

January 2017

RE: KS2 Cornerstones Curriculum

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Potton Middle School, we believe the most important underlying principle of a curriculum is to nurture and foster a love of learning. We believe that a successful curriculum is brought to life by high quality teaching, inspirational learning activities and opportunities to listen and plan for the developing interests and motivations of children. That is why we have made the decision to follow the nationally recognised Cornerstones Curriculum.

What is the Cornerstones Curriculum?

The Cornerstones Curriculum is a creative and thematic approach to learning that is mapped to the 2014 National Curriculum to ensure comprehensive coverage of national expectations. Our new curriculum will be delivered through Imaginative Learning Projects (ILPs) which will provide a rich menu of exciting and motivating learning activities that make creative links between all aspects of our children's learning.

We believe children learn better when they are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging contexts. Our new curriculum will provide lots of learning challenges throughout the academic year that will require children to solve problems, apply themselves creatively and express their knowledge and understanding effectively across the curriculum.

Cornerstones also provide a rigorous essential skills framework that outlines the end of year expectations in all subjects. These essential skills are tied to activities and are age related so that class teachers can track children's progress and identify their individual learning needs.

To find out more about what we will be teaching this term, please see the information overleaf or visit the Cornerstones website: <https://cornerstoneseducation.co.uk>

If you have any queries or questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr D Brooks
Head of Upper KS2
Potton Middle School

Cornerstones Curriculum

At Potton Middle School, we believe the most important underlying principle of a curriculum is to foster a love of learning. We believe that a successful curriculum is brought to life by high quality teaching, inspirational learning activities and opportunities to listen and plan for the developing interests and motivations of children. That is why we have made the decision to follow the highly regarded Cornerstones Curriculum. It is built upon a four-stage teaching and learning philosophy.

The Four Cornerstones Areas: **ENGAGE - DEVELOP - INNOVATE - EXPRESS**

During the Engage stage, children will:

- have memorable first-hand experiences - for example going on a visit outside the classroom or inviting a specialist visitor into the classroom
- have WOW experiences - Investigate and Discover
- be introduced in exciting ways to the new topic or theme
- begin initial research and set enquiry questions
- have lots of opportunity to make observations
- develop spoken language skills
- take part in sensory activities
- have a great deal of fun, allowing them to fully 'engage' with their new topic

During the Develop stage, children will:

- dig much deeper to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of a topic across the curriculum
- practice their newfound skills
- compose, make, do, build, investigate, explore, write for different purposes, read across the curriculum
- research their own questions and those posed by others
- follow new pathways of enquiry based on their own interests
- complete homework activities that support their learning in school

During the Innovate stage, children will:

- apply previous skills, knowledge and understanding in real life contexts
- be challenged with real or imagined problems and situations to solve using knowledge and skills from the earlier stages
- be inspired with imaginative and creative opportunities
- have time to revisit skills, knowledge and understanding not grasped during the develop stage
- have the opportunity to take on different roles

During the Express stage, children will:

- become the performers, the experts, the informers
- share their achievements with others in many different ways...parents, classmates and the community
- evaluate finished products/processes
- tie learning back to the beginning
- celebrate

KS2 2017 Termly Project Overview

	Spring 1	Details:
Year 5	'Peasants, Princes & Pestilence'	<p>Flee your fields, close your doors and pull up the drawbridge: the dreaded and deadly 'Great Pestilence' is here! Mount your steed and gallop through the dark and deadly world of 14th century Britain, sword and shield at the ready, pledging your allegiance to King and country!</p> <p>Rouse your troops with promises of bloody battles and violent jousts. Read and write historical accounts, poems and tales and discover the grotesque effects of bugs and bacteria on the human body.</p> <p>And if you smell a rat, my friend - get out of there!</p>
Year 6	'Frozen Kingdom'	<p>Welcome to the planet's coldest lands... vast wilds, hostile territories, incredible beauty yet often deadly. Take shelter from the elements or fall prey to icy winds and deepest chill. Trek bravely and valiantly across treacherous terrain to the ends of the Earth, treading deep in snow or pulled by a team of mighty sled dogs.</p> <p>Research facts and figures of climate, temperature, habitats and eco-systems and compose evocative poems about the Northern Lights.</p> <p>Become part of an Antarctic rescue team, braving the elements to rescue terrified passengers from a ship struck by a deadly berg that hides deep beneath the Antarctic Ocean.</p>

At home, challenge your child through the following enrichment activities:		
Year 5	'Peasants, Princes & Pestilence'	<p>Produce... a coat of arms for your family. What images and words best represent your family's values?</p> <p>Create... a rat out of papier-mâché and paint to add realism. Where are the different places you could take photos of your rat to represent the spreading of the plague?</p> <p>Research... 'what Middle Age castles are there in the UK?' Research and create your own journal or poster.</p> <p>Investigate... what happens when something decomposes. Think of an apple core, orange or grape. Document your observations and the changes that occur over time.</p>
Year 6	'Frozen Kingdom'	<p>Produce... a poster about endangered animals living in the Arctic.</p> <p>Create... a collage of a winter scene in a Polar region.</p> <p>Research... climate change and design a leaflet entitled 'Global Warming: what can we do about it?'</p> <p>Investigate... 'what causes the Northern Lights?' Document your findings in the form of a speech or newspaper report.</p>