



# Curriculum Newsletter

This Autumn 2020 Curriculum Newsletter will give you important reminders and information about Featherstone Primary School's Curriculum.

## A warm 'welcome back'

As parents, I know that some of you may be worried about your child/ren being 'behind,' or not knowing as much as they should do because of the COVID-19 partial school closures. Please try not to worry. In school, all of our teachers are very skilled at helping close any gaps that the children may have because of school having to close in March. We have made some necessary changes to our curriculum so that children are able to catch up where needed, whilst still enjoying a broad, balanced, fun and exciting curriculum. But don't worry—even though you may hear of some schools cancelling some subjects in order to teach extra English and Maths, we are not. We will still give children their full curriculum entitlement. English and Maths will be taught the most, as always, alongside the full national curriculum. Rest assured that your child/ren will still love their learning whilst our talented teachers help them to catch up and maximise their progress.

## Values

Featherstone Primary School is a Values-based school because we believe that academic success is not enough. With Values, children will be able to grow into confident, self-assured young people who can face the challenges of modern Britain. So, we introduced our eleven Core Values in September 2017 and continue to build on them today. The Values can sometimes be tricky for children to uphold as they are experiencing new things all of the time; so, we really need your help in demonstrating and promoting them in order for children to see them in school and at home. The next few months' Values are: **Respect** (September), **Diversity** (October), **Friendliness** (November) and **Honesty** (December).

### Our 11 Values are:

September	Respect
October	Diversity
November	Friendliness
December	Honesty
January	Self-discipline
February	Trust
March	Co-operation
April	Patience
May	Self-belief
June	Courtesy
July	Aspiration

## So What? and Big Idea

All of Featherstone's topics / units are organised into exciting, stimulating and relevant outcomes that get our children enthused about their learning. The children will work towards a 'So What?' where they actively use the learning to solve a problem, invent something, make a change, do something useful or improve a situation. Or, they might work towards a 'Big Idea,' where they learn fundamental life skills and thinking skills. Subjects like English, History, Geography, Art, Geography and Music will be organised in fun and interesting ways. Ask your child what their current 'So What?' or 'Big Idea' is and what it is all about!

## Autumn 1 So What? and Big Idea Outcomes

- ⇒ **Reception:** I will be 5, so what?
- ⇒ **Year 1:** Lola won't eat healthy food, so what?
- ⇒ **Year 2:** Big Idea: Every story has two sides.
- ⇒ **Year 3:** Big Idea: Are people healthier now compared to thousands of years ago?
- ⇒ **Year 4:** No one is too small to make a difference – so what?
- ⇒ **Year 5:** This is who I am .... So what?
- ⇒ **Year 6:** Big Idea: Let your light shine so brightly that others can see their way out of the dark

## Enrichment

Children at Featherstone love their Friday enrichment, which is now entering its fourth year here at Featherstone! However, COVID-19 meant that last year, children could not complete their Spring or Summer Enrichment clubs. Because of current government requirements of year groups not mixing with each other, all children facing the front of the classroom, as well as the 1m+ social distancing, Enrichment, for now, can't take place.

When we are able to get Enrichment back up and running, we will let you know.

However, we would not want the children to miss out on all of the hard work that they did before the school closed in March. We want to still celebrate their Enrichment achievements. So, coming soon, will be the Enrichment award that the children were on-track to receive. Watch this space!

## 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 what language function they're currently working on in class. Is it the language of description? Explanation? Hypothesis? Argument? Or even the language of opinion?

If you have any questions or you would like to discuss any part of Featherstone's curriculum, then please do come and chat to me!

Mr. Douglas

**Deputy Headteacher**

