

13US Upper School Curriculum Newsletter



Summer Term 2019

The teaching of **Maths** will be the **whole school focus** for this year.

Lesson observations took place during last autumn term with the focus on how numeracy is taught across the curriculum. Teachers shared good practice.

Science will be a focus during this Summer term of 2019.

English

Functional English

Developing communication skills is important across all lessons for 13US and reading and writing skills will be encouraged where possible throughout the weekly timetable.

Pupils will be creating their own narratives basing their story on an area of every day life beneficial to them to support their EHCP Targets. All pupils will be completing the ASDAN accreditation unit 'Developing Writing Skills'.

For some pupils their second English lesson will cross over with the Science curriculum and will include lessons about the force 'push' and how this is used in every day life. Some pupils will be spending time at the 'Thrive' community project.

English lessons in 13US may include workbox sessions where pupils can work towards their personal targets. Workbox sessions will include supervised 1 to 1 learning with staff support to develop new life skills and also some independent work boxes to be completed without support to help consolidate what they have already previously learnt.

Science

Science will be taught across the curriculum. We will be learning about our environment and forces.

Pupils will be completing the ADSAN unit 'Caring for your environment'. Pupils will look at the force to 'push' and how we use this in every day life skill activities.

Maths

Functional Maths

At times, pupils will be utilising the workbox system in their Maths' lessons. As in English sessions, pupils will work through a selection of activities that are personalised to each of the pupils' needs. Pupils will again also have independent Maths time in which they will complete a selection of familiar tasks to consolidate their learning.

Through 'starter' activities pupils will work together as part of a group to complete short activities to prepare them for their lessons.

During Maths lessons we will be working on our number skills and looking at how numbers are used in every day activities. Pupils will also continue to develop their money skills.

Maths' skills will be included in all lessons and in particular the good morning and reflection sessions each day. Pupils will be encouraged to remember the days of the week and the months of the year through songs. Number recognition and counting will be used each day in all lessons and we will be continuing to use the money box reward system to encourage money handling, coin recognition and saving enough money to buy what they would like from the reward shop at the end of the day each Friday.

Throughout the term there will be a selection of trips organised to a variety of settings to help develop life skills and using shops and cafes to pay for items.

P.E. and Fitness

Swimming will take place on a Wednesday, in which the pupils will work towards individual targets.

P.E takes place on a Friday. The pupils will be visiting Bromsgrove Golf Club, where they will be receiving coaching on the driving range.

In July, pupils will then be focusing on Athletics; they will be refining their throwing, running and jumping skills.

Art

Pupils are looking at the Art of Ireland focusing on the iconic, green, rolling landscapes, the castles and Celtic art. Within the genre of Celtic art they will be focusing particularly on Celtic crosses. They will explore painting techniques and application. They will practice drawing skills using pencil, crayon, charcoal and chalk. They will work towards a final, layered landscape piece of their own design which will incorporate all of their practiced skills.

Computing

Pupils have been working collaboratively to make a PowerPoint presentation about their interests. This involved choosing images and working on formatting the slides. They have carried out research around school and produced a pictogram of favourite lessons. Computing lessons have also focused on improving general ICT skills such as mouse control, using the keyboard and touchscreen accuracy.

Life Skills

Life Skills will be taught throughout the week by a variety of teachers. In these sessions the pupils will develop everyday independence and thinking skills. During MSR sessions pupils will start to develop an understanding of different cultures to help them prepare for adult life.

Rebound Therapy

Some pupils will follow the 'Winstrada' programme this term on Mondays. This programme aims to improve fitness, posture and balance. It will also build confidence and help provide a sense of well-being.

Food Technology

In Food Technology we are going to be working on basic teatime skills such as making jacket potatoes and fillings. Pupils should develop a better understanding of the need for three healthy meals a day and why it is important to eat a good balanced tea. These lessons will help build evidence towards their ASDAN accreditation unit 'Preparing drinks and snacks'.

13US will have Food Technology lessons first lesson on a Thursday. The foods that they choose and prepare are then eaten after the lesson during snack time, rather than eating their snacks brought in from home. (No snacks need to be sent to school on Thursdays.) We are very careful to make sure the pupils only have 'snack size' portions.

PSHE

Our PSHE topic for the term is the ASDAN unit 'Having your say', and pupils will be planning and preparing leisure trips.

Music

Pupils will get into the groove by exploring rhythm and melody in singing, movement and dance. They will learn about beat, syncopation, pitch and harmony and take a trip around the British Isles to celebrate the universal language of folk music. Pupils will be encouraged to sing and play with increasing confidence and control.

Community Learning

During community learning 13US will be working towards their ASDAN accreditation units.

This term they will be completing their 'caring for the environment' unit, visiting a charity shop and doing more community litter picking. After half term they will be going on their leisure trips that they have planned themselves in PSHE lessons.

The last Friday of each half term will be our usual social visit to 'Reach' (Post 19 Provider).

How is my child's progress being recorded?

All pupils are continuously assessed using the SOLAR assessment system. This breaks down levels and targets into small steps, so that we are able to track progression through each level.

Evidence is collected through pupils own work, videos, photographs and observation statements from staff.