



Bowerhill Primary School
Halifax Road
Bowerhill
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Curriculum Development

Dear Parents/Carers,

From January 2023, we have introduced a new curriculum which covers most of the subjects outside of Maths and English (Science, History, Geography, Computing, Art and Design and Technology) in Years 1-6. In Early Years, the objectives in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework have been matched to the new thematic units.

If you would like to know more about the process we have undertaken in developing the design of our new curriculum, you are able to re-watch the Crowdcast with Myself and Miss Polan from December here <https://www.crowdcast.io/c/bowerhillcurriculumchanges>

This pack contains a lot of information. The intention is for you to keep this and refer back to it if you have any questions.

The New Approach

The main difference that the children will see with our new curriculum compared to the previous curriculum is that the afternoons will look different. We have moved to a **thematic approach** which means the children's learning is all centred around a theme rather than individual subjects which focus on different topics. Children will still learn individual subjects, and this will be made clear to them, but the lessons flow into each other.

Given that the vast majority of our children attend Melksham Oak Community School once they complete Year 6, we have worked with their leadership team and Heads of Department. We provided our plans for the content of our curriculum in Years 5 and 6 and they have input what they would like us to cover in addition so that our children have the best possible start to their Secondary education.

Dimensions

We have partnered with Dimensions Curriculum who have produced their "Learning Means the World" curriculum. Dimensions have expertly set out the content of the themes, ensuring there is National Curriculum coverage.

The knowledge and skills within their framework are clearly sequenced so that the children build on the work they have completed in previous years and it sets the children up for the what they will learn in the future.

We have chosen Dimensions to partner with because their vision of what a curriculum should be and contain clearly aligns with the school community curriculum vision following consultation with staff at all levels, parents, governors and children.



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Curriculum Drivers

All schools have the flexibility to design a curriculum outside of this to meet the needs of their school community and give the children the Cultural Capital (the essential knowledge they need to prepare them for future success). Our 4 curriculum drivers are the broad areas of Cultural Capital we believe our children need to learn about in order to be successful in their future education. These are:

- Communication
- Conservation
- Conflict
- Culture

The children across the whole school will focus on a thematic unit that fits into each of these drivers for 6 weeks each year at the same time. This brings a coherence that allows the school to talk about these drivers together in assemblies. The table below will provide more information about when the children will learn about the drivers throughout the year.

Important Information for Parents

WhISK

Before each core thematic unit in Years 1-6, we will post the WhISK (What I should Know) sheet on Class Dojo, hopefully you will have seen these already. The WhISK contains all of the key knowledge, skills and vocabulary that the children will be assessed on at the end of the unit. This is for your information but also to talk about at home, giving you a reference point with what you children are learning at school.

Open Classrooms

Now we are out of Covid restrictions, we want to open our doors to our school community and showcase what our new curriculum looks like for you. At Parents' Evenings you get to see the children's Maths and English books and open classrooms will provide an insight into what your children have been learning in other curriculum areas.

Authentic Outcomes





The next phase of our curriculum plan is to introduce more authentic outcomes to bring the children's learning to life and give it purpose. We have started this process with our new partnership with Wiltshire School of Gymnastics and we have some exciting industry experts coming in to visit our school over the coming months.

If you would like to get involved from an industry point of view and would like to visit the school as an expert to bring the children's learning to life, please get in touch via Class Dojo. We already have a chocolate engineer and a financial advisor booked in for this year!

Yours Sincerely

Chris Light
Principal

Themes Across the Year Groups

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Theme 1 6 weeks  Communication	"Happy to Be Me" <i>All about me</i>	"Happily Ever After" <i>Fairy Tales</i>	"Inter-nation Media Station" <i>Media/Broadcasting</i>	"That's All Folks" <i>Film and Animation</i>	"Lightning Speed" <i>The World Wide Web</i>	"Mission Control" <i>Earth and Beyond</i>	"A World of Bright Ideas" <i>Inventions and Developments</i>
Theme 2 3 weeks	"Come and Join the Celebration"	"Children's Champion" <i>The Story of Thomas Bernardo</i>	"Paddington's Passport" <i>Geography</i>	Rocky the Findosaur <i>Science</i>	"May the Force Be With You" <i>Science</i>	"Go With the Flow" <i>Science</i>	"In Your Element" <i>Geography</i>
Theme 3 3 weeks	"The Spirit of Christmas"	"Royal Patrons" <i>The Story of Victoria and Elizabeth II</i>	"Dancing Spy" <i>The Story of Josephine Baker</i>	"Lindow Man" <i>The Story of Prehistoric Man</i>	"Viking Warrior" <i>The Story of Ragnar Lothbrok</i>	"Pharoah Queen" <i>The Story of Hatshepsut</i>	"Time Team" <i>Geography</i>
Theme 4 6 Weeks  Conflict	"Help is at Hand"	"Unity in the Community" <i>Where I belong</i>	"Land Ahoy" <i>Pirates</i>	"Athens Vs Sparta" <i>Conflict in Ancient Greece</i>	"Law and Order" <i>Rules and Rights</i>	"You're Not Invited!" <i>Invaders and Settlers</i>	"Wars of the World" <i>Wars: Past and Present</i>
Theme 5 3 weeks	"Animal Crackers"	"Never Eat Shredded Wheat" <i>Geography</i>	"Record Breaker" <i>The Story of Ranulph Fiennes</i>	"Founding Father" <i>The Story of Henry Dunant</i>	"Saxon King" <i>The Story of Harold Godwinson</i>	"The Rescuers" <i>The Story of Heroes of the Titanic</i>	"True Crime?" <i>The Pendle Witches"</i>
Theme 6 6 weeks  Culture	"Under the Sea" <i>Stories of Friendship</i>	"Come Fly With Me!" <i>Arctic Circle</i>	"Zero to Hero" <i>Inspirational Figures</i>	"Come Fly With Me!" <i>Africa</i>	"Cry Freedom!" <i>All About Slavery</i>	"Come Fly With Me!" <i>America</i>	"I Have a Dream..." <i>Discrimination and Prejudice</i>
Theme 7 6 weeks  Conservation	"What on Earth...?" <i>Looking After Things</i>	"Light Up the World" <i>The Sun- Light and Heat</i>	"Going Wild!" <i>All About Animals</i>	"Under the Canopy" <i>Rainforests</i>	"Picture Our Planet" <i>Photo Series</i>	"Full of Beans" <i>Energy</i>	"Global Warning" <i>Waste and Pollution</i>
Theme 8 3 weeks	"If You Go Down to the Woods..."	"The Visionary" <i>The Story of Ada Lovelace</i>	"Jurassic Hunter" <i>The Story of Mary Anning</i>	"Out and About" <i>Geography</i>	"Window on the World" <i>Geography</i>	"British Bulldog" <i>The Story of Winston Churchill</i>	"Moving on!" <i>Young Enterprise Project</i>