

William Martin CofE Schools and Nursery

Executive Headteacher: Gina Bailey

Head of School: Claire Kearney

www.williammartinschools.org.uk

Experiencing life in all its fullness



Thursday 26th November 2020

Parent Update

Our Brilliant Learners

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would just like to say a fantastic well done to the William Martin children, they really do never cease to amaze me on how brilliantly they are behaving and how hard they are working in school. They make me feel so very proud of each and every one of them!

With all the slightly gloomy news dominating the headlines I thought I'd share an article I've written for Your Harlow with you, to show how much fun the children are having in their learning at school, with the new curriculum we've started this year. The teachers worked hard throughout lockdown, rewriting our curriculum so that it meets OFSTED's new expectations of depth and breadth, in a wide and engaging curriculum. This was a huge effort from the staff, on a project which normally would take a year, which instead took two months. What an achievement!



The New Curriculum

We truly believe that in order for our pupils to have 'life in all its fullness', we have created a new, rich curriculum which exposes our children to a wealth of experiences, knowledge and skills. We aim to nurture their independence and curiosity whilst giving them the basic skills needed in life, to empower them to achieve as life-long learners.

Concepts

This new inspirational curriculum, developed with St James' Primary School, is based on Jonathon Lear's innovative "concepts" driven approach, which has transformed the way children learn.



Our Core Christian Values: Perseverance, Justice, Respect, Trust, Compassion, Responsibility, Forgiveness, Peace

More information on Jonathon Lear can be found

on <https://www.independentthinking.co.uk/associates/jonathan-lear/>.

All topics are planned with this approach where teachers make links with concepts such as power, adversity, sustainability and loyalty, whilst fostering an enquiring approach to life, where children think carefully about 'Big Questions' and ask questions of their own.



Our Themes of Explore, Discover and Create

The children's learning is organised into terms:

- the Autumn term is our 'explore' theme where children become experts in geography and DT - such as making exploding volcanoes and mountain's contour lines, studying in depth the chocolate making industry, exploring the suspension in vehicles;
- the Spring is 'Discover' where our pupils become historians
- the Summer is 'Create' where we bring all the arts to life. This gives the pupils more opportunities to study the areas in greater depth.

Throughout all topics the ABC approach will ensure skills are continuously developed: active learning, basic skills and creative thinking.

Global Citizenship

Through this new curriculum, we aim for each child to gain a true respect for themselves and each other against a background of global citizenship, sharing a sense of wonder as we all do in the diversity and beauty that God has provided.



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We seek to educate each child as a whole, not thinking purely of their academic development, but also of their sense of awe, wonder and adventure.

We embrace everyone's differences and celebrate their achievements on their way to realising their potential.



So hopefully that's given you a little taste of what is happening in school, we are very aware that parents can't come into the building and hope this gives you some insight into what were busy doing in school!

Very best wishes,

Gina Bailey
Executive Headteacher

Claire Kearney
Head of Schools



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