



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

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We follow in Christ's footsteps

Monday 10th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Curriculum development at St Patrick's Primary School

As we approach the end of another busy academic year, I would like to share with you a few of our curriculum plans for the new year from September.

As Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust grows, we have been really excited to embark on the curriculum development work that the Trust is facilitating. This particularly involves a focus on modern foreign languages, history and geography.

The Trust has organised for us to have access to new curriculum plans and high-quality training for staff provided by national experts in these subject areas. As a school, we have chosen to take up these opportunities to make sure that our children continue to receive the very best curriculum and get the best quality education.

To give you a flavour:

History/Geography: our children will be accessing a new curriculum which will give them a very deep and broad understanding of important subject knowledge and what it means to be a historian or geographer. The new curriculum helps children to make better links between their historical and geographical knowledge. It also has a strong emphasis on core vocabulary in history and geography which will contribute to excellence in reading and writing. We've been trialling a little of this new approach with some of the children already, via a unit on the Stone Age, and it is working really well.

Languages: we have a new curriculum for Spanish, which is the language children will access as part of the St Bede's cluster of schools. Instead of just teaching children key words or phrases in the language, the new curriculum helps them to understand, right from the start of Year 3, key phonics, vocabulary and grammar in the language. This combination gives them the best start to languages learning and prepares them more effectively for what they need in secondary school. While it might seem a long way off, this approach gives them the best chance of success if they choose to continue with languages study at the end of Year 9.

Some of these curriculums are quite a change from what we have done before, and are more ambitious in terms of what children will learn. The curriculums build steadily each year, strengthening children's knowledge of key themes and concepts. Because of this, we need to start at the beginnings of these curriculums, making sure that every child has the correct solid foundations on which to build. If you have children in different year groups in KS2, you might notice them learning similar ideas and knowledge when we begin in the Autumn term. Please be assured that this is just in the early stages while we introduce these new curriculums - and that these ambitious curriculums have been designed very deliberately in this way to ensure that every child has the solid base of knowledge on which to build in future years.

We plan to upload these curriculum plans onto the website for September, so that you can review these should you wish. In the interim, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Mrs Burgess

Executive Headteacher

IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY IN READING OR INTERPRETING THIS DOCUMENT PLEASE CALL 01207 570316

