

**Vision: Everyone can step into the unknown and excel.**

**Our Mission: We provide a well rounded education by inspiring and nurturing resilient individuals to be happy and confident with the choices they make in life.**

**Our Values: Achieve Respect Resilience**

### **Curriculum INTENT**

Our curriculum at Heron Way uses well thought out and planned learning experiences, encouraging our children to grasp well-chosen knowledge that is built on over time. We have developed a curriculum that challenges the children to transfer their knowledge and skills across different disciplines and concepts. Within our curriculum we ensure that the children have the opportunity to analyse, evaluate, problem solve and be creative. We ensure these key skills are interwoven with knowledge to ensure that the children make sustained progress. Our curriculum empowers children with the knowledge they are entitled to and is structured in such a way that it makes remembering inevitable. The curriculum references to previously studied content and then builds on and develops this previous learning, as well as strengthening the ability to remember.

We extend beyond the academic, technical and vocational aspects of our curriculum; nurturing children to personally develop in many diverse aspects of life.

### **Curriculum IMPLEMENTATION**

We have a curriculum that children cannot help but remember. We have a very strong belief that:

- Knowledge is important to all thinking
- We understand new things in relation to what we already know
- Retrieving knowledge helps us to remember it for longer

We ensure that our teaching commits learning to long-term memory. Our knowledge maps ensure that children remember key concepts by revisiting them through their curricular journey at Heron Way. Our curriculum works on the idea that factual knowledge precedes skill. Children need factual knowledge on which to base their inquiring, evaluative and exploratory approaches. Skills are therefore developed and emerge from a body of knowledge.

Formative and summative assessments work alongside retrieval practice. Our curriculum uses cycles of high-frequency, low stakes...review to enable children to practise retrieving specific knowledge.

### **Curriculum IMPACT**

Our curriculum sets out a concise programme for the cumulative building of knowledge and skills. We regularly evaluate the impact of our curriculum by assessing its success on the acquisition of childrens' knowledge and understanding. Our assessment identifies gaps in learning, we can articulate these and explain how we ensure those gaps are closed. Children regularly revisit, refine and develop their knowledge; in return we revisit, refine and adapt our curriculum to ensure that it evolves and is fresh to impact on the child of today to ensure they are ready for the challenges tomorrow.

## **EYFS - Quick and Flying Starts Within a Safe and Caring Environment**

Early years is both unique and hugely important in a child's success at Heron Way. We believe strongly that it represents a significant milestone in a child's life. Success in reading, writing and mathematics is built on a strong foundation in the prime areas, as well as empowering children to take on the increasing challenge of the specific, content-led areas of the wider curriculum. Our staff have high ambitions and expectations for children when they start school; developing the learning experiences the children had previously undertaken.

Our Early Years curriculum is bespoke for each child at Heron Way. The curriculum responds naturally to the individual - focusing on the knowledge requirement of every child so that they can flourish in the future and not be left behind. Our Reception experience prepares the children for the demands of Year 1 and the increased expectations of the 2014 national curriculum. We ensure the children make "quick starts" at the beginning of the year by developing their confidence, concentration and ability to listen and follow instructions. Children at Heron Way are highly successful in their learning across all subjects; this curiosity is achieved through a "flying start" in understanding the essential skills of reading, writing and mathematics.

Through our Early Years curriculum we ensure children quickly become part of Heron Way School. We believe it is crucial that children take part in whole school events, "buddy-up" with older role-models and celebrate success along with the community. This unique start generates a love of learning, enjoyment and pride of the school and a commitment to resilience, achievement and respect.

## **Vocabulary**

Heron way primary school is a vocabulary rich environment. We do not put an emphasis on a deep development of vocabulary in just the core subjects - we believe in extending the children's vocabulary across the curriculum.

- Vocabulary should be taught directly and indirectly.
- Taught vocabulary should include both subject specific and 'everyday' terminology
- Repetition and multiple exposure to vocabulary are important.
- Learning in rich context is valuable for vocabulary learning.
- Teachers are not dependent on a single vocabulary learning strategy.
- More complex vocabulary is extended through the reading of quality texts - at Heron Way we believe that new vocabulary should be gleaned from both fiction and non-fiction texts.

**Our curriculum allows children to build on prior knowledge to enable them to comprehend new material.**

## **The Skills of Reading, Writing and Mathematics**

*'The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.'*

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*"With all of their rich complexity and depth, words make us who we are and they help us become who we could be. We should want every child under our care to be able to recognise every picture they see, to write their lives, read about their lived reality and to speak into life their very hopes and dreams."*

**Alex Quigley – Closing the Vocabulary Gap**

At Heron Way Primary School, we believe that literacy and communication are key life skills. Through the English curriculum, we will help children develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively through spoken and written language and equip them with the skills to become lifelong learners. We want children to enjoy and appreciate literature and its rich variety.

Literacy is at the heart of all children's learning. Literacy enables children to communicate with others effectively for a variety of purposes and to examine their own and others' experiences, feelings and ideas, giving these order and meaning. Because literacy is central to children's intellectual, emotional and social development it has an essential role across the curriculum and helps pupils' learning to be coherent and progressive.

**MISTAKES  
ALLOW  
THINKING TO  
HAPPEN**

At Heron Way our aim is for all children to enjoy mathematics and have a secure and deep understanding of fundamental mathematical concepts and procedures when they leave us to go to secondary school. However, we also want our children to see the mathematics that surrounds them every day and enjoy developing vital life skills in this subject.

#### **Aims for our pupils**

- To develop a growth mindset and positive attitude towards mathematics.
- To become confident and proficient with number, including fluency with mental calculation and look for connections between numbers.
- To become problem solvers, who can reason, think logically, work systematically and apply their knowledge of mathematics.
- To develop their use of mathematical language.
- To become independent learners and to work co-operatively with others.
- To appreciate real life contexts to learning in mathematics.

The above overview is by no means an exhaustive list; it gives a guide to how we provide every child with the opportunity to succeed in learning and life. We deploy specialist teachers to enrich our computing, P.E, M.F.L, Music and Science learning. Outside visitors and trips provide first-hand enrichment experiences. The same aspirational outcome is expected of every child and a multitude of support mechanisms are in place to ensure curriculum equity.

**Heron Way Primary School is a forward thinking, innovative and research rich place to learn and work. This is reflected in the curriculum on offer and in the outcomes for the children. We are committed to adapting the design of our curriculum to specifically meet the needs of the children at our school.**

