

## CURRICULUM

All pupils are taught Numeracy and Literacy on a daily basis and this follows a highly structured pattern of teaching across the school.

Pupils are assessed coming into school using *Ages and Stages*, and progress is measured against the Early Learning Goals at the end of the Foundation Stage using the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Children across the school are assessed termly using diagnostic tests, which help give teachers, parents and pupils valuable information regarding progress. This information along with Teacher Assessment helps the school project targets for pupils termly and track their progress from Foundation to KS1 and from KS1 through KS2.

The school operates on a two year, rolling programme of curriculum study based upon the National Curriculum, to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum.

During the first half of the Autumn Term, there is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher to discuss their targets for the year and any concerns. KS2 children are invited along with their parents so that targets for the term can be set and agreed upon. During the Spring Term, there is an opportunity to see how your child is progressing and discuss any issues with the teacher(s) concerned. During the Summer Term parents receive reports on their children's annual progress. An open evening is held for parents and pupils to wander through the school, take part in pupil led workshops in each class and talk to teachers.

Opportunities to discuss questions or concerns regarding your child are available throughout the year. These meetings however, can sometimes involve more than one member of staff, ie the INCo (Inclusive Co-ordinator) and/or the Headteacher, and will be arranged at a convenient time for all concerned.

### ENGLISH



### LITERACY

Children are taught to write clearly and are expected to present their work neatly. Spelling is taught through a variety of strategies. And there are regular handwriting sessions. The school has a wide variety of reading scheme material and the teachers use both phonic and guided reading approaches to develop reading. The school has established several initiatives to improve learning: a weekly, whole school, writing workshop, known as 'The Big Write', an annual reading challenge known as 'The Big Read', and regular speaking and listening activities known as 'The Big Talk'. Much of our writing is taught through 'Talk for Writing' an approach inspired by Pie Corbett. The school has a clear marking policy.

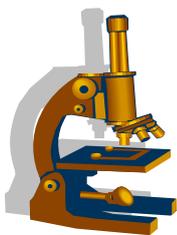
### MATHS



### NUMERACY

The school plans teaching and learning on the National Curriculum. We aim to give the children a rich variety of experiences in Maths; these range from practical activities, to formal, class-based lessons delivered using a range of schemes and resources. Times tables are essential and the school places great emphasis on pupils knowing them off-by-heart as soon as possible. Work with calculators is encouraged, although it must be stressed that considerable work is carried out developing and extending mental arithmetic skills.

## SCIENCE



The school teaches Science through a two year rota of topics. The scheme of work is planned around the topics in the National Curriculum. Emphasis in this subject is not solely on knowledge, but the development of curiosity which encourages children to ask questions and make predictions, ways children solve problems and investigate scientifically, using results and data from tests and simple experiments. Much 'hands-on' practical investigation is encouraged.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Ponsbourne St Mary's is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, and there is a daily act of worship, which is Christian in character, led by the staff and children. Children attend the church on a regular basis and the Vicar and Curate lead collective worship in the church weekly with the school community. If parents wish to withdraw their children from assembly or acts of worship, they may contact the Headteacher.

The school follows the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which encompasses a range of world religions.

## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



Much of the Design Technology work is linked to cross curricular activities. However we do have two Design Technology weeks and a Science/Technology week each year, where the timetable is dedicated to such work. Children will be encouraged to ask questions and seek solutions by creating their own designs or by using constructional apparatus.

## INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



ICT comes into all areas of the curriculum and the school is fortunate in having a range of IT equipment in each class: laptops, iPads, digital cameras, iPods, recording equipment etc. for whole class ICT lessons. Pupils are encouraged from Nursery onwards to develop excellent computer skills that provide them with a tool for learning. The school has an ongoing policy of purchasing and updating computers, software, digital cameras, audio/visual equipment etc.

## HISTORY



Much of the work in History is taught in topics, planned on a two year rolling programme. As children progress through the school, there is every opportunity for them to look at history on a broader front. Guest speakers and trips are considered very important to ensure that study is very much a 'first hand experience'. The setting of the school makes study very much a 'first-hand experience'.

## GEOGRAPHY



Similarly, Geography is taught in class topics. An understanding of the local geography, map skills and the development of Britain and the EEC, coupled with the study of non-EEC countries are covered. At the top end of the school, use is made of the geography of Norfolk and the Isle of Wight, as a means of comparison as part of our educational school journeys to the Kingswood centres.

## MUSIC



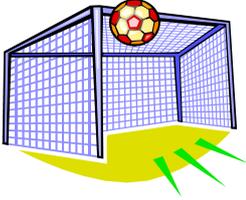
Music is a foundation subject and is taught to all children. In the early years the emphasis is on singing, rhythm and simple percussion instruments. These skills are developed as they rise through the school. The music specialist supports teachers and pupils. Pupils also have the opportunity to learn an instrument with a peripatetic teacher who visits the school weekly. Free guitar lessons are offered to pupils in Y4.

## ART AND CRAFT



Art is a foundation subject and is taught throughout the school. The school places considerable emphasis upon presenting children's work in an exciting and stimulating way. Children learn to explore themes through a range of media, to observe carefully, and are taught appropriate techniques to enable them to express themselves enthusiastically. Visits to galleries and art workshops are encouraged to inspire children.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



The school offers a wide variety of outdoor games, such as Football, Rugby, Netball, Hockey, Lacrosse, Tennis, Rounders and Cricket. All children have access to three hours of PE activities a week. The children in KS2 use the Furzefield Leisure Centre weekly for swimming, Gym and Dance. A football club is available for all children to join after school. Other after school clubs have offered tennis, tri-golf, lacrosse, netball and hockey this year. In the summer months, the children are involved in a wide variety of summer sports including rounders, cricket and athletics.

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION



Pupils in years 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to go camping at Cuffley Camp/Tolmers, which involves two nights of overnight stay. Years 5 and 6 use the facilities offered at a range of Kingswood Education Centres, where they are able to participate in a wide variety of outdoor pursuits. Our Early Years teacher is trained as a Forest School Leader and children in YN-Y1 learn through a range of activities in the outdoor environment each week. We have a fantastic woodland and pond area. It is school policy to use our local environment and facilities to the full, in order to help keep costs to a minimum.

## PSHE



The school has a policy concerning all aspects of health education including drug awareness and sex education. The School Nurse visits the school on a regular basis. Meetings are held throughout the year, to which outside experts are invited to share their knowledge with both parents and staff, such as an Internet Safety Information Evening.

Pupils in years 5 and 6 have a video presentation and the opportunity of discussing bodily changes and development within the context of a caring, Christian framework. Issues are not avoided, but parental support is sought before entering into this area of the curriculum, and parents are invited to see a video and related support material before they are shown to the children.

The school operates a 'No Smoking' policy on site and parents and visitors to the school are requested not to smoke when inside the school grounds.

## Phonic and Reading Schemes

Ponsbourne St. Mary's uses the Letters and Sounds phonic scheme and a range of reading schemes including the Oxford Reading Tree, Rigby, Usborne and Black.