

Abbey Gate Prep School
Welcome to Kestrels
Year 5 & Year 6

Class Information

Dear Parents

Year 5 and Year 6 are important years as children are prepared for their secondary school entrance examinations and national Key Stage 2 Tests. At the same time Abbey Gate strives to deliver a stimulating curriculum that provides our pupils with many opportunities to undertake practical and investigational work, whilst developing their communication and problem-solving skills.

As the children approach their final year at Abbey Gate, they are awarded greater responsibility, both in and outside the classroom.

They take on roles such as prefects, librarians and road safety officers to mention just a few. They are also given the opportunity to take part in a residential trip.

At Abbey Gate we have an open door policy and welcome feedback and suggestions at all times. If you have worries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Appointments can also be made to discuss anything in depth. We all want the very best for every child at our school.

Kind regards,
Mrs Kathy Duerden
Year 5 & 6 Teacher

The Curriculum

At Abbey Gate we use the National Curriculum as a framework to ensure that teaching and learning is balanced and consistent and to allow for structured development as children move up through the school.

Children develop at different rates, but National Curriculum levels can give you an idea of how your child's progress compares to what is typical for their age. For example, by the end of Key Stage 2, nationally, most children will have reached level 4.

Core Subjects

LITERACY

This is split into 3 main sections of Reading, Writing and Speaking & listening.

READING

Children are encouraged to read widely; both at home and at school. Each child is encouraged to take home their reading book but it is important that their reading book and reading record is in school every day. Unfamiliar words are recorded in the reading record books and relevant comments made. Important skills include: discussion of text; talking about characters; reading beyond the text and inference; discussing the meaning of unfamiliar words and being able to point to phrases in the text that back up their answers.

Your child's reading will be monitored through weekly comprehension tests and guided reading.

WRITING

This section includes spelling, grammar, punctuation, hand writing as well as creative writing in different styles.

Spelling: A list of 20 words is given each week; the children write each word in a sentence and then learn the list for a weekly test.

Grammar: Weekly lessons cover word classes, sentence structure, tenses, as well as correcting common grammatical errors.

Punctuation: The correct use of capital letters, full stops, commas, colons, semi-colons, ellipses and apostrophes are among the teaching list.

Hand writing: Children are taught to join their letters and write in a clear, cursive and flowing style, with consistency of letters and word size.

Writing: Different styles of writing are explored and taught such as stories, play scripts, diary entries, letters, instructions and leaflets.

An emphasis is put on planning and children learn how to plan their writing in a structured and effective way.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

Children take part in public speaking on topics of their choice as well as given topics. They participate in question and answer sessions as well as taking on roles in various scenarios to debate problems. These activities really help in boosting confidence.

NUMERACY

Multiplication tables are learned each week and tested in a 60 Second Challenge! This moves away from the traditional rote learning and encourages children to learn through number recognition and patterns.

Maths on Target is the main scheme used by KS2 children. It provides all the material from the renewed framework for mathematics and has differentiated activities for each topic covered. After each section has been completed an assessment test is given to monitor each child's progress.

Various other schemes are dipped into such as Heinemann and CGP books for extension work.

SCIENCE

Children continue to learn about a wide range of living things and materials. Children will apply their knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas to familiar phenomena, everyday things and their personal health. They carry out systematic investigations, working on their own and with others. Lessons are highly interactive and pupils talk about their work and its significance and communicate ideas, using a wide range of scientific language, conventional diagrams, charts and graphs. Topics studied include: Keeping healthy, Life cycles, Gases around us, Earth, sun and moon and Changing sounds.

The Foundation Subjects

Physical Education

KS2 children have sport on a Monday afternoon. They will need their sport kit: white shirt, shorts and socks, blue joggers and sweatshirt, as well as trainers. Specialist sport teachers join the staff to share their expertise in many different sports such as Gym, Dance, Netball, Hockey and Tag Rugby. During the summer term, weather permitting, children visit the playing field for rounders and athletics, and the tennis courts for tennis.

Swimming

Swimming lessons take place on Wednesday afternoons during the autumn and spring term at Northgate Arena. The children are transported by coach and have a specialised swimming teacher. They will need swimming costumes and towels in a small backpack. Goggles are optional.

French

The children have a half hour lesson each week with a specialised teacher. Topics include: home, classroom, French life and the country of France.

ICT

The children are timetabled in the computer suite for a Tuesday afternoon where they study graphical modelling, databases, spread sheets, controlling and monitoring to name a few of the different activities. They also visit the suite for interactive lessons in other subjects, so they have use of the smart board and computers.

History

Children learn about the past through topics such as The Victorians, The Tudors and Britain since the 1930s. Research is carried out using the internet as well as books provided and a topic table is set up to display artefacts from the past. Children are encouraged to contribute to the display. Trips to Chester, with its wealth of historic buildings and museums, are only a short bus ride away and are thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

Geography

Water, Rivers and Mountains are extensive topics that are studied during Year 5 & 6, as well as the local area Chester with Llandudno as a coastal town and a contrasting area.

Religious Education

Christian Buildings, Buddhism, Muhammad and Islam, Christian Beliefs and Practices are just some of the topics that your child will study in this subject. They are taught tolerance and understanding of different religious beliefs and group discussions are always encouraged.

Design & Technology

The children investigate, discuss and generate ideas, leading to their own designs. They are taught the properties of materials and how to make choices in the selection of the best materials for their purpose. They learn how to use and select tools for different tasks, being aware of their safety and the safety of others. They are encouraged to construct products and models of a good quality finish, bearing in mind the aesthetic appearance. Example topics include Musical Instruments, Making Bread, and Moving

Toys.

Art & Design

Through the teaching of this subject, we aim to give children the opportunities and skills to experience and enjoy being creative and to express themselves and their ideas via a variety of materials and processes. We encourage them to build on their skills, knowledge and understanding by improving their control of tools, materials and techniques. We help them to develop their ideas from imagination and a variety of starting points, such as images and artefacts. We explore the work of artists, craftspeople and designers and the art and craft of different cultures. The content is based on a variety of ideas appropriate to age and ability. It is closely linked across the curriculum to topics that are being taught in other subjects.

Music

The children are guided in music by a specialist teacher and pianist. Every opportunity is taken to celebrate success in this subject by making concerts, performances and musicals an important part of school life. The children are encouraged to perform and share their talents and skills with an audience. Specialist music lessons in several different instruments are available.

Homework

Children are given English and Maths homework every night. It usually consists of spelling sentences, an English exercise and a Maths exercise. It should take no longer than 20 minutes.

At the weekend a writing task may be given, this may take a little longer. Spellings and times tables are also learned at the weekend.

The children are encouraged to write down any homework in their homework diaries. It is important that homework is completed as it reinstates what has been learned previously in class.

Educational Visits

We work very hard to make learning as interesting and inspiring as possible at all times, this is enhanced by educational visits.

Trips are usually related to subjects and topics being studied.

Chester is visited for its Tudor and Victorian Buildings. The Grosvenor Museum, Chester Cathedral and the River Dee are also regular choices.

Further afield Llandudno and the Great Orme, Colwyn Bay Mountain Zoo, Liverpool Museum and the Mersey Ferry, have all been recent trips.

Years 5 and 6 also have the opportunity of a residential trip. This takes place in June, during a school week, at PGL Winmarleigh Hall. This is an action packed few days full of fun activities such as raft making and abseiling for the children to enjoy and learn from. It is not to be missed!

Assessment

At Abbey Gate children are continually assessed. Tests are a regular practice and the children view it as ordinary school life.

In Year 6 your child will take the Key Stage 2 Tests in English and Maths. These are national tests and must be taken at the same time by schools, which is usually early May. Your child will be fully prepared for these tests and should not be stressed or feel pressured at all.

Results of the main assessment tests are given in reports at the end of the autumn and summer term and at parents' evening, usually in March. However we are always available to discuss how your child is achieving, so please do not hesitate to make an appointment.