

# Primary Curriculum Newsletter 7



## Spring Update! March 2023

Hello again, I hope you have all had a good spring term. Here are the latest curriculum updates.



### Curriculum and Assessment Strategy Team - 'CAST'

The subject directors (English, Maths, IT, EYFS) have been in to most schools now and have supported in a variety of ways such as leading workshops, running staff training, working 1:1 with subject leaders and coaching teachers in the classroom. We have recently invested in coaching time for the CAST to support our vision, roles and responsibilities and to structure how we operate. We have agreed our purpose as a team:

*The Curriculum and Assessment Strategy Team works in partnership, with shared vision and expertise, to ensure best practice in every school and drive improvement.*

We look forward to continuing to work with all the primary schools next term.

### Learning reviews

Early this term, we carried out the personal development and behaviour reviews in each school, thank you to everyone who spoke to us. This was so interesting to see how values are used to promote positive behaviour. It's also good to see many of our schools using a therapeutic approach to behaviour management. Michael Gray will continue to work with diversity leaders and Trust subject Leaders to continue some of this work.

### Trust Training Day

As you know, our focus for the Trust training day is writing. Please remember this is a nut-free venue. Please also bring along your own cups/bottles to fill up throughout the day. Thanks to everyone who has given dietary requirements.

### Vacancy

If you are interested in becoming a Trust Subject Lead, then we are currently recruiting for **Music, Art and Geography**. If you are interested in taking on one of these roles, please do get in touch with me and I can tell you more. You don't need to have a degree in this subject, just passion and drive to become an expert and the ability to support other subject leaders.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break, see you on the training day!

Em McMurray [emcmurray@jeavonswood.org](mailto:emcmurray@jeavonswood.org)



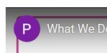
## A few subject updates...

### Maths

We have now had four meetings so far this year and feel as though we are really getting to know each other well and share our thoughts and ideas freely. We are continuing to think deeply about the arithmetic proficiency and class targeted teaching time. We have been using a new approach to thinking about misconceptions, inspired by the visit Claire Gerrard and I had to see Japanese teachers as part of Collaborative Lesson Study. The Japanese teachers anticipate answers to questions and think where the root of misconceptions may lie. We tried this with reading an analogue clock. We looked at the time shown here and thought about what possible answers children may give and how we could structure our sequence of learning to avoid misconceptions taking root. We found this process to be incredibly helpful to guide our thinking process in developing a coherent sequence of learning. Katie Suslar-Fletcher was also able to join us as Secondary Maths Trust lead. It was great to hear her voice in discussions and get an idea of maths from a secondary perspective.



A home for curious mathematical minds.  
For ages 10-16 anywhere in the world. 100% free.



Many of our schools are enrolled for the Y5 Primary Maths Challenge next term. Good-luck to everyone involved. For any keen mathematicians aged 10+ in your school, you may like to signpost them to Parallel, an online code-breaking maths puzzle club.

[Parallel by Simon Singh](#)

Our next meeting is at Thongsley Fields on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April from 3:30pm until 5pm. Have a wonderful Easter break, Katie Crozier

### MFL

#### 1. Resources

Resources (Jaune / Vert or Amarillo / Verde) for the MFL scheme of work used across Trust schools have been updated on the Rachel Hawkes website. Please do check content before sharing as I have noticed one or two errors. If you do come across any errors please do let Rachel Hawkes know ([rhawkes@combertonvc.org](mailto:rhawkes@combertonvc.org)) so she can adjust on the SOW.

#### 2. Assessments

There will be assessments at the same times as for Red/Blue years - Final two weeks of Autumn Term and Spring Terms and weeks 10/11 of the summer term.

All files have been finished, updated now and reuploaded to the site.

Note that nothing is compulsory in this scheme and everything is fully adaptable as it is in powerpoint - that is deliberate ☐.

#### REMINDER

**Introductory presentations to support subject leads** (e.g., with Ofsted preparation/presentation to governors etc..)

French - [Introduction to the French KS2 SOW](#)

Spanish - [Introduction to the Spanish KS2 SOW](#)

Anna Haupt

## A few subject updates...

### English

This term has been as busy as always with all things English! We had a fantastic meeting at Hartford Juniors to kick off the term! It was so inspiring to hear from Michael Gray as he gave us his expert advice for diversifying our English curriculum. We also had a fantastic discussion about writing moderation and reflected on the needs of our schools and how we can best support the teachers in our settings.

#### Trust Training Day:

The Primary Trust Training Day on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April will have a writing focus. We are very excited to welcome Rob Smith (creator of The Literacy Shed) as our keynote speaker and all staff will have a chance to join him for a small-group workshop at some point in the day. We are also very much looking forward to hearing the expert guidance from the EEF through Sarah Green in her session 'Every Teacher a Teacher of Literacy'. Teachers have also signed up to specialist sessions with a variety of practitioners from across the Trust! We are very thankful to the following experts from our Trust for their sessions:

Millie Chapman - Assessing writing from EYFS to Year 6  
Michael Gray - Planning Writing  
Katie Brown - Embedding Grammar in Writing  
Robyn Wilson - Using Technology to Support Writing  
Chris Squires - Metacognitive Literacy  
Laura Latham - Tackling Tricky Texts and Inspiring Writing

We will be filming Rob Smith's keynote speech, as well as his workshop, for us to use as internal CPD within the Trust. Short segments of the other sessions may also be filmed, but these will be used for promotional purposes within the Trust. If you do not wish to appear in any footage, please contact your Head.

#### Our Next Meeting:

Our next meeting (date TBC) will have a focus on writing moderation. It will be a fantastic opportunity to come together and continue the discussion around our collective vision for writing moderation, ensuring we can structure it in a way which supports the teachers in our schools to make confident, accurate judgements and consider how to move learning forward.

[alevans@jeavonswood.org](mailto:alevans@jeavonswood.org)

### Forest

This term has been a rather wet, chilly one for our Forest School leaders, but it has been exciting to hear about how people are getting on with their sessions. At the end of last term we were able to meet and talk about some of the common themes that our schools are finding when it comes to Forest School. These ranged from our physical space, to fitting it into our timetables and allowing all of our children to access this provision.

One of the things which we had previously discussed was ensuring progression throughout school, leading me to develop a skills progression document which we were able to share and develop to suit our individual schools. Whilst our sessions continue to be based on the children's interests and being able to play, this will support us to provide the opportunities for our children to continue to develop their skills as they move through our schools.

I am looking forward to enjoying some slightly warmer weather and helping our children to see the wonder of nature as Spring takes hold.

If anyone would like any support with their Forest School provision or getting involved with Forest School, please feel free to contact me [pforster@thongsleyfields.org](mailto:pforster@thongsleyfields.org) In the meantime, I hope you enjoy a well earned break!

Philie

## DT

It was lovely meeting with some of the DT leads this term. We looked at the current expectations in DT and of DT subject leads themselves. We then discussed what DT is looking like in our schools at the moment. A challenge across many of our schools at present is managing costs and budgets whilst still ensuring an enriched practical curriculum. After some discussion, we came up with some ways in which we can hopefully manage this, so hopefully DT is now becoming earlier for you to plan and resource. I am currently in the process of producing Food Technology/ Food and nutrition plans for each year group, with a clear path of progression in understanding and skill development. As these are completed, they will be added to the Network Subject Lead DT folder on Share Point, which your DT lead will be able to access if you require.

As always, please get in touch if there is anything you want to discuss.

Have a wonderful Easter break,

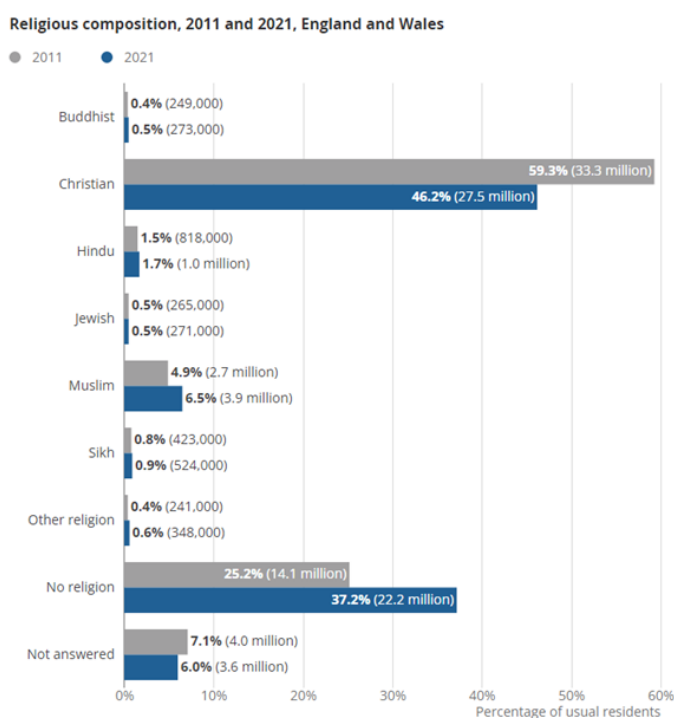
Beccy Boyden [bboyden@jeavonswood.org](mailto:bboyden@jeavonswood.org)

## RE

The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) have conducted research of over 200 Primary school teacher's views on RE in their schools during Summer Term 2022. Findings show that 96% of the schools surveyed make provisions for the teaching of RE and that 30% of these schools have increased the amount of time dedicated to RE within their timetable. The findings also show that there has been an increase in the percentage of pupils that have been withdrawn from RE. These numbers reflect a rise from 18.6% in 2020 to 23% of schools reporting requests for some type of withdrawal from the RE curriculum.

### How has religion changed in your area?

The 2021 Census results have shown significant changes to our national religious composition, in particular a steep rise in the amount of people who are of "no religion," and a decline in the percentage of our population who regard themselves as Christian.



## Science

The Trust Science Coordinator Meetings are amalgamated with the termly CB23 Science Network Meetings throughout the year, and we are very lucky that the meetings are extremely well attended, with over 19 colleagues attending. This results in great conversations and opportunities to share the excellent practise that is going on in our local schools and to additionally have the chance to find support for just about any issue a school may be working on. With colleagues also attending from both Comberton and Cambourne Village Colleges, we also have the opportunity to develop practises that bridge the Primary-Secondary phases, ensuring that skills taught span the entirety of Science curriculum.

In the Autumn meeting, we looked at the profile and status of Science as a core curriculum subject in each of our settings. This gave us the opportunity to consider the regularity and content of lessons and how these impact on the children's enjoyment and retention of substantive knowledge. We also considered how colleagues feel about teaching Science, their own subject knowledge and confidence and how this can determine the types of lessons that are taught. The provision of CPD to support subject knowledge is a key area of development and one we will revisit in future meetings. We shared ways to collect staff and pupil opinions and then other ways to generally raise the profile of Science. This was a great opportunity to magpie ideas, from introducing Science Ambassadors, to displays, Scientists of the Week, Playground Science bags, Science days/week and literature (including magazine subscriptions) as well as the use of technology, particularly the Seesaw learning platform.

With the recent release of Ofsted's Science Subject Report, we dedicated the Spring meeting to looking into findings and recommendations and considering these with respect to our own settings. The report considered; curriculum and planning, teaching and pedagogy, assessment, CPD and subject leadership. EYFS was specifically mentioned in the report, with a view to the provision having clear connections to the curriculum in Year 1, especially if the school uses a bought in scheme, which tends not to cover EYFS. Disciplinary knowledge was a key theme and how this needs to be explicitly taught and the skills planned in alongside the substantive knowledge, something that Ofsted found generally wasn't done. Having the time to consider the impact of this report and have the opportunity to discuss it with others was very valuable.

We were also able to discuss the recent release of sample material from the new White Rose Education Science Scheme and the timeline for the full release of each term's free materials. This will then lead into looking at schemes and pedagogy in the next meeting in the summer term.  
Have a great Easter break

Kirsty  
[kiallen@jeavonswood.org](mailto:kiallen@jeavonswood.org)

## IT

### IT Support

You may have noticed that Trust IT support is back! We warmly welcomed a new primary-based IT Technician, Jonathan Rutt, last month. Please share any issues through [support@catrust.co.uk](mailto:support@catrust.co.uk).

### Computing Network Meeting

This term, the Computing Leads met to discuss online safety. Although our computing curriculums provide discrete links to the online world, we shared similar concerns about whether we are doing enough. So, we discussed the use of ProjectEVOLVE.

### ProjectEVOLVE

ProjectEVOLVE is an online safety toolkit that aims to "evolve" the online safety messages that children and young people are taught; to be appropriate, meaningful, reflective and positive. It's a space that provides the right opportunity for discussion; prompted by appropriate questions accompanied by honest and useful information to shape thinking and challenge misconceptions. How it works is, each class completes a 'knowledge map' which gives a fantastic picture as to what teaching children in the class need.



The knowledge map generates reports that share if a class is 'incorrect', 'emerging', 'developing' or 'secure' in online safety objectives, and then provides teaching slides that target misconceptions from the results. We discussed every first computing lesson to be online safety focused to target 'emerging' misconceptions in the class, but your computing lead will share expectations of its use in your school.

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### Cam Academy Trust Regional Training Centre (CAT RTC)

The Cam Academy Trust are pleased to announce their recognition as an Apple Regional Training Centre for 2022-2023. We are excited to be part of a community that shares best practice and inspires excellence through teaching and learning with Apple Technology. If you're doing something enabling with technology and would like to be a part of sharing with others, please reach out and we can discuss content for a RTC workshop.



Apple Teacher

Our first 'Start teaching with iPad' workshop was a success with lots of lightbulb moments from the attendees! As a group, everyone earned their 'iPad' badge, only 3 more badges to earn before they can become an Apple Teacher. This is a fantastic, self-paced professional development that gives you all the skills you need to feel comfortable and confident on an iPad.

Please see details for our next RTC workshop, 'Learning with iPad: Seesaw basics': <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/learning-with-ipad-seesaw-basics-tickets-483073695427>.

IT



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**Join us to build your skills and confidence to use Apple technology inside and outside the classroom. Please check the skill level before signing up:**

- Beginners
- Skill builders
- Masterclass

catrtc@catrust.co.uk

@catrtc

<https://www.catrust.co.uk/cat-community/apple-rtc>



Regional Training Centre

**Learning with iPad: Seesaw basics**

**Overview:** New to Seesaw? Come to this workshop and learn how children can create, reflect and collaborate their ideas on an inclusive, digital platform called Seesaw. You will learn how to respond to an activity as a child using Seesaw's built-in tools, and how to create an activity to ensure all children can access the learning.

+Exclusive+ school tour to observe the use of Seesaw in a shared device environment.

**Date:** Tuesday 25th April 2023

**Time:** 1.30-3pm

**Location:** Jeavons Wood Primary School

**Resources:** iPad, or iPad can be provided for the duration of the workshop.

**BOOK HERE:** [eventbrite](#)



- Skill builders



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Regional Training Centre

**Create with iPad: Augmented Reality**

**Overview:** Explore ways to engage children through visiting a location on Maps and Google Earth. Learn how to create immersive experiences to bring a 3D concept to life on Jigspace and discover ways to augment your reality by bringing a traditional tale to life through ARMakr.

**Date:** Monday 12th June 2023

**Time:** 3:30-4.45pm

**Location:** Teams.

**Resources:** iPad with ARMakr, Jigspace and Google Earth downloaded from the App Store (iPad can be provided for the workshop, if needed).

**BOOK HERE:** [eventbrite](#)



- Masterclass

I hope you have a great Easter and I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the Trust training day.

Robyn Wilson

## EYFS

The Spring term always seems to be the term when we see our youngest children take great strides in their learning progress. They have settled into their new environments and are now embracing the demands of full-time school. There can be few things more rewarding than witnessing the first time a child makes sense of a written sentence when reading or finally realises that squiggles on a page represent the number system. It has therefore been rewarding on visits this term to discuss with everyone what the next challenge looks like. Within the new curriculum in Early Years the emphasis is very much on presenting children with varied opportunities and supporting them, to then navigate their way through these experiences. This demands that practitioners really know each child well and understands how they best learn.

We have discussed, at length, how to move children's learning on through appropriate open-ended questioning. How one timely question can be so much more effective than a barrage of comments that interrupt a child's exploration.

Providing challenge within our continuous provision is also an area for development across our schools. We are readily sharing best practices and supporting each other with ideas and solutions. A real sense of working together to support each other is evident across our schools in Early Years.

It is important for us to remember that Early Years, within most of our schools, encompasses our pre-school provision. Our practitioners within our pre-school settings work incredibly hard to ensure that the children are best prepared to transition into our school Reception classes.

Our newly devised introduction to phonological awareness activities is progressing well. The main foci of these sessions is to encourage children to 'tune into' the sounds within words. We are promoting their Listening and Attention skills through fun activities based on a weekly key text. Their Speech and Language skills are then being developed through a variety of verbal interactions within these sessions. We are also developing the children's positive learning behaviours and self-regulation through these daily, short, but frequent, active learning opportunities.

We are always looking forward to improve and develop our practices and have recently begun to explore a Danish approach called Hygge. We are at the early stages of our development in this area but are hoping that we will develop our first Hygge inspired pre-school settings in the near future. This ethos works from a base of a calming environment, with a focus on bringing nature indoors and creating a calm, harmonious atmosphere. This feeling of calmness is promoted in the use of low-level music, calm voices throughout and a sense of having time to appreciate the important moments. If the decision is that we move forward with this approach it will be an exciting development for both our children and adults.

Millie chapman MChapman@catrust.co.uk