



Clifford Road Primary School

"Celebrating Achievement in All"

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December 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM

The National Curriculum is currently under review at the moment. At Clifford Road we are excited about the opportunity to embrace a new curriculum that meets the needs of current and future generations. Our Curriculum needs to be built upon the "Every Child Matters" agenda producing pupils who are healthy, safe, contribute positively, have the potential for economic well-being, enjoy learning and above all, achieve well.

The proposed Curriculum suggests grouping subjects into certain areas:

1. **Mathematical Understanding**
2. **Scientific & Technological Understanding**
3. **Understanding English, Communication & Languages**
4. **Historical, Geographical & Social Understanding**
5. **Understanding the Arts**
6. **Understanding Physical Development, Health & Well-Being**

This idea of grouping subjects together may be familiar to those of you who have had children in the Early Years Foundation Stage where skills have been taught across curriculum areas for some time.

In the Spring Term we will be introducing a Creative Curriculum into the timetable where the majority of subjects will be delivered through topics. As a staff we have spent a great deal of time choosing topics that we believe will engage and enthuse pupils and teachers alike. We look forward to sharing with you how this curriculum will help your child to learn and achieve more and will be having some parents' forums in the spring term around this area.

Attached to this letter are the topics that each Year group will be studying next term and some of the activities that they will be doing. Our aim is that you can become more involved in what we do at school by discussing with your children what they will be doing, incorporating any trips you might do as a family with these topics and letting us know if you have specialist skills in these areas!

The Department for Education and Skills produced a document in 2003 known as Excellence and Enjoyment which urged teachers to restore creativity and excitement to the curriculum:

"To take a fresh look at their curriculum, their timetable and the organisation of the school day and week and think actively about how they would like to develop and enrich the experience they offer their children"

Excellence and Enjoyment also states:

"Children learn better when they are excited and engaged – but what excites them best is truly excellent teaching which challenges them and shows them what they can do."

I look forward to sharing more of your Childrens' achievements with you in the New Year and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas from all of us at school and to thank you for your continuing support.

School will begin again on Tuesday 5th January 2010. Happy New Year !

Steve Wood
Head Teacher

THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM – SPRING TERM TOPICS

YEAR 1: HOMES LONG AGO:

- Materials / Light & Dark: - The Moon & Fantasy Writing
- Traditional Tales
- Non-Fiction Texts
- Owl Babies

YEAR 2: THE WORLD AROUND US:

- Other Cultures
- Information Writing
- The Environment
- Habitats

YEAR 3: ANIMAL KINGDOM:

- Creating Habitat Boxes & Writing Presentations
- Creating Dance & Music to Represent an Animal
- Comparing Localities
- Making Puppets for a Performance of Fantastic Mr Fox

YEAR 4: DREAMS:

- Alice in Wonderland
- Art Focus – Representing Dreams
- The Aboriginal 'Dream-Time'

YEAR 5: WATER:

- Oxfam
- Water Projects – Water Conservation
- Water Cycle
- Extreme Weather
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YEAR 6: WORLD WAR 2: *

- Year group divided into 4 groups: Soldiers, Evacuees, Medics & Journalists: Each group to 'experience' the war through their characters eyes
- Battle Maps
- Air-Raid Shelter Construction
- Propaganda
- Reasons For & Outcomes of War

*Year 5 have currently been studying WWII this term. They will not do it again next year!