Curriculum Intent

Science

At Clarendon infants we believe children should be encouraged to be curious and inquisitive about the world around them. We aim to create a sense of awe and wonder whilst feeding a thirst for knowledge. Our science curriculum will encourage respect for our natural environment and living organisms and an understanding of our responsibilities and impact on the environment around us. We will explore the interconnectivity of our local and world environmental communities and habitats. The children's' natural curiosity will be nurtured through offering rich opportunities to explore the world around them through hands on, science based investigations.

Teachers create a positive attitude to science learning within their classrooms and reinforce an expectation that all children are capable of achieving high standards in science. Our whole school approach to the teaching and learning of science involves the following;

- Science will be taught in blocks, planned in year groups and be focused on a hands-on approach.
- Through our planning, we involve problem solving opportunities that allow children to find out for themselves. Children are encouraged to ask their own questions and be given opportunities to use their scientific skills and research to discover the answers. This curiosity is celebrated within the classroom on working walls displaying quotes, pictures and photographs evidencing investigations and questions.
- Planning involves teachers creating engaging, practical lessons, often involving high-quality resources to aid understanding of conceptual knowledge.
- Teachers use precise questioning in class to test conceptual knowledge and skills, and assess children regularly to identify those children with gaps in learning, so that all children keep up.
- Assessment will be based on questioning, improvement and notes made by children in their books. Evidence will be gathered through drawing and limited written output, conversations with children during learning (evidenced on post-it notes), photographs, and observations made by teaching staff. Children will self-assess their investigations providing a 'what I could improve' answer.
- We build upon the learning and skill development of the previous years. As the children's knowledge and understanding increases, and they become more proficient in selecting, using scientific equipment, collating and interpreting results, and they become increasingly confident in their growing ability to come to conclusions based on real evidence.

- Working Scientifically skills are explicitly taught and embedded into each unit to ensure these skills are being developed throughout the children's school career and new vocabulary and challenging concepts are introduced through direct teaching.
- Teachers find opportunities to develop children's understanding of their surroundings by accessing outdoor learning and workshops with experts.
- Children are offered trips and visitors to complement and broaden the curriculum. These are purposeful and link with the knowledge being taught in class.
- Regular events, such as Science Week or project days, such as Nature Day, allow all pupils to come off-timetable, to provide broader provision and the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills.

This approach at Clarendon Infants results in a fun, engaging, high-quality science education, that provides children with the foundations and knowledge for understanding the world. Our engagement with the local environment ensures that children learn through varied and first hand experiences of the world around them. Learning outside the classroom is embedded throughout the science curriculum. Through trips and interactions with experts, children have the understanding that science has changed our lives and that it is vital to the world's future prosperity.