



Batheaston Primary School

Our Curriculum

Like all schools in England, we must follow the National Curriculum – it sets out subjects and content which we must teach. Within this, however, there is flexibility so that we can interpret and plan to meet the needs and interests of our children now and for the future. The key aim for all our teaching and learning is to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn, to enjoy and to achieve. We want our children to be happy, enthusiastic and committed learners.

To meet the requirements of the National Curriculum, all classes in Key Stage 1 and 2 follow some set, pre-planned topics – many of these are whole-school themes and some are specific to a class or key stage. We also offer after-school clubs and other extra-curricular activities – encourage your child to join in!

The ‘topic-based’ approach to the curriculum which we follow at Batheaston means that wherever possible, we group our subjects around a broad theme. The topics we choose depend on three factors:

the content set out in the National Curriculum for each of the subjects

the interests and needs of the children

the core values of our school

For example, our topic ‘The Living World’ covers lots of Science in the National Curriculum and provides opportunities for our pupils to develop skills in other subjects. In PE, for example, children might think about the effects of exercise on the body and be encouraged to maintain healthy lifestyles, whilst in Art, observational drawing of living things, from plants to people, might be included.

The National Curriculum sets out the minimum content. At Batheaston, we make sure children learn lots of additional skills, knowledge and understanding. For example:

we offer a range of after-school clubs and opportunities to learn a musical instrument – these extra-curricular activities go beyond the statutory requirements

if a class or group show an interest in a particular subject, teachers will try to include this in the school year

current local / national or international events can provide a great basis for learning

Not all subjects can naturally ‘fit’ within a topic and so these subjects are usually taught in a discrete way. Religious Education does not usually link with a topic and so it’s taught separately. Not everything in Maths links effectively with a topic and so this often runs separately, but links are made whenever possible.