

September 2018

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 2018 Termly Topic Overview

	Autumn 1	Details:
Year 5	Star Gazers	<p>Journey through space, the final frontier... Navigate beyond the sun: the magnificent, blazing start at the centre of our Solar System!</p> <p>Investigate the eight planets and take a look at the Moon, a celestial body that orbits Earth. Programme a 'rover' to traverse a lunar landscape and work scientifically to investigate gravity, and what happens when there is none! Compare the time of day at different places on the Earth and use GPS satellite navigation systems to track hidden treasure! Get in a spin making simple models of the Solar System and listen to haunting sounds of space-themed songs.</p>
Year 6	A Child's War	<p>A siren sounds, a building crumbles, and a Spitfire zooms overhead. Take cover! It's 1939 and Britain is at war. Deep down in the Anderson shelter, learn why nations are fighting and why child evacuees must make the long journey from their homes and families into unknown territory.</p> <p>Read the diary of Anne Frank, written whilst hiding from the terrifying Stormtroopers in a secret annexe, and try to empathise with her hopes and fears. Delve deep into a bygone era, when loose lips sank ships. And, as peace is declared, let's get ready to celebrate. Mr Churchill says: "It's an unconditional surrender!"</p>

Term	Year 5	Year 6
Autumn 2	Peasants, Princes and Pestilence	Blood Heart
Spring 1	Alchemy Island	Frozen Kingdom
Spring 2	Off With Her Head	Gallery Rebels
Summer 1	Beast Creator	Darwin's Delights
Summer 2	Time Traveller	Hola Mexico!

For further information, visit: <https://cornerstoneseducation.co.uk/why-cornerstones/>