

Dear Parents/Carers,

During our recent 'Meet the Teacher' Evenings, many of you asked questions relating to the new National Curriculum and what the changes meant in terms of your child's education at Hurst Park. In response to your questions, we have put together the following information which will hopefully explain in more detail these changes.

Why has Hurst Park changed its curriculum?

The current government has introduced a new National Curriculum from September 2014. All maintained primary and secondary schools in the UK must follow this curriculum from September 2014.

What has changed?

The attached table summarises the key changes to the National Curriculum for each subject.

Are *all* children following this curriculum?

For the academic year 2014-2015, years 2 & 6 will continue to follow the former National Curriculum for maths, English and science, until they have completed their SATs at the end of the year. The current Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 are all following the new curriculum from September 2014. From September 2015, all pupils in years 1 to 6 will be following the new National Curriculum.

Does that mean children won't do SATs after this year?

Years 2 and 6 will still complete national tests at the end of the year, but they will be amended to reflect the changes to the new curriculum. Year 1 children will still complete the national phonics screening check.

What will the new National Tests look like?

The government has published sample materials that are currently being trialled in selected schools across the country. Following these trials, they intend to publish complete sample tests in July 2015. At present, the sample materials comprise of an English grammar, punctuation and spelling test at KS1 and KS2; a reading test at KS1 and KS2; and a mathematics test at KS1 and KS2. In addition, some schools will be selected to complete a science sampling test at KS2 only. The format of these tests is similar to the current tests, but will obviously reflect the changes to the curriculum.

Phonics screening at Year 1 will remain and there is a possibility that the government may also introduce national baseline screening for Reception pupils.

Class teachers will always ensure pupils are adequately prepared for any testing and that parents/carers are informed of the format of these tests prior to their administration.

Have National Curriculum levels been scrapped?

The current year 2 and year 6, who are still following the former National Curriculum, will receive National Curriculum levels at the end of the academic year, which will be reported to parents/carers

for this academic year only. NC levels have been discontinued for pupils in all other year groups from September 2014.

Why can't teachers still use levels for other pupils?

Because the curriculum has changed, the level descriptors (i.e. the statements which define the knowledge, skills & understanding a child must possess to attain a particular level) no longer match the new curriculum.

How do I know how well my child is doing if levels have gone?

Throughout the year – at parents' consultation evenings, for example – your child's teacher will still inform you of your child's strengths and areas for development in terms of how they are doing in the different subjects they are taught. Now that the new curriculum sets out specific objectives to achieve in each year group for maths, English and science, they will still be able to tell you how your child is performing in these subjects in relation to the expectations for the year group without the use of levels. At the end of the year you will still receive a written report which summarises this information for you.

How will I know if my child is making expected progress without levels?

Teachers will continue to track every child's progress in all subjects throughout the year based upon how much of the new curriculum each pupil has achieved. Again, your child's progress will be reported to you at parents' evenings and in their end of year report.

Why has Hurst Park's two year rolling topic programme changed?

The new National Curriculum contains specific objectives that must be covered in specific year groups, so many objectives are no longer able to be shared between two different year groups over a two year period.

Will it take a while to get used to the new curriculum?

At Hurst Park, we introduced the new maths and computing curricula last year, so we had a head start. The remaining planning for all other subjects was completed last term so that teachers were ready to implement it at the beginning of this term. Where possible, the elements of the former Hurst Park curriculum that still fit with the new National Curriculum have remained unchanged.

Where can I find further information about the National Curriculum?

A copy of the New National Curriculum is on the 'parents' section of the school website under the 'curriculum' heading: www.hurst-park.surrey.sch.uk/curriculum

On the same page you will also find parents' information for each year group in the school. Contained in these documents you will find a curriculum map which details what your child will be learning in each term, and detailed maths and English overviews, including mathematical vocabulary lists and word lists.

Check your child's class page on the school website weekly – the teachers update it to keep you informed of what the class have been learning during that week.

SUBJECT	MAIN CHANGES	NEW CONTENT OR EMPHASIS
Maths	Data handling is not included in Y1; There is no use of calculators except near the end of KS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly objectives • Larger numbers earlier • Tables to 12x12 by end of Y4 • Earlier introduction of formal written methods and standard units of measurement • Focus on fractions • Roman numerals • Binary in Y6
English	Less of a focus on genre and more focus on quality writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-by-year objectives for Y1 and Y2, then Lower KS2 and Upper KS2 • Required spelling & grammar objectives and wordlists • Priority for phonics in both key stages • Focus on reading for pleasure • Reciting poetry
Science	There is less content at KS1: Medicines, light, sound, electricity, and magnetism all shift to KS2 programmes of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly objectives • Continued emphasis on working scientifically at each key stage • Evolution introduced in Y6
Computing	The name ICT has gone and been replaced with computing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely based around writing algorithms to control elements • E-safety mentioned at every Key Stage
Design & Technology	Refreshed emphasis on cookery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, Make and Evaluate at each Key Stage • Technical knowledge defined • Healthy cooking to be covered at every Key Stage
Art	No significant changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single page curriculum for KS1-2 combined: • Use a range of materials, including sketchbooks in KS2 • Develop techniques • Learn about the great artists
Music	No significant changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single page curriculum for KS1-2, largely focused on singing & playing instruments • Use of staff and other forms of notation in KS2 • Develop an understanding of history of music at KS2
PE	No significant changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus on competitive games • KS2 Swimming: "perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations"
Foreign Language	Less focus on inter-cultural understanding; Called 'Foreign Language' at KS2 ('Modern Foreign Language' introduced at KS3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching should focus on making 'significant progress' in one language • Balance of spoken and written language • Focus on practical communication • Basic understanding of grammar • Focus on developing accurate pronunciation
History	There is now less choice about what to study and when in the programme of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS1: Changes within living memory; events beyond living memory & lives of significant individuals; significant local history • KS2: Chronological progression through history of Britain from early Britons to Edward the Confessor • A local study and a study of an aspect or theme that extends knowledge beyond 1066
Geography	No explicit mention of environmental sustainability; No African, Asian or Australasian geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factual knowledge, e.g. continents & oceans at KS1 • UK focus at KS1, plus one non-European comparison • Europe (including Russia) & the Americas covered at KS2