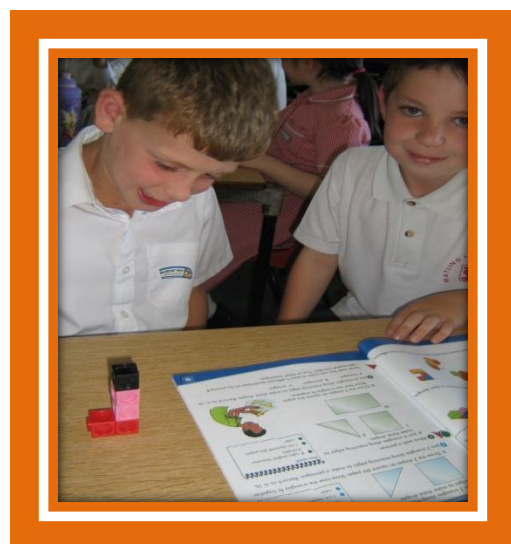


Literacy

The study of English develops children's abilities to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes, so using language to learn and communicate ideas, views and feelings. It enables children to express themselves creatively and imaginatively, as they become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama, as well as non-fiction and media texts. Children at Watling Lower gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. They use their knowledge, skills and understanding in speaking and writing across a range of different situations.



Numeracy

The children acquire knowledge, skills and the understanding of Mathematics through the National Numeracy Strategy framework. Opportunities are given to use and apply Mathematics in practical tasks and real life problems and in other curriculum areas, including ICT. We hope to develop the children's learning in Mathematics through a curriculum that promotes enjoyment and enthusiasm for the subject through practical activity, exploration and discussion.



Science

The knowledge and understanding of Science is developed through focused exploration and investigation of living things, materials and processes which are within their everyday experiences.

Pupils are encouraged to ask questions such as 'How?', 'Why?', 'What will happen if?' and to record their findings.

Information and Communication Technology

ICT is integrated with all parts of the curriculum. We are well-equipped with PCs and there are interactive white boards in every classroom. Pupils are taught to use ICT to organise and communicate ideas and information. They use a wide range of software on the computers, including word processing, data basing, graphics and software linked to all subjects. The range of hardware and software is continually being updated. We are connected to the internet and we have our own website.



History and Geography

Pupils are given the opportunity to develop an awareness of the past and of ways in which life was different from the present. They learn through enquiry, activities and first-hand experiences looking at historical artefacts, visiting museums and historical buildings and inviting historians to school.

Places and themes are studied to develop and apply geographical skills. This includes studying the locality of the school and contrasting localities both at home and abroad.

RE

Religious Education is taught in accordance with a locally agreed syllabus. All children attend a daily act of Collective Worship and Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RE or Collective Worship. RE contributes educationally to the development of our pupils as individuals and members of society by fostering a reflective approach to life in the context of a growing understanding of the experiences, attitudes, beliefs and religious practices of mankind.

RE takes place in cross-curricular topics and themes, through specific RE focused units of work, as a separate subject on the timetable and through spontaneous experiences.



Art

Pupils are encouraged to develop their creative, imaginative and practical skills through a balanced programme of painting, drawing, collage, printing and modelling. Their work is displayed to maximum effect to encourage and influence others. Pupils are encouraged to appreciate the works of a variety of artists from different times and cultures.



Music

Music plays an important part in the life of the school. There is a Key Stage 2 choir and recorder groups and a school band when numbers allow. The children are helped to develop their understanding and enjoyment of music through cross-curricular activities.

Physical Education

In Key Stage 1 the children cover a variety of games skills, gymnastics, dance and movement.

In Key Stage 2 the children cover games skills, gymnastics, dance, athletics and outdoor activities.

The school has several football teams which participate in local fixtures, including the Dunstable and District Lower Schools Football League.

We have a variety of coaches who come in to offer 'taster sessions' in different sports.



Technology

Children are encouraged to draw upon their own experience to help generate ideas in Design and Technology. They investigate and evaluate simple products to learn how they work. There are many opportunities to use skill and knowledge from art, mathematics and science in their own projects. They are encouraged to consider quality, as well as health and safety in their work, which is sometimes completed at home.



French

French has been introduced into the school curriculum for Key Stage 2, giving all children an opportunity to learn a second language.

Sex and Relationships Education

No formal sex education is provided in the school but children's questions are answered as sensitively, clearly and honestly as possible within their level of understanding.

Multi Cultural Education/ Equal Opportunities/PSHE/ Citizenship

The school endeavours to meet the individual educational requirements of all its pupils. We use professional staff and outside agency expertise to assist us to try and ensure all children reach their full potential. All our pupils have equal opportunities regardless of race, gender, religious practice or disability. We aim to provide the resources to allow access to education for all our children, girls and boys, of every race and origin, and seek in our curriculum to actively promote racial harmony.

Many themes are planned to run throughout the curriculum which deal with Health, Environment, Personal and Social Education and Citizenship. The school follows the DCSF guidance for PSHE, which covers various issues such as relationships, self esteem and the environment. Teachers will deliver lessons using a variety of activities e.g. class discussions, group work, circle time and assemblies.

Special Educational Needs

All children at Watling Lower School with SEN will be offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant education which meets their needs.

Children with SEN will have an individual education plan based on interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual curriculum. We utilize our Teaching Assistants to support this work.

We will seek to take account of the views of the child when setting targets. We also aim to ensure that parents are able to play a vital role in supporting their child's education.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We believe that:

- School should be a happy, caring place where children can feel secure and untroubled;
- Your child should be taught to have concern for others and their property;
- We should encourage the feeling of community and responsibility

We place great emphasis on rewarding good behaviour and good work in school.



Celebration Assemblies are held every Friday. Children are presented with merit certificates for every ten merits. At merit assemblies children also have the opportunity to report sporting, musical, artistic or other achievements to the school. Children also receive their Value Apple Award. Each half term a special Golden Apple Award is presented and parents are invited to attend. At the end of each term the Governors' Achievement Award is presented to a Year 4 child who has displayed some excellence in all aspects of school life. The child receives a small cup to keep and their name is entered onto a special shield kept in the foyer. Awards for Progress, Effort, Sportsmanship and Good Citizenship are also presented at this time. Parents of all award winners are invited to attend.

Bullying

We have an Anti-bullying Policy and deal with cases of bullying using the systems outlined in the policy. We define bullying as 'an abuse of power by one or more people through repeated hurtful or aggressive behaviour with the intention to cause emotional or physical harm to another person'. If at any time you feel that your child is being bullied, please arrange to come into school and speak to the class teacher.

Homework

We believe that homework is a valuable, integral part of a child's learning, as well as a crucial meeting ground in our partnership with parents. There is some form of homework task for each child from the time they join our school to the time they leave at the end of Year 4.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The children enjoy a variety of lunchtime and after-school activities. These can include basketball, gardening club, kick boxing, band practice, cookery club, drama, and ukulele club.



Visits out of school and residential visits

The school is committed to providing opportunities for children to learn and develop through visits out of school and occasional residential experiences.

First-hand experience of a different environment is a powerful tool for promoting learning and a residential visit also gives many opportunities to promote social development. We plan to offer residential visits linked to the work carried out at school, each one designed to meet the needs of the children concerned.

Any residential experiences are thoroughly researched by staff who make pre-visits to the centres and places of interest. We always ensure that we have an appropriate ratio of adults to children for any visit.



Charges and Remissions Policy

Education is provided free of charge during school hours. Where charges are made for optional extras, this may include:

- Pupils' travel costs
- Materials, books, instruments or other equipment
- Entrance fees to museums, castles, theatres, etc.

The charge levied for each optional extra will not exceed the total cost of the activity. The contribution towards the above activities is entirely voluntary.