



## **AKELEY WOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL: CURRICULUM**

*It is our aim that every pupil should fulfil his or her potential and should enjoy the subjects we teach. We aim for each pupil to leave the Junior school with a sound grounding in speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy together with a good all round knowledge of a wide range of subjects.*

*There is a wide ability at Akeley Wood and we aim to plan lessons and differentiate work so that every pupil can do his or her best.*

*The curriculum provides linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative experience.*

The Junior School offers a broad curriculum appropriate to the ages and aptitudes of its pupils.

### **Infants and Nursery**

In the Nursery and Reception (the Foundation Stage) the pupils' work centres around seven Early Learning Goals which aim to develop the prime areas of Social & Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development and the four specific areas of Knowledge & Understanding of the World, Literacy, Mathematics and Expressive Arts & Design.

Small groups, working with our caring and experienced staff, learn to master the basic skills through play. Manual dexterity is developed through creative activities such as colouring and painting, cutting and construction. Language is stimulated during story telling and other group activities, such as sand and water play.

As each child becomes ready, an early start is made with reading, handwriting and number work. There are also periods of Music, Gymnastics and "Music and Movement", which broaden the children's range of experience and add to their enjoyment of school.

As the children move through the Infants the emphasis is increasingly placed on the basic skills of Literacy and Numeracy, but there is still ample opportunity for play, as well as creative and physical pursuits.

The Read, Write Inc. Phonics Programme has proved a very effective method of helping children to master reading. The children read daily to an adult and enjoy a wide selection of carefully chosen books which are always available in the classrooms or Library.

Handwriting skills are taught from the earliest days and the children progress steadily from tracing the teacher's writing to copying it and finally writing on their own. As they become more competent, they are encouraged to produce their own "news" and stories, at first with the teacher's assistance, then independently.

Number work is introduced through stimulating practical experience. The children first learn to recognize numbers and to count. They then proceed to the skills of addition, subtraction and multiplication followed by work on time, money, shape and measurement.

In science, children's natural interest in the world around them is stimulated and developed. There is an introduction to Food Technology and Drama too.

Art helps to foster both co-ordination and creativity and examples of the children's work can be seen brightening the walls throughout the building. A love of Music is encouraged as well: the children enjoy singing, playing percussion and listening to music.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education is introduced, often in the form of "Circle Time".

For those whose parents wish it, there is the opportunity for children to participate in a weekly class of Ballet or Karate.

Physical development is not neglected either. Each class has regular Gymnastics sessions involving apparatus and floor work, practice in throwing and catching, and team games. Swimming is taught at certain times of the year.

The systematic courses in Literacy and Numeracy begun in the Nursery and Early Years are developed year by year throughout the age ranges

### **Junior**

In Literacy, daily attention is still paid to the development of the children's reading. Their grasp of phonics is extended and they are taught to spell accurately. The English curriculum also includes assignments in creative writing (including poetry), comprehension exercises, the teaching of simple punctuation and grammar, and frequent oral work. Care is taken with the development of children's handwriting, as they move from print to cursive and then from pencil to pen. From Year 3 Spelling, Comprehension and Grammar is taught in sets and writing in classes, with the exception of Years 5 & 6 who have an English set for more able writers.

There is a formal, structured course in Numeracy, though practical study is by no means neglected. There is plenty of practice in the four rules and such topics as fractions and data handling are gradually introduced. Investigations, problem solving and mental arithmetic are all given considerable emphasis. Times tables are expected to be learnt by the end of Year 4. From Year 3 Numeracy is taught in sets.

In Science, children learn how to conduct, observe and record experiments. History and Geography, French (and German/Spanish in Year 6), Religious Education, PSHCE, Art, DT, Food Technology, IT, Music and Physical Education are all part of the curriculum.

The School has a detailed syllabus in each of these subjects.

Preparation is also offered, within the county guidelines, for the Buckinghamshire eleven plus selection tests.

Pupils spend much of their time each day with their own form teacher, although there is also some specialist teaching. In this way the transition from Junior to Senior School is a more gentle one, with the pupils building on the basic skills they have learned with their form teacher as well as embarking on an extended curriculum with more specialist teachers in readiness for secondary education.

Homework is set each night – (up to a maximum of 45 minutes). A homework timetable is published at the beginning of the year. However, it is not our intention for children to be put under too much pressure and we expect pupils to be able to have time for other ‘fun’ activities after school as well.

The curriculum is planned to ensure continuity of progression to the Senior School. Buckinghamshire County Council 11+ familiarisation and practise papers are given to those pupils who opt to take the 11+ exam for entry to local Grammar Schools. (Visit days are arranged for Year 6 to experience some time at their new Year 7 school.)

Forest School is taught from Nursery to Year 6. Nursery to Year 3 receive weekly sessions, Year 4 have access to a weekly Forest School Club and Year 5 & 6 have it on alternate weeks when they are not involved in matches.

### **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

There is an extensive extracurricular programme for all age groups; full details are published termly in the School’s Clubs Brochure. Activities include a wide variety of clubs; I.T., Chess, Art, Crafts, Choir and Orchestra, Drama, Forest School, Food Technology, Sports. The school has a full calendar of matches against other schools. Pupils are encouraged to take up a musical instrument on an individual basis and pupils are entered for music examinations.

Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to take part in the annual holiday trip to Land & Wave, Dorset. Year 5 have a two night residential in the UK or France, Year 4 go to an activity weekend at the Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire and Year 3 have a two day/overnight experience. Year 5 and Year 6 pupils may join an annual AWS ski trip. During the school term other educational trips and theatre visits are arranged which further develop the topics being taught on the curriculum. Visiting speakers/performers are also invited into the school. Community links are enhanced by visits from local police etc, and by pupil’s performances in the locality.

Signed   
 Mrs C G Page  
 Headteacher

### Lesson Allocation

	Y6	Y5	Y4	Y3	Y2	Y1	R
<b>Numeracy</b>	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
<b>Literacy</b>	-	-	-	-	8	8	8
<b>English</b>	10	10	10	10	2	2	2
<b>Science</b>	3	3	2	2	2	2	-
<b>Topic</b>	3	3	4	4	3	3	-
<b>French</b>	2	2	2	2	2	1	-
<b>Core skills</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
<b>IT</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
<b>Art</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	-
<b>Design Tech /Food Tech/ Forest School*</b>	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
<b>Games</b>	4	4	4	4	2	2	1
<b>P.E</b>	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Music</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Drama</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Form/library</b>	1	1	2	2	3	1	-
<b>RE/PSHCE</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	-
<b>Handwriting</b>	1	1	1	1	2	-	-
<b>Assemblies/ circle time</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2/1	2/1
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>

\*Years R,1,2

Years 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 = 10 lessons per day – 30 minutes per lesson

Year 1 and Reception = 9 lessons per day – 30 minutes per lesson afternoon break of 15 minutes, finish 15 min earlier.