



# Our Creative Curriculum

*“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”*

Benjamin Franklin



## Our Intent

At Little Missenden Infant School we are passionate about providing every child with as rich and broad an education as possible. We realise that actively involving our pupils and their families in their learning is essential to achieving the most positive outcome for everyone.

## How we Implement our Curriculum

### Topic-Based Teaching

All of our pupils are taught via a topic-based approach that allows them to explore their learning through the application of a range of skills, from reading, writing and mathematics to art and design.

Our teachers carefully select an appropriate topic per each half term to maximise pupils' breadth and depth of discovery. Each topic includes a 'wow' event to engage our pupils, spark their imaginations and help them to realise the value of what they are learning. For example, for our 'Incredible India' topic, a professional

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Indian dancer visited the school to run an afternoon of dance workshops for all our pupils.

Examples of other topics include 'Castles', 'London's Burning', 'In the Garden', 'Christmas Around the World', 'Our Place in Space', 'Chinese New Year'. Events and trips that have supported these topics are:

- a visit to Waddesdon at Christmas
- a talk from the local police force
- a trip to Windsor Castle
- a workshop from the National Space Centre
- a visit to Shortenills Environmental Studies Centre
- a Chinese-themed dress-up day



## A Super Start

In Nursery and Reception, children follow a curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage, allowing plenty of exploration and investigation through play.

Every topic will provide plenty of opportunity for dressing up and role-play, allowing our pupils to develop a love of learning in a fun and engaging atmosphere. All of our EYFS pupils' activities are recorded on Tapestry, our secure online photographic library. Each parent receives an individual login that allows them to view and share in their child's learning.

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## Moving Up

In Key Stage 1, pupils follow the National Curriculum, with daily lessons in phonics, English and mathematics. Other timetabled lessons include:

- Science
- Art
- RE
- History
- Geography
- design technology
- music
- PE
- PSHE

Basing them all around a central topic enables pupils to gain a richer and deeper learning experience, enhancing their vocabulary by examining subjects from a variety of perspectives.



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## Celebrating Success

We highly value the work that our children do and we celebrate it through our vibrant classroom displays, achievement certificates and children's performances.

Our holistic approach to teaching and learning, coupled with the positive ethos promoted throughout the school, helps our pupils to understand intrinsically our school values of:

- Friendship
- Honesty
- Thankfulness
- Forgiveness
- Trust
- Compassion

## A Balanced Approach

Educating the whole person is our school mantra. Children will not thrive without a rounded, balanced approach to their learning.

For such a small school, our pupils benefit from a wide array of extra-curricular activities provided by a range of professionals, including:

- Weekly cookery lessons from a professional chef
- Weekly music lessons from a specialist musician
- Weekly sports lessons from a qualified coach
- Annual participation in the Little Missenden Music Festival
- Sports afternoons hosted in partnership with other infant schools
- Country dancing at an inter-school summer festival

Our collaborative approach means that our pupils benefit from sharing experiences with other schools, giving them a broader aspect to their education.

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## Boosting HAPPI-ness

Our Friday afternoon HAPPI (Health and Positive Personal Insight) sessions are a highlight of the children's week. During this time, our pupils have the chance to focus on their sense of wellbeing, personal development and the natural environment. They are planned around 'The 5 Ways to Wellbeing'

'The 5 Ways to Wellbeing'



These sessions incorporate:

**Forest School:** Set in our beautiful surrounding countryside, this provides children with the opportunity to learn about and take notice of nature and the world around them, problem-solve in a team and create wonderful projects with natural materials

**Mindfulness and Creativity:** Quiet sessions based around colouring / art techniques that gently teach children how to settle themselves and calm their thinking and take notice of the world around them, critical in today's busy world

**Connect and Keep Active:** Physical activity and team work activities are the focus, encouraging children to keep active, solve problems and work together.



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## Health Eating

We believe that knowing about healthy eating is an important part of our children's learning. Every child receives cookery lessons from our professional chef, working in small groups to learn simple food technology skills and techniques. Chef teachers them new food technology skills, how to eat healthily and make the right food choices.



## A Brilliant Beginning

We are very proud of the rich and broad curriculum we offer our pupils, providing them with a wonder of the world and an enthusiasm for learning that forms a firm foundation for their future learning.

To gain an insight into the topics and trips that your child has coming up, please click on our individual class pages on this website.



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