

Our Curriculum

MFL

During their time at Moat Farm, all children learn French. These lessons are delivered by a specialist teacher and focus on listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Links to the Geography curriculum are often made, with children learning about life in France.

Music

Throughout their time at Moat Farm, all children have the opportunity to learn a variety of musical instruments and use new technologies to enhance their musical experience. Whole class music lessons are delivered by a specialist teacher and focus on listening, composing and performing skills. Children have the opportunity to perform and compose music as well as appraising their own and others' compositions. Links to the well-known composers, music pieces and links to thematic topics are often made to help engage learning. To further enrich their learning of music, children are given the opportunity to become members of the school choir and participate in community activities.

Art

Moat Farm is home to some wonderful pieces of children's artwork. When joining Moat Farm, every child is given their very own sketch book which follows them through their school life so that they have a portfolio of all of their work and also a learning journey to reflect upon. Children at Moat Farm are encouraged to be spontaneously creative, using a range of media and techniques in art and craftwork. They begin with an understanding and awareness of colour, shape, balance, focus and proportion. These skills are also developed alongside the use of symbols to convey ideas and feelings. At Moat Farm we study of a wide range of artists, craftspeople and designers. Throughout the school, art work is displayed in every corridor and classroom. Art lessons are closely linked to children's thematic topics. We find that this is very effective in improving pupils' self-confidence and creativity and enriches achievement across the curriculum.

Physical Education

Physical Education and activity is an important part of life at Moat Farm. All children participate in lessons delivered by their class teachers and are also taught during Curriculum Enrichment by specialist PE coaches. Children are given the opportunity to participate in a range of sports including: games, dance, gymnastics, athletics and outdoor and adventurous activities. Swimming also forms part of the curriculum. Moat Farm often enters teams of pupils into inter-school competitions, frequently with great success! There is also a range of after

school clubs that children have access to giving them the opportunity to develop their skills even further.

Geography

Geography at Moat Farm develops children's knowledge and understanding of people and places. This includes opportunities to study the local area, regions within the United Kingdom and different countries of the world. The use of maps, atlases, photos and the internet, ensures a well-balanced and interactive method of learning for all pupils with cross-curricular links to other subjects. Pupils explore physical and human differences in the world around them. Through practical activities and drawing on prior and new knowledge the children learn how to interpret, draw and read maps whilst developing their investigation, analysis and research skills. The children are encouraged to engage with human geography to gain appreciation of life in other cultures. Our lessons aim to motivate children to take an interest in the environment and world around them.

History

At Moat Farm, the History curriculum is a lot more than learning facts. We see it as an opportunity to develop pupils' skills of enquiry and questioning, to enable them to become open-minded, historical detectives whilst exploring the past in an exciting way. We aim to provide first hand experiences with role-play, class visits, workshops and visiting experts playing an important part in all our topics. History is taught through our cross curricular topics. The past comes to life when children use a variety of sources of information to find clues and evidence and take part in discussions with their peers. Through History, children learn to make comparisons and links between the past and modern times and discover how and why things have changed. They learn about people and events in the past, in Britain and the wider world, and realise that these have influenced our lives today. Children are taught how to investigate and record their findings in interesting and creative ways including writing, art, drama and ICT.

Religious Education

At Moat Farm we follow the current Sandwell Agreed Syllabus for RE which was published in 2012. To create it, the Local Authority worked through its Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). SACRE is a body made up of people who represent all the major faiths and educational stakeholders in Sandwell. The 2012 syllabus reflects the central



concern of the SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference: to provide practical, professional guidance and support to teachers in setting high standards for learning in RE for all Sandwell pupils.

The 2012 RE syllabus offers six programmes of study to provide for a comprehensive and balanced study of religions. These are:

- Places of faith,
- Holy books and sources of authority,
- The natural world,
- Festivals, celebrations, customs, practices and lifestyles
- Founders and leaders
- Expressing meaning and symbolism.

There are two attainment targets (AT) for RE:

- AT 1: Learning about religion and life issues - knowledge and understanding
- AT 2: Learning from religion and life issues - engaging, reflecting and responding.

The RE syllabus requires the exploration of questions and answers in the light of human experience and authentic encounters with religions, using key questions to develop and energise pupils' learning.

There are opportunities for pupils to learn from Christianity and the other principal religions of the world represented in the UK, and especially those significantly represented in Sandwell itself and the West Midlands, through the RE programme. All pupils will study the Christian, Sikh and Muslim religion, reflecting the makeup of Sandwell. All pupils on the school roll are entitled to receive Religious Education. This syllabus is the legal basis for RE in Sandwell schools.

Computing

At Moat Farm Junior School, we aim for our children to confidently and independently use and apply computing skills to support and extend their learning. We actively promote a culture where using technology becomes second nature to our pupils, ensuring they are ready and able to embrace the technological advances of the future.



There is a key emphasis on learning skills for computing, including; looking at algorithms and debugging within programming; using ICT to retrieve and input data; digital communication including the exchanging of information and presenting their work using a variety of digital media. Our children are taught how to safely access information using the internet, evaluating its suitability, storing it appropriately, sharing it with others and tailoring it to meet their own needs.

Digital Literacy is an integral part of the curriculum, with children learning how to use ICT safely. At regular points throughout the year children undertake e-safety sessions on topics such as cyber bullying and keeping information safe.

The children have access to a range of technology in school, including iPads and Macbooks (with both Mac OSX and Windows platforms).