

THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The curriculum is designed to develop the full potential of our children and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The mission of our school is evident in all aspects of school life, with each individual child valued and respected. Further information can be found about the daily life in our school from our learning platform that we are developing www.brookvaleprimary.co.uk

The school follows the National Curriculum 'Programmes of Study'. The core subjects of English, Maths, Science and ICT are given priority in the allocation of teaching time and expenditure.

We deliver a very creative curriculum. This is a topic based approach which is skill-based and divided into six broad areas. We ensure that it is exciting and meaningful for our pupils helping them to learn skills that can be transferred across the subjects. Quality resources are in place to support teaching and learning.



Each area of the curriculum is monitored by the head/deputy headteacher and the co-ordinator, to ensure that children receive their entitlement.

All staff have a good working knowledge of the National Curriculum and keep up to date with current developments by attending regular training courses.

At Brookvale Primary School we also place a great emphasis upon the development of social/emotional skills. This helps our children to achieve their potential as valued and responsible members of our community. The work in this area is covered by our programme for Personal, Social, Moral and Health Education. Our school has been awarded all strands of the National Healthy Schools Standard each year since 2005 and Active Sports Mark annually since 2006.

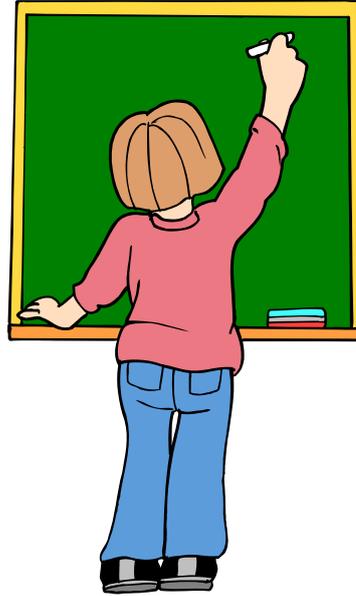
Teaching Organisation

All teachers employ a variety of teaching strategies, according to the requirements of each subject and the needs of the child. There is a balance between whole class teaching, group work and individual programmes of work.

Pupils are grouped according to levels of ability in Maths. This means that work is planned and closely to the needs of the individual child. vary the pace and provide extension activities for or offer re-enforcement in smaller steps for the may need extra support.

All pupils know and work towards their own targets, which are assessed and updated each Pupil progress is tracked and vulnerable children made expected progress are identified. Strategies place to monitor these children.

At all times we consider children as individuals with strengths and areas for development.



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curriculum half- term. who have not are then put in

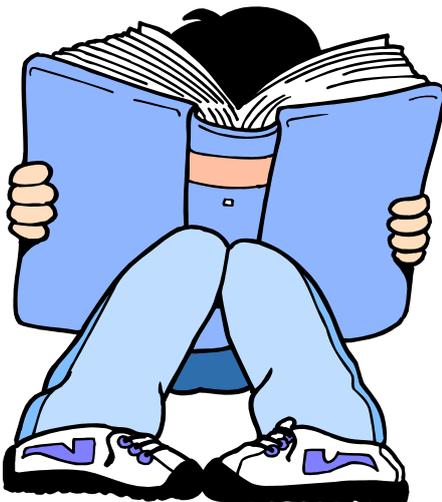
their own

English

The study of English develops children's abilities to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes, so using language to learn and communicate ideas, views and feelings. It enables children to express themselves creatively and imaginatively, as they become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama, as well as non-fiction and media texts.

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in English lessons, following Primary Strategy guidelines. We do this through daily lessons that have a high proportion of whole-class and group teaching.

We believe language to be the most important element of the curriculum. We want the children to have confidence in themselves, in their ideas and in their ability to communicate. A variety of reading schemes are used, and a wide selection of good quality children's literature. All reading resources are screened and matched to the interest and ability of the child. Our reading schemes and policy are constantly reviewed and updated where necessary. We encourage the use of individual, group and whole class reading activities.



The children are encouraged to take books home on a regular basis from their earliest days in school. Parents can then support their child with reading and provide the re-enforcement that is essential for reading development. All children have a home/school reading diary.

We feel that it is important for children to develop writing in different forms for a variety of specific purposes. The use of systematic 'synthetic phonics' is one of the teaching approaches we use to support children in the development of reading and writing skills. We place great emphasis on accuracy in spelling, homework is provided on a regular basis.

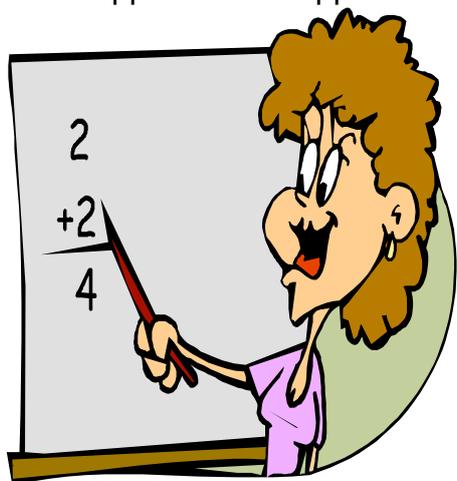
At Brookvale we regard all lessons as an opportunity for language development so that every curriculum subject has a contribution to make. In P.E., it may be listening skills in the receiving of instructions for activities. In Science it may be learning to record observations objectively. In Mathematics it may be acquisition of the specialised

vocabulary required. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to become as fully literate as possible.

Maths

Mathematics teaches us how to make sense of the world around us through developing a child's ability to calculate, to reason and to solve problems. It enables children to understand and appreciate relationships and pattern in both number and space in their everyday lives. Through their growing knowledge and understanding, children learn to appreciate the contribution made by many cultures to the development and application of mathematics.

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in mathematics lessons. Our principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding in mathematics. We do this through a daily lesson that has a high proportion of whole-class and group-direct teaching. During these lessons we encourage children to ask as well as answer mathematical questions. They have the opportunity to use a wide range of resources such as number lines, number squares, digit cards and small apparatus to support their work. Children use ICT in mathematics lessons where it will



enhance their learning, as in modelling ideas and methods. Wherever possible, we encourage the children to use and apply their learning in everyday situations.

In all classes children are set and work in ability groups. In this way we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies – in some lessons through differentiated group work and in other lessons by organising the children to work in pairs on open-ended problems or games. We use classroom assistants to support some children and to ensure that work is matched to the needs of individuals.

We try to develop a successful foundation for future learning and to present children with the challenge that Mathematics offers. We believe it is fundamental to provide the experience of fun, which is so often lacking in this subject.

Science

Science for children means exploring, discovering and investigating the world around them. These activities help children gather the experience they need to understand the world in which we live.



At Brookvale we aim to make these experiences as broad and varied as possible. We encourage the children to observe, ask/answer questions, experiment or investigate, find patterns in observation, reason logically and communicate their findings.

This will lead to children learning to work as scientists, planning and undertaking scientific investigations.

The children work on topics and teachers use the Scheme of Work for Science to support their planning.

At each stage, the work builds upon what the children already know. The different topics are supported with published materials and when appropriate, use is made of environmental visits to support the children's learning eg museums, videos and computer simulations etc,

Information and Communication Technology I.C.T.

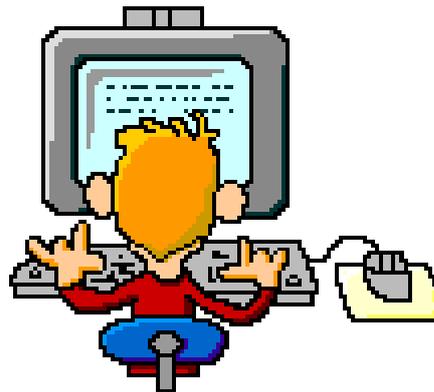
Through teaching ICT we equip children to a rapidly changing world where work and activities are increasingly transformed by We enable them to find, explore, analyse, and present information. We also focus on the skills necessary for children to be able to information in a discriminating and effective skills are a major factor in enabling children to creative and independent learners.

At Brookvale we have established a computer houses 18 PCs with an interactive white board.

wide variety of programs, available both for the teaching of ICT skills and for the support of other curriculum areas.

Computers are also available for use in each classroom. All PCs are linked to the Internet, which has become a valuable resource. We now have interactive white boards in all of our classrooms, which serve as a very powerful teaching tool.

All pupils have daily access to computers and are able to develop their skills in word processing, data-handling, information research, design control, and can develop modelling skills by using "Roamer", a programmable robot



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Homework

The children will be encouraged to undertake extensions of schoolwork at home. This may involve finding information, collecting articles for lessons, reading, learning spelling or tables plus set work for older children. In the Junior classes, homework diaries are provided to support the children in becoming responsible for their work, in readiness for high school.

Arts Provision

Art, Music, Drama and Dance, offer great opportunities for children to express themselves creatively and emotionally. They also provide a valuable means of developing the children's knowledge of other cultures and enhance their appreciation of all aspects of the arts.



We welcome visits from local artists and poets to enhance the curriculum and ensure that children have access to drama either from visiting groups or from trips to theatres to enjoy music and drama performances.

Each year children from Key Stage 1 take part in the Halton music festival, singing both community and group songs. Throughout the year pupils will take part in assemblies, drama productions etc, which provide a welcome opportunity for parents to join us in celebrating the talents of their children.

Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and relationship education at Brookvale School is based upon pupils having respect for their own bodies and for each other. This begins at an early age in the Reception class, with a topic 'All about Me', and is linked closely with the PSHE curriculum. This theme is carried on in each year group. At times the children acquire specific knowledge about their bodies as part of the Science curriculum.

In Year 5 and Year 6 all children are given the opportunity to see the video entitled "All About Me". The video focuses on all aspects of the children's development during their puberty years. The video is available for parents to preview in school and is available for home loan.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education, which is not part of the National Curriculum orders for science.

Religious Education and Collective Worship

Religious education is taught by the class teacher, following Halton Guidelines. Assembly takes place everyday in a variety of formats. Each Friday a celebration assembly takes place when children share their good work, and certificates of achievement presented. Parents are often invited to join us for assemblies. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from assembly and RE.

Provision for Sport and Physical Activities

Sport and P.E. is an important part of the curriculum. As well as developing children's strength, stamina and co-ordination, it encourages co-operation and self-control.

All children in the school have the opportunity to participate in apparatus work, dance/drama and games skills. They are also encouraged to take part in team games such as netball, rounders, football, kwik cricket, and cross-country, representing our school locally in these events at Inter-School level.

Teams also represent the school in the district School Sports Day and swimming gala. After school clubs allow those children who wish to participate to gain additional skills and develop their team spirit.



Each year we have a School Sports Day in which every child participates in chosen events. Infant children take part in a planned activity afternoon. All parents and carers are invited to accompany their child and join in activities as they wish.

Each week at least two hours are allocated to P.E. and regular training sessions may be held after school as a club activity. Inter-school matches are either played at home or away after school.

The school has a standard football pitch and games field. In summer it is remarked for athletics, rounders or baseball; the playgrounds offer a netball pitch. The school hall is used for gymnastics, dance, indoor games and apparatus work. This year it has also been used for golf sessions!

Swimming lessons are held at Brookvale Recreation Centre on Tuesday afternoon, currently for all year groups in Key Stage 2.

The children walk to and from the Recreation Centre, accompanied by teachers and reliable adults.

We welcome the support of Halton Sports Development team for activities such as cricket and look forward to the development of table tennis, with the support of our local group.

