

Curriculum

At Hethersett Woodside we follow a school designed skills curriculum. We have mapped all of the skills from the National Curriculum across all ages. Our long term and medium term plans indicate which skills are taught at each point across the year. This ensures we have progress and continuity across our year groups.

English

Literacy is taught daily in school and includes shared and guided reading and writing, phonics teaching and an awareness of grammar. Each literacy session is divided into direct whole class teaching and small group teaching.

Reading

- We encourage children to enjoy books and regard reading as a real pleasure.
- We offer a wide range of books, carefully selected for the quality of the text and illustrations.
- Our core reading scheme is Read Write Inc. which is extended by a variety of other schemes.
- Reading skills are taught daily in whole class and group reading activities.
- Children are most successful in reading if they are supported at home as well as at school. (Each child will be given a Home School Sharing Book which contains hints to help parents support their child with reading and wider learning)

Speaking and Listening

We encourage children to become confident speakers and considerate listeners. Children are encouraged, through the use of role play, enquiry, philosophy and drama to use language in imaginative ways, which also helps to express their ideas and feelings.

Writing

We try to make writing opportunities purposeful so that children have a reason to write. We use elements of 'Talk for writing' and 'Big write' as well as following the expectations of the National curriculum. Children are taught to use self assessment techniques and personal targets to improve their writing.

Handwriting

Emphasis is placed on teaching a neat, legible style of handwriting and the children are encouraged to develop a sense of pride in the presentation of their work. By the end of Y2 children will have experienced joined up writing.

Mathematics

We follow the prescribed blocks of study in the National Curriculum. Maths is taught daily through whole class and small group teaching sessions. Children are taught through the use of a variety of maths resources. Children are encouraged to use and apply the skills they are taught to solve maths problems in class and as part of every day life. We encourage mathematical dialogues and use a 'multi sensory' approach to solving maths problems. The use of 'Numicon' is embedded across the school.



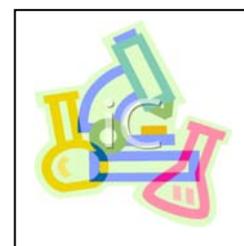
Science

The Science curriculum is designed to help children acquire scientific knowledge and understanding through a variety of topics. These include forces, materials, plants and living things. The study of these areas helps develop the necessary scientific skills which include:

- * Investigation, problem solving and 'fair' testing
- * Scientific enquiry
- * The development of a good basic scientific knowledge
- * The ability to communicate and record results of their findings

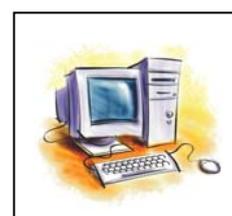
Through an enquiry approach to the science curriculum we aim to help children to develop a positive, caring attitude to the environment.

Science is taught with an emphasis placed on a variety of fun and interesting practical activities which encourage the children to enquire about the world around them.



Information and Communication Technology

We believe that ICT has a very vital role to play in this generation of young children. Computers already form an important part of their lives and this role will be even greater in years to come. At Woodside we have a mini suite of computers in each class base enabling ICT to be an integral part of each lesson.



We follow the National Curriculum and give children experience in using the computer to write stories, to write about curriculum activities, to develop mathematical and scientific concepts as well as informing them about the past or about the environment in which they live. In addition the children are given opportunities to control robotic devices, use musical keyboards, and take photographs and make films.

All classrooms are well resourced. The classrooms are networked within school and connected to the Internet. Older children are taught how to gain access to this information system, with strict supervision. The computers are protected by a filter provided by the Local Authority. The school has 6 inter-active whiteboards which are located in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms.

Design and Technology



In Design and Technology, children are taught new skills and techniques as well as practising those learnt from other areas of the curriculum. These skills are then used creatively in 'design and make assignments' using a range of tools and materials. Children are encouraged to evaluate their finished work to see which elements were successful, and how they could improve their work.

Art and Design

Children are given opportunities to represent in visual form what they observe, remember and imagine. They are encouraged to work practically and imaginatively with a variety of materials, tools and methods, exploring the elements of art and design, including colour mixing, texture, pattern and form in two and three dimensions. They are encouraged to talk about their work and how they achieved it. Children are helped to:

- * experience and talk about different examples of art, craft and design from a variety of cultures, periods and places.
- * describe works of art, craft and design in simple terms and explain what they think and feel about them.



Music

We follow a structured programme for music called 'Music Express'. Each year children are given opportunities to listen to and discuss many different styles of music. Whenever possible we arrange for visiting musicians to perform to the children.

Each child also takes part in a weekly singing lesson. A wide repertoire of songs are sung, ranging from songs from other countries to rounds and two part songs.

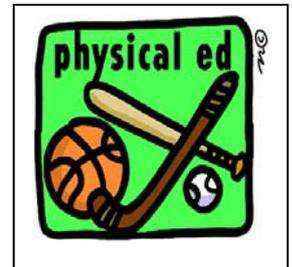
At a nominal cost, children can have violin and Ukulele lessons in year 1 and 2.

We offer children opportunities to perform some of their songs to parents and the wider community at various times of the year.



Physical Education

“Physical Education activates the brain and gives energy for everything else. It is about children increasing their capabilities, potential and developing an understanding of themselves, their limitations and learning how to work with and how to respect others.” (National Curriculum)



There are three main areas covered in Physical Education. These are games, gymnastics and dance. All children take part in planned PE sessions each week developing a range of skills in each area. Hethersett Woodside also belongs to the Norwich School Sports Partnership and takes part in a host of PE activities put on by this organisation. These include multi skills festivals for all age groups, dance shows and inter school festivals.

Children wear shorts and a T-shirt which are kept in a P.E. bag and hung on their peg. Suitable footwear is also required for the summer months when many of the games lessons will be taken outside. In the summer term a sports day is organised and enjoyed by the children and their parents/carers.

Geography

The Geography curriculum provides the children with the opportunity to discuss and make sense of the human and natural world around them. The children study many different aspects of geography which include the area around our school and much further afield. Through these investigations children learn a variety of skills:

- * The ability to ask and answer simple questions relating to their work
- * An understanding of where places are located and why they are there
- * Learning the importance of caring for the environment
- * Skills such as reading simple maps and plans and recording their work

These skills are taught through many different interesting topics which sometimes include trips out of school.



History

Children develop an awareness of the past and learn about lifestyles in the past. They find out about significant men, women and children and events from the recent and more distant past, including those from both the U.K. and abroad.

They listen and respond to stories and use a range of sources of information to help them to ask and answer questions, as well as identifying that the past is represented in different ways. The children are taught to recognise why people did things and why events happened and what happened as a result.



Religious Education

The Religious Education curriculum is taught in accordance with the new Norfolk Agreed Syllabus, a copy of which may be viewed at the school on request.

The children are taught about two major religions in a way that is appropriate to their age and level of understanding.

Assemblies provide opportunities for moral and spiritual development through the use of a variety of poems, stories, music and occasional visits from representatives of various religions.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship. Please talk to the Headteacher about alternative provision provided as this will depend on individual circumstances.

Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship

Personal, Social and Emotional Education (PSED) is taught in the Foundation stage and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is taught in Key Stage 1. It is taught via a planned scheme of work from the SEAL (social, emotional Aspects of learning) curriculum. It aims to encourage children to think about how to:

- develop confidence
- take responsibility
- play an active role as citizens
- develop and maintain a healthy and safe lifestyle
- develop good relationships and respect differences between people.

At Hethersett Woodside we feel it is important that children learn about making good choices and we teach exciting and interesting lessons which inspire and encourage children to think about and discuss their feelings and viewpoints. We encourage good manners and politeness throughout the school.