



OVERVIEW OF THE CURRICULUM

Science

Children will be encouraged to inquire and develop an understanding of nature and the processes and methods of science through as many 'hands-on' experiences as possible. There is a strong emphasis on the development of investigation skills during lessons. We aim to help children develop a sense of excitement and curiosity towards science which will encourage them to explain their observations or predict how things might behave.

During each area of study, children will be expected to develop a deep understanding which they can explain using a wide range of technical terminology. Once children have gained a good level of understanding, they will be urged to apply their mathematical knowledge to collect, present and analyse data.

Computing

What was previously called 'ICT' has now been changed to 'Computing.' The current National Curriculum, places a greater emphasis on the need for children to be able to understand and write algorithms, create and debug simple programs and to use programming and coding. We aim to equip our children with the knowledge of safe internet use, through all Key Stages, and we place great importance on their understanding of the internet as both a tool for education and research, as well as something that is part of their everyday lives. We continue to teach children the skills to be computer literate across a variety of software programs, aiming for them to have transferable skills they can use in the future.

We believe that computing should be embedded within all aspects of the curriculum and so, where appropriate, the subject is also taught and used in a cross curricular manner to enrich and support their learning further.

All children have access to computers in school to support their learning through the use of the computer suite, several iPads and a class set of notebooks. Interactive whiteboards are in every classroom to promote learning. We use digital cameras and videoing equipment where necessary to deliver our curriculum and to enhance teaching and learning.

Religious Education

The teaching of RE is based on the Wakefield Agreed Syllabus, through which the children develop their knowledge of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism, as well as being made aware of Sikhism and Buddhism. This encourages them to recognise the right of people to hold diverse beliefs and values, and develop positive attitudes of respect and tolerance towards other people.

The children are also encouraged to develop an appreciation of the world in which we live and to reflect upon their responsibility towards it. RE aims to provide opportunities to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.



The scheme of work on which we base our lessons was updated and amended according to the Wakefield Agreed Syllabus. The school has strong links with several local places of worship, including the Five Towns Fellowship and St Michael's Church and these continue to be a valued resource. Several classes visit during the year to enable the children to gain first-hand experience of the Christian faith.

History

At Half Acres our study of History aims to inspire children's curiosity to know more about the past, both of Britain and the world and understand how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world. Pupils are encouraged to think like historians and there is a strong emphasis on developing skills including historical enquiry. There is a strong emphasis on developing children's understanding of chronology, interpretations of evidence, changes within a time and across time periods and cause and consequence.

In **Key Stage 1** the children begin to ask and answer questions and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in the past. Events both within living memory and beyond this are studied including Bonfire Night and the Great Fire of London. They will learn about a range of historical figures including Grace Darling, Neil Armstrong and The Wright Brothers. They also study and compare changes in toys and in seaside holidays over time.

Key Stage 2 will continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British and world history. They will be taught about:

- Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age
- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient Greece
- The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain including the locality
- Britain's settlement by Anglo Saxons and Scots
- The Viking and Anglo Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England
- Mayan civilization

Geography

In **Key Stage 1**, our geography curriculum aims to develop the children's knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. Learning about physical and human features of places is central. Another key aspect is using world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, oceans, continents and other countries studied. Pupils begin to use simple compass directions to identify places on a map, aerial photos to recognise landmarks and study the geography of our school and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment. The children learn about the weather.

In **Key Stage 2**, the children will extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This includes the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.



In order to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world, they use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key – including the use of Ordnance Survey maps. Fieldwork is used to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using maps, plans, graphs, sketch maps and digital technologies.

Art

Art is taught from Foundation Stage to Year 6, with skills progressing through the range of media including paint, textiles and pastel. The children draw with pastel, charcoal, pencil and ink. They learn the skills of printing, sculpting and collage as well as painting and sketching. 3D is explored through the use of clay and a variety of malleable materials.

Children explore the ideas and meanings in the work of artists, craftspeople and designers, usually linked to the termly topic.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology prepares children to take part in the development of tomorrow's rapidly changing world. It encourages children to become creative problem solvers, both as individuals and as part of a team.

Through their study the children will learn the skills of design, making and evaluating, whilst at the same time, learning how to select and use appropriate tools, following safe procedures.

The curriculum consists of:

- Food and cooking eg making smoothies, recipes from World War II
- Textiles eg Making glove puppets, making Tudor money bags
- Mechanisms eg designing and making Cam toys
- Materials eg design and make food packaging
- Construction eg bridges
- Electricals and electronics

Music

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music. Also, they develop the skills to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

The children in **Key Stage 2** have opportunities to be taught by peripatetic music teachers, to play brass, strings, guitar and woodwind instruments. Children in Year 2 are part of the wider opportunities scheme, where the whole class learn to play percussion.

Year 4 and 5 participate in the annual Young Voices concert.



Physical Education

Through PE we aim to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding so that they can perform with increasing confidence in a range of physical activities. These include dance, games, gymnastics, athletics, swimming, and outdoor and adventurous activities. Year 5 undertake a five day residential at Low Mill Activity Centre which involves a lot of physical and adventurous opportunities.

Each class has at least two PE lessons a week and Year 5 walk to the local swimming baths and receive a 45 minute lesson each week.

Each teacher will work alongside a sports coach over a half term to develop their expertise in the delivery and assessment of targeted aspects of PE.

PSHCE and Citizenship

Half Acres attaches great importance to Personal, Social and Health Education, and Citizenship in order to help pupils to develop skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

The curriculum covers three core areas which are:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Relationships
3. Living in the Wider World

However, these aspects of education are often developed through SEAL materials (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and a Seals lesson takes place every week.

Sex and Relationship Education

Sex Education is taught within the Science and PSHCE Curriculum. In **Key Stage 1** children will be made aware that humans produce babies, which develop into children and then into adults. **Key Stage 2** children will study the main stages of the human life cycle. The Governors' agreed policy recognises that great care should be taken to match sex education provision to the maturity of the pupils involved, and that children's questions are handled sensitively.

The policy also acknowledges that parents have the right to withdraw their child from the school's programme of Sex Education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science order. The Sex and Relationship Policy is available for parents to read by contacting the school.