core skills.

### **What will be changing?**

The table below summarises the main changes in some subjects covered by the National Curriculum.

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 – not currently assessed under the national curriculum – 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 (compared to 20 under the current curriculum) and learn number bonds to 20 (currently up to 10) Simple fractions ( $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ ) will be taught from KS1, and by the end of

	<p>primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. <math>0.375 = \frac{3}{8}</math>)</p> <p>By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12 (currently 10x10 by the end of primary school)</p> <p>Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic</p>
Science	<p>Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms</p> <p>Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time</p> <p>Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system</p>
Design & technology	<p>Afforded greater importance under the new curriculum, setting children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future</p> <p>More sophisticated use of design equipment such as electronics and robotics</p> <p>In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world.</p> <p>At Feniton we will be particularly focusing on increasing the amount of cookery / food technology in each year group.</p>
ICT	<p>Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs</p> <p>From age five, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data</p> <p>From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet</p> <p>Internet safety – currently only taught from 11-16 – will be taught in primary schools</p>
Languages	<p>Currently not statutory, a modern foreign language or ancient language (Latin or Greek) will be mandatory in KS2. At Feniton Primary School the children will be taught French in KS2.</p> <p>Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language</p>
History	<p>History – At Key Stage 1, pupils are to learn about the lives of significant individuals in Britain's past – scientists such as Isaac Newton or Michael Faraday, reformers such as Elizabeth Fry or William Wilberforce, medical pioneers such as William Harvey or Florence Nightingale, or creative geniuses such as Isambard Kingdom Brunel or Christina Rossetti.</p> <p>The Key Stage 2 history curriculum is expanded to include: early Britons and settlers; relations between England, Wales, Scotland and France; the Renaissance in England; and the Glorious Revolution, constitutional monarchy and the Union of the Parliaments. World War 1 and 2 are only specified at Key Stage 3 while Remembrance Day is not mentioned at all.</p>

The Department for Education is currently in the process of reforming KS2 tests, but details have not yet been published.