



At Middleham CE (VA) Primary School we follow the National and Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This includes the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Religious Education and the additional areas of Design Technology, Art and Design, Geography, History, Physical Education, Music and Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE). In the EYFS these areas are all covered under the headings of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Our approach aims to provide a stimulating environment which encourages proactive learning and inspires each child. We do this by developing a child-centred curriculum that is innovative, broad and varied, using a variety of teaching methods and learning styles. Examples of topics explored recently are: Hedgerow Harvest, In the Bleak Midwinter and Space exploration. Using cross-curricular topics like these enables our children to learn creatively.

In EYFS and Key Stage 1, we follow the Letters and Sounds Teaching Program to deliver high quality phonics lessons. The children are taught to use the correct vocabulary to describe phonics; phoneme=speech sound; grapheme=spelling choice; digraph=2 letter spelling choice. They are also taught the letter names as well as synthetic phonic sounds. Blending and segmenting skills are taught as an important basis for reading and spelling.

At school pupils are given access to a wide range of reading material and books are regularly taken home. Pupils will read a mixture of 'real' books and those from our reading schemes (including some Oxford Reading Tree books and songbirds phonic readers). We are currently using a range of books which are "colour banded". This is a well used system of grading books on the difficulty of their text and content. We allow children to select a home reading book of their choice from a selection within a colour band. We may sometimes "guide" choices to ensure children are reading a variety of texts and not repeating books.

Your child will read at least once per week to their teacher and we aim to read with children twice a week. This focused teaching of reading skills will be as part of group guided reading sessions once per week. If your child needs additional reading support, your child's class teacher will inform you of this and your child will read more often during the week.

As children become more confident with reading they will select their own books beyond colour book banding, some schools call this "free reading". The teachers and teaching assistants will, however, use their professional knowledge to ensure that the reading matter is appropriate.

We emphasise first hand experiences and benefit from the rich history and geography of our local area, by embedding our curriculum in the children's own environment. Exciting and memorable experiences are developed for each topic, such as residential visits, enrichment days and activities including a Diwali day, Harvest day and our stall at Leyburn Market.

Wherever and whenever possible, we take our learning outdoors, engaging in fieldwork, outdoor pursuits and hands-on scientific and mathematical enquiry. We plan opportunities to practice and consolidate mathematical knowledge and writing through our cross-curricular approach to learning.

As a Church of England School, our curriculum is distinctive in promoting Christian values and the teachings of the Anglican Church. Lessons are supported by first hand experiences such as visiting our local village church and visits to other places of worship to widen pupil's knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting us at school.