

## **Curriculum, 11+, Staffing and Pastoral Care:**

### **The 11+**

The 11+, when handled correctly, is fantastic preparation for children as they transition into senior school. Historically our children have achieved very strong 7+ results and staff are skilled in preparing children for these types of examinations, both academically and emotionally. Parents will be closely guided and supported at every stage of the 11+ process, to ensure that everyone involved remains calm and confident.

### **The Curriculum**

Our whole school curriculum is focused on giving children the very best preparation for the 11+ while maintaining the hands on, creative, theme-based learning that makes lessons stimulating. Our curriculum is designed to create lively and enquiring minds and encourage questioning and critical thinking, all within a nurturing environment that supports risk taking and making mistakes. Philosophy for Children, taught from Reception, Reasoning (from Year 1) and drama (from Sept 2023) all contribute to the cultivation of good listening and communication skills, out of the box thinking and the ability to work collaboratively. Children learn to discuss, debate, respond to and respect each others' ideas while developing the confidence to offer an opinion as well as ask probing questions. This provides invaluable preparation, not just for the 11+, but for life beyond.

Our enrichment programme is broad, with a varied offering of before and after school clubs. These include LAMDA (Speech and Drama), Fencing, Chess, Art, Pottery, Zumba, choir and French.

### **What will staffing levels be?**

Each class will have a dedicated teacher who has overall pastoral and academic responsibilities, however, specialist teachers will provide PE, sports, Dance, Music, ICT and languages (Spanish & French Club). Staffing levels for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will remain the same as they are currently, with favourable pupil teacher ratios that enable small group instruction. Further up the school, the core subjects of English and Maths will always be supported by a teaching assistant with bespoke support where required in other curriculum areas.

### **Who will be the teachers and what is their experience in teaching KS2 years?**

All new teachers will be subject specialists, fully qualified to deliver our curriculum, with an excellent understanding and experience of where children need to be by the Autumn term of Year 6.

### **How will the developing emotional, physical and social needs of the children as they get older be catered for?**

We will continue to use our existing Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) scheme, Jigsaw, as children progress through the school.

### **How will you support high or low achievers?**

Our SENCo has equal responsibility for our More Able provision, overseeing both the support and challenge through the school. As a non-selective school, we offer places on a first come, first served basis. This is on the expectation that all pupils will work hard and thrive within an ambitious

environment. We are committed to supporting all children in an individualised manner, provided that they will academic, personal and social needs.

As an inclusive and non-selective school, we strive to provide equal opportunities to all pupils. However, it is important that we are able to provide the right environment for each individual pupil to thrive. While we operate on a first come, first served basis, our curriculum is challenging, in order for us to meet the demands of the 11+ syllabus.

#### Will there be a change in uniform?

We are an eco-school and do not plan big changes to the existing uniform resulting. We are investigating options for a games kit for competitive matches against other schools.

#### Will you have school houses?

This may be introduced as the School grows, but currently we provide other opportunities such as the Eco and School councils and assemblies, where children collaborate and interact with those in other year groups.