

We endeavour to create a friendly, happy family atmosphere, welcoming parents, visitors and the wider community into our school to support our core purpose of ensuring all children learn. All members of the Governing Body and the staff feel it is their responsibility to empower every child to achieve academic, social and personal recognition for his or her efforts. We are all committed to developing a learning environment where everyone can create, perform, think, explore and investigate for themselves.

The basic skills of English and Mathematics are critical to a child's education and self esteem and so these are taught every day.

Our children read and write every day, enjoying stories, poetry, information books, letters, diaries, the list is endless. Through sharing books together, the children learn how to spell and use grammar and punctuation. They learn how to be good speakers and listeners in a group and they take a pride in their handwriting.

In Reception to the end of Year 1, the children undertake a phonics programme called Read, Write, Inc which teaches the early skills of sound recognition, blending and segmenting words and writing simple sentences.

In Maths, children are helped to understand how the number system works and what really happens when you add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers. Maths is taught using real life problems with money, measures, time and shape. Emphasis is placed on mental calculations, the multiplication tables, estimation and using manipulatives throughout the school. We hope Mathematics is interesting, fun and exciting in school, inspired by a wide range of interactive resources, Power Maths programme and technology.

Activities linked to spelling, writing and mental arithmetic are sent home on a weekly basis to support these subjects. All children have a reading book to take home every day and share together.

Science in school is experienced first hand through experimentation, discovery and observation. The children are encouraged to be inquisitive, curious and questioning; *"I listen and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand"*. They investigate the human body, plants and animals (Biology), forces, magnetism, electricity, sound and light (Physics), rocks and minerals, solids, liquids and gases (Chemistry), the Earth, Sun and Moon and materials and their properties at various times through the school, building on their knowledge, skills and understanding each time.

Computing prepares the children for a rapidly changing world where work and play have access to developed technical systems. It is mainly concerned with learning how to use and programme computers and software confidently but children also use cameras, ipads and audio equipment. With parental permission, children will use the Internet, spreadsheets, word processor, email and control technology to support and enrich learning across the curriculum. Online Safety is a vital part of the children's learning throughout every year.

Design Technology is a practical subject which involves the children planning, designing, making and evaluating their own products using a variety of materials such as fabric, wood, card, food, techno-kits and recycled rubbish.

Physical Education is vital to our well being and so the children have the opportunity to access two hours of structured physical activity every week. We encourage everyone to enjoy sport and be successful at their level, making participation a positive experience. Dance and gymnastics are also an integral part of our physical education programme. Year 1 and 2 enjoy swimming lessons.

History for our youngest children is all about the changes in their own lives and those of their families, especially their grandparents. Later on they will learn about significant people and events in Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome during the Anglo Saxon and Viking periods. They will also learn about the local history of Willoughby, birthplace of the Tudor Explorer, Captain John Smith. They will learn how to use artefacts, secondary evidence and writings to gain an historical perspective on their studies. Knowledge and understanding will be enriched through visits, visitors and theatre groups, bringing the history alive and visual.

Geography for our youngest children will be all about people and places in their locality and a contrasting area in the British Isles. They will use maps, atlases and photographs to locate places. Later on they will apply their geographical skills to study a range of people and places in the world, looking at the impact of physical and human changes on the environment especially in North and South America..

Art enables all the children to explore and create from observation and the imaginary through painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, printmaking, clay and textiles. Their work is inspired by a variety of famous and local artists and we endeavour to have artists work with the children as often as possible. Our children's work in the Arts has been recognised by the **National Arts Council**.

Music is an opportunity for our children to share their own and others' songs and musical instruments together, often culminating in public performances. They will learn about composers and musicians across the ages and appreciate different genres of music. In Key Stage 2, the children will learn how to read musical notation and play simple pieces with a tuned instrument.

Foreign Languages. Spanish is taught to Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The children will learn to converse, read and write simple sentences about themselves, their families and everyday life. Our local secondary schools teach Spanish at KS3 and so this is a great start to learning a new language.

Religious Education. St. Helena's is a Church of England Voluntarily Controlled School, which means there is a commitment by the Diocesan Education Authority to the organisation and running of the school. Collective worship occurs at 9am each day. We have a close relationship with the Church and celebrate Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas, and Easter at St. Helena's Church. There is also a monthly 'Forest Church' when worship and celebration is taken outside and enjoyed by families.

We follow the Agreed Lincolnshire R.E. syllabus, which supports Christian beliefs and values through the study of the Bible and the life of Jesus. Other faiths, including Islam, Hinduism and Judaism are studied to encourage an understanding and tolerance of different cultures of the world. However, Christianity is the main focus.

Parents who wish their children to have specific religious teaching by a member of the Church can request it and, conversely, parents can also withdraw their child from religious educational activities including acts of Collective Worship.

Our most recent Church Schools inspection graded St Helena's as "outstanding".

Relationships, Sex and Health Education. In accordance with our school aims we believe the teaching of Relationships, Sex and Health Education is a fundamental part of our lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. The learning programme will build upon the work done in Science, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Religious Education.

We hope to teach the children the main stages of the human life cycle, the process of human reproduction in the context of a family-orientated and Christian framework, which includes an understanding of love, faithfulness, forgiveness and reconciliation. Children will be taught about caring relationships in all their forms. A copy of our policy can be obtained from the office and is also available on the website.