# **Antingham & Southrepps Primary School**

## Our Approach to Teaching and Learning

Respect, Responsibility, Readiness and Reading are at the heart of everything we do at Antingham and Southrepps Primary School and Nursery. We give each of these 4 R's equal weighting and believe strongly in always showing effort. Through a knowledge-rich curriculum, engaging teaching, great relationships and strong partnerships, we work hard to ensure that Antingham and Southrepps Primary School and Nursery is the best possible primary school experience for every child.

We believe that high expectations and high aspirations enable all children to shine and reach their full potential to ensure they have the best life chances possible.

#### Curriculum

Knowledge helps develop well-rounded, empowered citizens and widens opportunities and life chances. The specifics of what we want children to learn are important. Skills, vocabulary and conceptual understanding are forms of knowledge. Skills such as critical thinking and problem solving need to be taught within specific subject contexts. Students are empowered through knowing things and acquiring powerful knowledge. At Antingham and Southrepps Primary School and Nurserybwe want children to develop into well-rounded citizens with a host of strong character traits that will emerge through being immersed in a knowledge-rich curriculum. It is essential that we also teach Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, and seek to ensure that cross-curricular issues of global and environmental education and equality of opportunity are included in all topics as part of our aim to offer a curriculum that goes beyond the confines of the National Curriculum to educate the whole child.

We believe that children learn best when:

- Subjects are taught discretely, so that both the knowledge and skills of the subject can be explicitly taught
- Units of work are planned in advance and fully resourced so that learning can be carefully sequenced and a variety of learning opportunities included
- The curriculum provides a clear progression model, supporting the layering of new knowledge on secure foundations and enabling children to build secure schema
- Units of work are supported by knowledge organisers that detail the facts and vocabulary to be learned.
- Units are planned to incorporate learning from cognitive science: spaced retrieval practice, formative low-stakes testing, and strategies to build fluency.
- Explicit vocabulary instruction is included in all subjects. We believe that strong language skills underpin all learning.

- Each year group has an enrichment programme including art classes with our resident artists, opportunities to create and perform music at the highest level with our specialist music teacher and collaborative local projects.
- Curricular visits are planned to deepen, enrich and build on classroom learning as well as giving children opportunities for personal development

### **Pedagogy**

Teacher expertise lies at the core of the delivery of the planned curriculum and teachers are actively encouraged to develop subject specialisms. This enables strong direct instruction in the classroom, with teachers able to deliver content with clarity, confidence and precision. Direct instruction is interspersed with age-appropriate pupil tasks to enable pupils to practise and consolidate their understanding, before moving swiftly on to new content.

#### We believe that children learn best when:

- Teachers have high expectations of all children's learning and provide appropriate scaffold to support all children to achieve.
- Teachers have high aspirations for all children regardless of their starting points.
- Lessons begin with a recap of prior learning. This may be through quizzing, a short writing task or a quick classroom discussion.
- New learning is then presented in an engaging and creative way, in small steps and through carefully planned explanations
- Pupil participation in learning is maximised through a range of strategies: no hands-up, mini whiteboards, jotting books, effective questioning and lesson delivery that is concise and engaging
- Lessons are shaped according to the needs of the children: sped up or slowed down or levels of support adjusted following in-lesson assessment
- The lowest 20% are considered by preteaching opportunities, adult scaffolding, strong links between home and school to ensure pupils have been exposed to key concepts, vocabulary and elements of the curriculum content before the start of each new unit of study.
- Opportunities to practise new learning are embedded so that new knowledge is internalised and new skills become fluent and automatic
- Practice is guided initially, with levels of support being gradually withdrawn to foster pupil independence

#### Formative assessment

The purpose of feedback and assessment is threefold: to inform the teacher of a child's attainment and therefore to inform future planning; to inform a child of how well they have done and what they need to do next; to motivate a child through celebrating success

### **Principles:**

- There is a consistent and manageable method of feedback, assessment and pupil response throughout the school.
- Work is assessed promptly and as much feedback as possible is given 'live' throughout lessons by the teacher and teaching assistant. Assessment within the lesson is used to shape the course of the learning and inform levels of support
- All adults working with the children are involved in giving feedback.
- Children are given opportunities to respond feedback and to make improvements to their work.
- Feedback and assessment are used to inform future planning and target setting
- Giving children opportunities to assess their own and each other's work builds children's metacognitive skills.

## Work is assessed and feedback given in a variety of ways:

- Live feedback within a lesson, either verbal or written
- Small-group and one-to-one conferencing after a lesson
- Next steps written in books
- Self- and peer-assessment
- Distance written feedback after a lesson
- Whole class feedback and examples of WAGOLL's