



Key Stage 1 & 2 - A Thematic Approach to the Curriculum

As a teaching staff we have decided to teach some areas of the curriculum at Key Stages 1, 2 & 3 through a thematic approach.

We aim to provide our pupils with the ability to meet the unknown challenges of the twenty first century. We focus on developing pupil's learning capacity so that they can become positive, responsible citizens. They can at the same time develop their knowledge and skills and ability to co-operate with others to be independent learners.

Our continued aim is for our curriculum to be the best for our pupils. We want it to be exciting, interesting and engaging so that pupils are curious and want to learn.

We also want our curriculum to be about raising standards. We place great emphasis on teaching basic skills, with a focus on improving key subject skills. This is so the pupils gain the subject knowledge, skills and understanding appropriate to their stage of development. It can be a powerful vehicle to promote cross-curricular skills including independence and the key skill areas of ICT/computing, communication, problem solving (resilience), teamwork and improving own performance & learning. Themes will be supported by visits outside of the classroom.

At Key Stages 1 and 2, Foundation Subjects are integrated into the class theme. Across Key Stages Spanish is taught as our modern foreign language. PSHE, Citizenship and Music support each theme wherever possible. Maths, English, Science, Computing and PE are taught as discrete lessons, but take opportunities to support the themes where appropriate. Maths and English are usually taught in the Basic Skills sessions, which are timetabled for the early morning sessions on Monday to Friday. The rationale behind the thematic approach is that, whilst ensuring each child receives a broad and balanced curriculum, there is a cohesive link between many of the subject areas, which helps the pupils to gain a greater insight into a given topic. It is the responsibility of the class teacher to ensure that each subject area is covered during the school year. Subject leaders will have a monitoring role in this.

Assessment at Key Stages One and Two

The main form of assessment at Key Stages 1 and 2 is B Squared. Children are base-lined in all subject areas shortly after their arrival at Knowsley Central School. Staff update their BSquared assessments on a termly basis to ensure that they are

up to date for the Parents' Evening in February and again for the Annual Reviews. Evidence may be in the form of written work or worksheets, in checklists or photographs, depending on the individual cognitive ability of each child. Monitoring and moderation is carried out by the subject leaders and leaders of school.

Assessment is a continuous process and lesson planning builds on current levels of attainment. For some children, self assessment is also encouraged. The personal statement of all children, presented in their Annual Review document, is an indicator of their own self assessment.

For some children, Standard Attainment Tests or Tasks are used at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 in English and Maths, the results of which are reported to parents.