



# Curriculum Newsletter

## September 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope you are well-rested and enjoyed a nice summer. I am pleased to present to you the first curriculum newsletter of this academic year. I hope you find its information helpful and useful as your child starts their new class. If you have any questions, queries or ideas, please do come and speak to me. Enjoy the newsletter!

From Mr. Douglas (Deputy Headteacher)

### School Values

Featherstone Primary School is a values-based school. We teach children eleven core values over the course of their time at school and have used our values for four years now. In recognition of our hard work, we were awarded with the Values-Based Education Quality Mark Award in June 2021. We are looking forward to building on our values work even further this year.

The values for the Autumn Term are:

- ⇒ Respect (September)
- ⇒ Diversity (October)
- ⇒ Friendliness (November)
- ⇒ Honesty (December)



### Missed learning

Try not to worry about the learning that your child has missed during the school closures because of the pandemic. In school, teachers know exactly which learning has and has not been taught. Planning has been amended to ensure that children have the most stable and successful year possible.

### So Whats? and Big Ideas

Your children will take part in lots of challenging and fun learning this term. The learning will be sorted into a topic that is called a 'So What?' or a 'Big Idea.'

If your child is doing a 'So What?' topic, they will be doing something purposeful and meaningful with their work. They might create or invent something, solve a problem, come up with a good idea and improve something.

If your child is doing a 'Big Idea' topic, they will be learning and using a range of skills to investigate a thought-provoking statement or question.

Throughout the year, children will take part in a range of So What? and Big Idea topics, that combine all subjects like Art, DT, History, Geography and Science in fun and exciting ways. This Autumn 1 term, the topics are as follows:

- ⇒ EYFS: I will be 5, so what?
- ⇒ Y1: Lola won't eat healthy food, so what?
- ⇒ Y2: There are two sides to every story. (Big Idea).
- ⇒ Y3: Are people healthier now compared to thousands of years ago? (Big Idea).
- ⇒ Y4: No one is too small to make a difference – so what?
- ⇒ Y5: This is who I am...so what?
- ⇒ Y6: Let your light shine so brightly that others can see their way out of the dark (Big Idea).

Have a chat with your child about the learning that they are doing this half term.



### Enrichment

I am very pleased and excited to announce that enrichment is back! COVID-19 interrupted this brilliant part of the week however enrichment will start again from 23rd September; it will now take place on a Thursday afternoon. For the Autumn 1 term, children will take part in in-class clubs with their classmates and teacher. Then, from Autumn 2, children will be able to select their clubs and activities they wish to go to. Children will pick up from where they left off and aim to gain their next award and trophy. More details to follow later on in September.



### School Trips

We know the impact that school trips can have on the curriculum. For now, we have made the decision not to run school trips before Christmas. This is so children can re-focus on school routines and in-class learning. We shall re-evaluate this after Christmas, when we hope to start school trips again. However, we are planning to make use of the school minibus and get a range of exciting visitors into school over the coming months.

### Language Functions

At Featherstone Primary School, we do lots of speaking and listening, as well as discussion and debate, in lessons. Good speakers make good writers. 'Language Functions' help children to organise their thoughts into great, high-quality spoken sentences. Ask your child which language function they're currently working on in class. Is it the language of description? Explanation? Hypothesis? Argument? Or even the language of opinion?

### Helping at Home

There are a range of ways that you can help your child at home. Here are a few suggestions and ideas:

- ⇒ Hear your child read for a few minutes every day. Quiz them on what they have read by asking some questions and encourage them to be expressive when they read.
- ⇒ Help your child to practise their spellings and times tables. Children have a TT Rockstars log-in that they can use to help them with their times tables.
- ⇒ Work with your child on their homework research project. Homework research projects are sent out every half term and are a fun way to bring the in-school learning to life at home. The deadline for the first project to be returned to school is 15.10.21 (more information to follow next week).
- ⇒ Have a go at some of the activities on the Homework Passport (again, more information to follow next week).



### Google Chromebooks

All Key Stage Two (Years 3 to 6) children have got access to their very own Google Chromebook, which can be used for in-school and out-of-school learning. Your child's teacher will let you know on which days the Chromebook is needed in school.

For safety reasons, everything that is done and typed into the Chromebooks are monitored by special software. So, please support your child in looking after their Google Chromebook and using it appropriately. Thank you.

### School Uniform

We want our children to look really smart to set a good example and show that they are ready to learn. Wearing the correct school uniform shows that we are a big team ready to succeed. Our school uniform is as follows:

#### **BOYS UNIFORM**

White polo top / white shirt  
Official red school jumper with badge  
Grey trousers  
School tie (to be worn with shirt)  
Plain grey or black socks  
Black Shoes. Leather or leather-like. (No trainers of any kind)

#### **GIRLS UNIFORM**

White polo top / white blouse  
Official red school jumper with badge  
Grey trousers or skirt.  
School tie (to be worn with shirt)  
Summer: Red Gingham Dress  
Plain white socks or Plain red or grey tights  
Black shoes. Leather or leather-like. (Not high heeled or boots)

All jewellery, except stud earrings and watches, are **not** to be worn.

Thank you for your support.

