



# Curriculum News

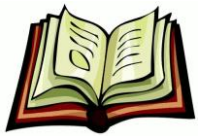


February 2020

## Welcome to our Curriculum News Letter

As you know, the curriculum is basically WHAT we teach your children. At Pilgrim, we broadly follow the content of the National Curriculum (2014) but we also ensure that our curriculum reflects the particular needs of our learners, in our community. Our Pilgrim curriculum not only teaches the skills and content of distinct subjects such as science, maths, music, history, art, PE, etc. but it is important to us that our curriculum also teaches positive values, behaviours and attitudes.

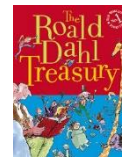
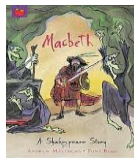
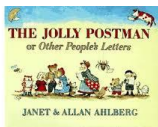
Each month, this News Letter will keep you up to date with examples of the exciting experiences that your child receives at school, make you aware of any new curriculum initiatives and will focus in more detail on one curriculum subject area – this month, the focus subject is **English**.



## English

### BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

As a school, we are always looking for new and innovative ways to engage and inspire our children. We know the joy and inspiration that children get from being 'lost' in a good story. Whether it is a short story, picture book, poem or novel, children love to meet new characters, discover new worlds and consider new themes and ideas. We know that REAL BOOKS make children's imaginations come alive and it is for this reason that our English curriculum aims to expose children to as many real books as possible.



### ENGLISH LESSONS

Each term, our English lessons are now based around one, key, high-quality book. We also plan in opportunities to read additional texts and extracts for comparison or to build further understanding. In our curriculum, we have included a range of both classic children's books and books written by newer authors, all of which are widely recommended for children. The aim of this is to engage and inspire our pupils as writers, to grow their understanding of words and language and to be able to spark their passion for reading. With books at the heart of our English lessons, pupils engage fully in all aspects of learning and have a much deeper understanding of texts and the key skills they are being taught to master. We are definitely seeing this reflected within the high standards of work that they produce. Please ask your child about the books that they have studied already in English!

### READING



#### The Daily Reading Lesson 9.00 - 9.30 am

We teach reading in lots of different ways at Pilgrim and practise our reading throughout the curriculum. We have decided to bring some of the ways we teach reading together into a distinct **30 minute reading lesson at the start of every day. The daily reading lesson is for pupils in Years 2 to 6**, and follows on from our teaching of phonics in Foundation Stage and Year 1. The aim is to develop our children's skills of comprehension by building confidence, fluency and enjoyment. The 30 minute reading lessons involve all pupils being taught fundamental reading skills with opportunities to work throughout the week with both an adult and independently to put these skills into practise.

The daily reading lesson is in **addition to the normal hour of English** that all children in Years 2-6 receive each day.



#### The 3 O'clock Read

At 3 o'clock every day we all stop and read a book or novel in every class. The teacher reads aloud to the children, not only because we believe that sharing and enjoying books is a brilliant way to end each school day, but also because this is a proven way in which children learn to comprehend more widely. Giving children time to enjoy hearing a story that it is just for pleasure promotes a love of books and of reading that children never get tired of!

# General Curriculum Updates

## OUR CURRICULUM INTENT

Our curriculum content must meet the needs of our learners and, whilst we follow the guidance of the National Curriculum, we have identified some key aspects of learning that we want to highlight and drive through our curriculum design and topic choices. This is called **our Curriculum Intent** and here is a summary (full version is available on our school website in the Curriculum area under the Learning tab):

### AMBITION

Achieve **academic success**  
Experience **wider and enriching opportunities**  
Develop **individual talents and strengths**  
Have **ambitious mind frames**  
Are **confident communicators**

### WELL-BEING

Develop **values and morals**  
Have healthy **social interaction and relationships**  
Develop **healthy physical habits**  
Have **positive mental health**  
Understand how to keep themselves and others **safe**

### CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Appreciate **arts and creative activity** in our city and beyond  
Value **learning and education**  
Appreciate **social and ethnic diversity**  
Understand the **heritage and values** of the locality and the nation they live in  
Recognise their place in the community as a **local, national and global citizen**



## Fun Fit Friday!



To support our commitment to the health and well-being of our pupils, we have decided to introduce to our curriculum “Fun Fit Friday”. The rationale behind this is to provide fitness activities to support children’s physical health and fun activities that support children’s good mental health. Research has shown that access to the outdoors and nature, singing and dancing, yoga and mindfulness all support children’s good mental health. Research has also shown the value of aerobic exercise and collaborative fitness on children’s physical and mental health.

As such we aim to provide a range of different experiences for children every Friday that enables the children and their teachers to engage in activities that promote their physical and mental wellbeing.

The activities will run from 2.00-2.30 and include activities such as yoga, dancing, singing, meditation, running, zumba, aerobics, fitness circuits, team games and team building, walking out and about in the fresh air and skipping. Our Fun Fit Friday sessions will involve all children from EYFS to Year 6...we will keep you updated on how we get on!

## Assemblies

Assemblies are planned to help us meet our curriculum aims and are a key time for learning and reflection. The focus might be on one of our key school values, a British value or for us to gain understanding of cultures and traditions. On Wednesday, the whole school comes together for our singing assembly and on Friday we always recognise our learning and achievements during the week in our Celebration assembly. Note change of time below...

### THE FRIDAY CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

**Due to our new Reading Lessons being on the timetable every morning, the time of the weekly Celebration Assembly is changing to 2.30 pm.**

**It will still be on a Friday and parents/carers are all still very, very welcome!**

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I hope that you found this Curriculum Newsletter of use and look forward to the March publication which will have a subject focus on **Maths** through school.