

# Northwold Primary Magazine

## Autumn 2023

### Welcome!

Welcome to our new school magazine. We aim to keep you updated each term with what we have been learning and doing here at Northwold Primary.

### The Curriculum—A Progression Model

Our curriculum is a progression model that provides a foundation that equips our children for the next steps in their learning and builds upon prior knowledge and experiences. It enhances and enriches children's experiences through concepts such as Agriculture, Construction, Architecture and Forest schooling. The range of well-planned experiential learning ensures cumulative layers of knowledge, helping our children to have lasting, repeated experiences leading to remembering more. We deeply believe that there should be no limits or barriers to children's achievements and staff share in our vision and ambition.

Our curriculum is underpinned by research on how children learn best. We view learning from a grounded pedagogical standpoint. We strongly believe that creativity fosters better self-esteem, independence, and risk taking.

Our children are eager problem solvers and confident communicators. Through our curriculum we promote and celebrate the international cultures of the children.

We go on local trips and use the wide range of resources London has on offer to deepen our children's understanding of concepts. The curriculum is broad, balanced and exciting, incorporating British values and experiences.



Open-ended investigation and activities means that children have time to rehearse and achieve deeper learning and understanding. We set out our curriculum as a progression model. We focus relentlessly of the development of language and exposure to a vast range of vocabulary. Our staff review children's progress regularly through formative assessment and use precision intervention to follow up emerging gaps identified.

### School Priorities for 2023-2024

1. Measure the impact of exposing and deepening the experience of all pupils to a wider range of 'The Arts' through greater opportunities to appraise, appreciate and curate
2. Measure the impact of the use of technology in designing new products
3. Measure the impact of the recovery curriculum to support emotional and mental health
4. Measure the impact of the RSHE curriculum, mainly how it addresses deep rooted national issues around abuse, especially SEND pupils, through strengthening pupil's voice

## Ofsted Outcome

**Northwold Primary School continues to be a good school. The report (20<sup>th</sup> April 2023) notes that there is enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school could be judged outstanding if Ofsted were to carry out a graded (section 5) inspection now.**

*“Pupils at Northwold are well supported and happy. Leaders have engendered a strong sense of purpose and confidence throughout the school. Pupils show this through the way that they engage with each other, staff and visitors. The clear structures and routines ensure that pupils feel safe and are kept safe by adults who know them well.”*

*“Leaders have created an ambitious and comprehensive curriculum that meets, and often exceeds, national expectations. In all subjects, the key building blocks of knowledge that pupils need to learn and remember have been carefully selected. Leaders have sequenced these so that pupils return to practise and embed important ideas. This helps pupils to secure and embed a rich body of knowledge and prepares them well for what they will learn next.”*

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## Writing

Learning to write is one of the most important skills that a child will acquire at primary school. It is also a means by which most other areas of the curriculum are assessed, so strong writing is one of the keys to academic success. In addition, good writing provides a child with a voice with which to be able to express and share their views on every platform. In school, this platform begins in the classroom with discussions whereby children can justify their viewpoints. It is continued in our school debates, pupil conferences, learning and school councils and eco warriors.

The National Curriculum divides writing into two broad areas: transcription and composition. Transcription covers the technical aspects of writing: handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Composition is about the sharing of ideas and thinking about the purpose of a piece

of writing. Good writing involves balancing all these different parts and this can be quite tricky for children to master.

In order to facilitate a deeper understanding of writing, children in year 6 have been receiving regular sessions with an author, who has been helping them to develop their story writing skills. The children have explored how to plan, develop, write and edit their stories and have found the workshops to be an exciting and engaging project to be involved with.

As always, the partnership between the school and parents is an important one. Parents play a vital role in developing their child's reading and writing skills. At home, please encourage your child to read their reading books as well as read to them. This will help build up vocabulary and thus develop their own writing style.

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## Phonics

At Northwold, reading is at the heart of our curriculum and is a fundamental aspect in accessing the whole curriculum. We provide a strong foundation for learning how to read with the expectation that every child will leave Year 1 being a fluent reader.

Children in Nursery are working on Phase one and two phonics in preparation for their transition into Reception next academic year. Our reception children are working across phases 2 and 3 phonics and are developing their reading skills at

the same time. By the time pupils leave Reception, the majority are working at Phase 5 – a strong starting point for their move into Year 1.

Phonics teaching follows a clear lesson timeline, allowing pupils to revisit and review components previously taught, and also learn new sounds. These are applied to reading and the spelling of words.

The Year 1 children will undertake the Phonics Screening Check later in the year, in June.

## Maths

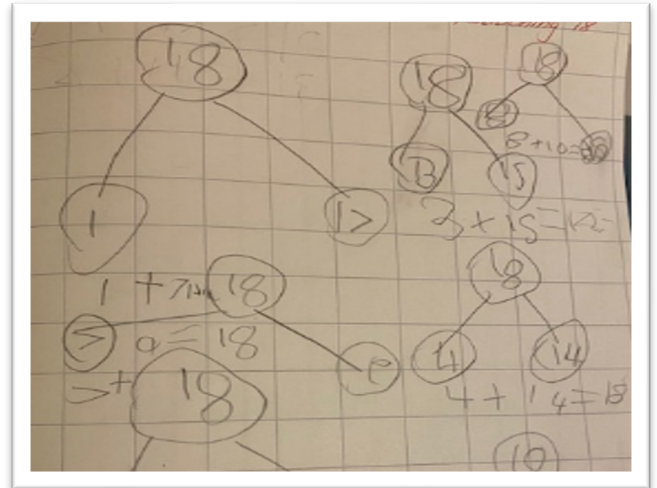
At Northwold and throughout the Trust, we aim for our children to become fluent in the fundamentals of maths; to be able to reason mathematically; and to be able to solve complex problems by breaking them down into a series of simpler steps.

Through understanding the value of number, we aim to ensure that children really understand the basics of maths, using what they know to tackle more complex calculations and problems.

Our early morning maths sessions have gotten off to a flying start, please continue to ensure that your child attends every morning from 8:40am: it is invaluable – and of course fun!

We understand the importance of visual learning; all our maths lessons are carefully resourced and

adapted to suit the needs of our children and to ensure they all achieve the highest outcomes. From Nursery through to year 6, our children have been equipped with a range of practical resources to help their understanding and fluency in number and maths.



Right: Reception children using part, part, whole models to understand the value of number.

## EYFS

In early years, it is really important to use concrete resources to secure and contextualise children's understanding of key composites. In maths we have been learning the value of numbers and amounts.



Children have been using cubes, the part part-whole model, 10s frames and numicon to support their understanding in a practical way.

## Science

Our curriculum for science aims to ensure that all pupils develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.

Science at Northwold equips children with the knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future. This is achieved through different types of science

enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.

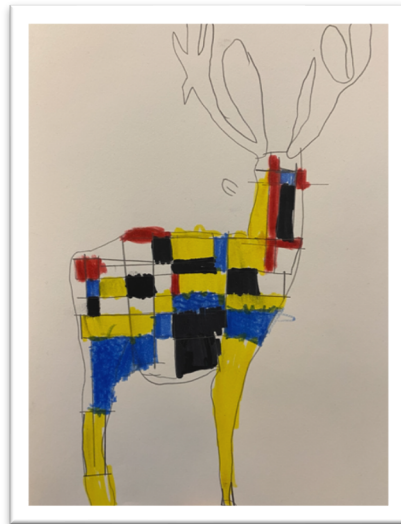
All lessons focus on giving children the opportunity to apply new knowledge and skills in order to prove or disprove predictions.

Children are exposed to a wide range of scientific equipment and explore a range of scientific phenomena through the progressive curriculum.



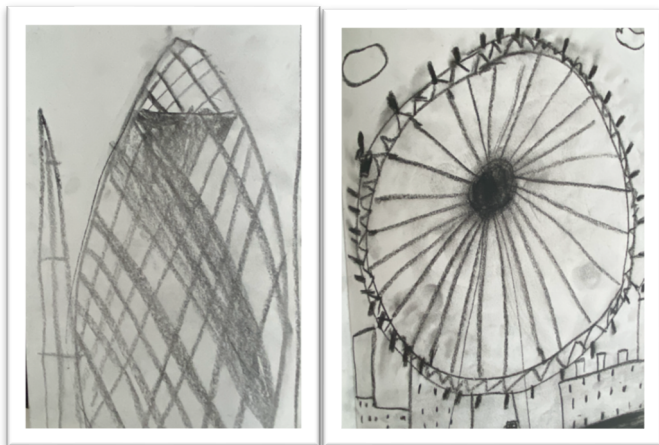
## Art and Design

Our Art curriculum is designed to help children to reach their full potential and equip them with the knowledge and skills that allow them to celebrate some of the highest forms of human creativity. It is designed to engage, inspire and challenge pupils while equipping them with the skills and the confidence to invent, create, experiment and discuss critically their work. They are taught to value the contribution that art makes to wider society and how art has captured and shaped our country's history and culture. It develops visual awareness, creative skills and aesthetic judgment. It gives children experience in the visual language of colour, tone, line pattern, shape, texture and form.



Year 1 have been studying Piet Mondrian, known for his bold use of primary colours.

They created works of art inspired by the colours he used.



Year 4 art, inspired by Leon Kossoff, known for his landscapes of London.



## Architecture

The study of architecture is woven through our curriculum. Pupils learn about buildings through history and how this has led to the modern buildings we see today. It develops pupils' understanding of how architecture informs the world around us.

The teaching of architecture supports pupils in developing their knowledge, across History, Geography, Science and Maths, whilst deepening their understanding of design, improving their drawing, modelmaking, communication and problem-solving skills. It encourages pupils to examine the buildings around them and the contribution their designs make to the community. They explore how architecture has changed over time, reflecting changes in society's views and values.

Left: Year 5 art, inspired by Henry Moore's sculpture



## Physical Education (PE) and Sports

Children take part in two PE lessons, both indoor and outdoor, each week.

Children have been learning to perfect specific skills for a range of sporting activities ranging from team sports such as football, rugby and netball to more individualised sports like dance and gymnastics.

Children are taught how to position their bodies for attack and defence and how to manipulate the equipment effectively. These learned skills are refined across the year and build up from EYFS to key stage one and then key stage 2.

### Inter-school competitions

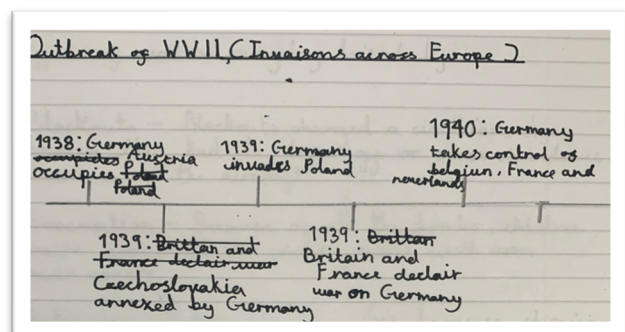
The skills learnt in our PE have been transferred into actual competitive events. This term, our pupils competed against the other Trust schools in an athletics competition. A lot of fun was had by all and valuable knowledge was gained about the

importance of team spirit and support. Well done to Northwold for bringing back the trophy!



## History and Geography

Our History curriculum is designed to ensure that year groups study the history topics in chronological order. Understanding chronology is key to unlocking the past. We use timelines to identify when events happened in the past and to sequence them correctly, understanding how the future is influenced by past events. For example, Year 5 study WW1, which leads in to their WW2 topic in Y6, allowing them to make important links.



In Geography, map work is key to the understanding of both human and physical geography. Children enjoy using a variety of different maps and atlases in their learning and classroom displays. This has secured their map

reading skills and understanding of the different ways in which maps can be presented.



Our carefully adapted lessons and resourcing ensures that all children can take part in their History and Geography lessons successfully. Children learn through a range of activities and tasks, producing high quality outcomes; learning more and remembering more. Our children understand that our weekly components lead to a bigger picture or composite aim.

## Computing

Across the school we use computers purposefully to produce something individual, unique and creative. Each year group builds new knowledge upon their previous years of understanding and application. With the availability of Google Classroom, pupils are able to save their learning in class to their own drives and then access it at home.

Right: Reception children using the beebots to programme instructions.



## Pupil Voice

### Prefects

Huge thanks as always goes to our prefects who contribute daily to the running of the school and who act as role models for our younger pupils, demonstrating the 5Cs both in the classroom and in the playground. They are also on hand each day at lunch, giving up their time to assist adults and young children alike!

### Learning Council

Each year group has two Learning Council representatives. Earlier in the term, the Learning Council visited Selwyn Primary School and met

with the Selwyn learning Council. They identified aspects of the schools that were similar and brought some great ideas back to school to improve our learning here at Northwold. This will be followed by a visit from Selwyn, where we will be able to showcase the fantastic work that we do here at Northwold and share the aspects of our school that we are proud of. The children will visit classes and look at the learning environment, critique displays and look at the work that is being covered. They will identify strengths and areas to further develop and will talk about the composites and components that contribute to their learning week on week.

## Trips and Visitors

Through our planned trips and visitors in school, children have the opportunity to consolidate their learning and deepen their understanding of curriculum topics. These trips provide hands-on experience for children, allowing them to explore and broaden their understanding and build on their knowledge, ensuring that they know more and remember more. Each trip is linked to a unit of work that the children have been studying in class. This may be History, Geography, Art, Science or English. We have had many exciting trips and visits this term, with more to follow next term.

Reception: Police visit

Year 1: The Museum of the Home

Year 2: St Pauls Cathedral



Y1 enjoyed learning about homes from the past.

Year 3: Stonehenge

Year 4: Walthamstow Wetlands

Year 5: Brunel Museum

Year 6: Imperial War Museum