

Ursula Taylor Church Of England School



'Ursula Taylor C of E Primary School'

Information for parents and carers



Introduction - Looking to the future...

As we move towards the start of our building project and the reality of retaining Year 5 and 6 children at Ursula Taylor, the Governors, Senior Leadership and Staff at Ursula Taylor are working hard to determine what our Year 5 and 6 experience will be.

We are very proud of our school and firmly believe that Ursula Taylor can be an excellent Primary School.

At the centre of our belief is that every child should be nurtured, encouraged, supported and inspired to achieve their best and have aspirations for a successful future.

Whilst the retention of Year 5 and 6 will require some changes to be made, new ideas to take shape and our current systems to be reviewed and altered, there are many aspects of life at UTS which will remain the same.

- ◆ We all remain committed to meeting the needs of all of our children, including their academic, emotional and individual needs.
- ◆ We hold firm the belief that children's well-being is a key element to academic excellence, and that without high levels of well-being, our children will be unable to flourish and learn effectively.
- ◆ Engaging with our parents and carers will remain a priority, as will working in partnership with families to secure the best possible outcomes for our children.
- ◆ High Quality Teaching and Learning will remain at the heart of our work. Standards across the school have never been higher and Teachers and Teaching Assistants have worked tirelessly to master the new curriculum, this will continue to be the case when we are following the Year 5 and 6 curriculum.
- ◆ Our Christian foundation and distinctiveness will continue to be our 'Golden Thread'. Our values programme, Christian worship and close relationship with St Thomas a Beckett Church, and Rev Stephen Liley is highly valued and will remain a key aspect of our provision.



MISSION STATEMENT

We provide a caring and happy community where everyone is valued and given the opportunity to strive for the very best. A community where a golden thread of Christian beliefs and practice weaves through everything we do. We recognise and cherish each individual's talents and encourage their aspirations by providing a stimulating environment, grounded in Christian values and laying the foundations for their life journey. Through an inspirational creative curriculum children are motivated to take ownership of their learning and aim for excellence.



The Curriculum in Year 5 and 6



‘Good and better teaching is supported by the school’s rich and vibrant curriculum. This captures pupil’ interest and provides them with essential skills, knowledge and understanding while offering plenty of variety and breadth.’

Ofsted February 2016



The curriculum in Year 5 and 6 will follow a similar format to that in Year 3 and 4. There will be differences to ensure that Year 5 and 6 have some access to specialist teaching, e.g. Maths and English and also Science and PE where appropriate.

For Year 5 and 6 we are intending to set for English and Maths. This will include discrete Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar work (SPaG) In Year 6 (from September 2018) we are looking to appoint staff who have experience in Year 6 and also have significant skills in Maths and English so that the Teaching and Learning opportunities can be of the highest quality.

We will also be making sure that we retain the creative side of our curriculum. We place great importance in the arts, music and creativity and will continue to provide opportunities that enrich children's learning and allow children with particular talents in drama, music and sport to flourish.

The children in Year 5 and 6 will experience the full range of subjects, aspects and areas of learning detailed in the National Curriculum for Year 5 and 6. In RE, children will be taught all the elements in the Year 5 and 6 Agreed Syllabus for RE and also a new Scheme ‘ Understanding Christianity’ which has been launched by RE Today and The Diocese of St Albans for use from September 2016.

Year 5 and 6 will continue to learn about Sex and Relationships Education, as well as Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

Further curriculum information can be found at:

<http://www.primarycurriculum.me.uk/>

The Curriculum Information book currently on our school website will be updated next year in readiness for September 2017 when we retain our first Year 5 cohort. During the next school year, Mrs Hall, as part of her Leadership responsibilities will be working to create a Year 5 and Year 6 detailed curriculum, including Schemes of Work and Assessment Strategies, ready for use in September 2017.

Sport at Ursula Taylor

With the new building being placed near to the swimming pool on the top part of the car park, we will be regaining quite a sizeable part of our playing field. This is great news and means we will certainly have enough space to have a pitch marked out for different games. We are also proposing to make use of the King George V Playing Fields for some of our lessons.

At the moment each class has 2 hours of PE a week, which will also be the case for Years 5 and 6. The sessions will be made up of a mixture of indoor and outdoor PE. The current curriculum has a mix of games, athletics, dance, gymnastics, swimming and outdoor adventurous activities. The curriculum for Year 5 and 6 includes: Athletics, competitive games, gymnastics, dance, outdoor adventurous activities and swimming /water safety. As you can see, this is very similar to our current provision.

Our children are very lucky that at UTS we are able to provide swimming lessons from Foundation to Year 4. The Curriculum details that swimming must be covered during either Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. Our children receive swimming throughout their time at UTS. The school pool will not be deep enough to accommodate Year 5 and 6, so we will be investigating using a local pool, e.g. Robinson to provide lessons, so that Year 5 and 6 can still benefit from swimming. We feel that this is an especially important life skill as our children live in a village very close to a river.



Extra Curricular Clubs - Sports

At UTS we offer a range of after school and lunchtime clubs. This will continue to be the case and we will be looking at what sort of clubs to provide when we get nearer to September 2017. We will also be asking our children what sort of clubs they would like to experience.

We currently have a mixture of staff run and externally run clubs, this system works well for us, and we will, in the first instance, be using this strategy for Years 5 and 6.

Where these clubs link well to competitive matches, we will be looking to link up with other local Primaries to organise inter-school matches.

This may, in time, involve us having a school mini-bus. If this is the case, we will look at our options and how this could be achieved.



The Arts, Music and Creativity



'At Ursula Taylor, pupils are effusive about their learning and the wide range of activities and events they take part in that make school so enjoyable. They are happy, confident learners who achieve well both academically and socially'

Ofsted February 2016



At UTS we have always placed great importance on the arts and creative subjects. Many of our children have a real talent for music, drama, dance and art and it is important that they have the opportunity to experience a range of these.

We are an Artsmark school and we are working towards applying for accreditation. Many children already have music lessons and can access external specialist music teachers. We have been previously recognised by Music for Bedford Borough for using our funding to ensure all children can access enjoyable, quality lessons. This year our Year 4 children have had Samba lessons, Year 3 have had 'Sing on!' specialist teaching and Foundation Stage have a weekly visit from an external music teacher. We also provide whole class recorder lessons for Year 2.

In the future we will be seeking opportunities to provide a wider range of instrument lessons for our older children. Our children presently attend music festivals and this will continue for Year 5 and 6 children.

Mrs Hall has, this year, led a very popular Drama Club, who presented a wonderful interpretation of the Easter story. This is something we would like to scale up to include Year 5 and 6 in the future. Our choir is superb and something that could also be extended to include Year 5 and 6 children.

Our school hall will be adapted to create more space and provide an area large enough for groups of children to meet and enjoy a variety of different opportunities.

We currently have a number of whole school art days, and also an Arts week, which has been very popular, this is certainly something we will continue when we have Year 5 and 6 at UTS.

Lunchtimes / Break Times

At the moment, we have different lunch times for the different year groups, this works well and has been successful so far. We have a Lunchtime Supervisor for each class which give us a good ratio of adults to children at Lunch time.

When we have Year 5 and 6, we will have an additional sitting which will work in the same way that it currently does. Children in Year 5 and 6 will be able to choose to have a packed lunch or a school dinner, in the same way they are able to now.

The safety of our children is paramount, so we will ensure that we have specific times for break which mean that the larger Year 5 and 6 children are not playing directly with younger children which could cause accidents when running around. This is already the case for Year 3 and 4 children who have a different break time to Year 1 and 2.



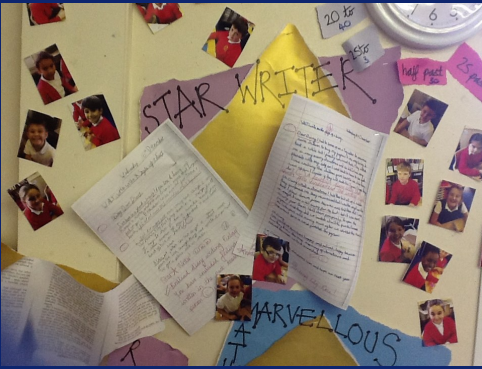
Uniform

For Year 5 we will not be making any changes to the school uniform, apart from asking Parents to purchase a PE T-Shirt which has the school logo on it. (Many children already have these) This is to ensure that when we are out of school at festivals and competitions, our children are easily identifiable as being from UTS.

We do not wish to extend our uniform requirements as we want it to remain as affordable as possible for all of our children and families.

However, we are also looking into Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children having a rucksack with the school logo on - instead of book bags.

At the end of Year 5, we are proposing to present our children with a different style jumper for Year 6. (Additional jumpers will be available for purchase by parents) This will be a contrasting colour to the rest of the school and will also link to the increased responsibilities we will be offering our Year 6 pupils.



'School Leaders communicate a strong commitment and ambition for pupils to achieve highly and to develop as well-rounded, confident learners who are ready for their next stage of their education by the time they leave the school.'

Ofsted February 2016



Home Learning

At UTS we are very careful about how much Home Learning is expected from our children. We firmly believe that children and families should be able to spend quality time together in the evening and at weekends without a cloud of endless homework hovering over them.

Our Home Learning Policy will be reviewed in readiness for retaining Year 5 and again for the start of the first Year 6 cohort.

Our intention is for Year 5 and 6 to have a similar level of homework to that currently in Year 4. (Reading, Spellings, 1 piece of English and 1 piece of Maths a week)

We are also looking into online homework activities - which can be used to complement the work the children have completed in school.

We will also continue to encourage children bringing topic related work from home, models, posters, research and PowerPoints etc. - which link to their topics and areas of learning. Children's work from home is highly valued and displayed in class, this will continue into Year 5 and 6.

School Trips

In Year 5 and 6 we will be organising educational visits that link to the curriculum in the same way we currently do.

We have also decided that we will continue to offer the Frontier centre Trip in Year 4 and also an additional residential trip in Year 6, to take the children a little further afield. This would happen towards the end of Year 6 and be a wonderful end to their time at Ursula Taylor.

The School Day

We are not proposing to change the start or end times of the school day. Break and Lunchtimes will be slightly different as we will have more year groups to accommodate.

We will also be having some separate Collective Worship where we can offer a variety to our different year groups.

The School Day will be structured similar to:

8:45am Doors Open

8:55am Register

10:25—10:40 F Stage and KS1 Break

10:45—11:00 KS2 break

11:45—Foundation Stage Lunch

12:00—Year 1 Lunch

12:15—Year 2 Lunch

12:30—Year 3 and 4 Lunch

12:45—Year 5 and 6 Lunch

3:30pm School ends

Staff at UTS

Increased children at UTS also means a need for increased staffing.

We will be seeking to appoint experienced teachers and using some of our current staff whom have experience in Year 5 and 6.

Each class will have a Teaching Assistant, used in the same way the TAs in Year 3 and 4 are currently.

Class Teachers will deploy TAs to support children whom require intervention, including Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium and children whom need a boost to their well-being and self esteem.

Active Kids

Our Active Kids before and after school provision is very popular and has grown again in recent times. We have been looking at again increasing our capacity for the future and using different rooms in the school to alter the provision offered.

We will be able to accommodate Year 5 and 6 children and we will continue to offer the hours of care that we previously have:

Breakfast Club 7:45am—8:45am

After School Club 3:30pm—6:00pm (Friday 5:30pm)