



THE FALCONS SCHOOL FOR BOYS

**KEY STAGE ONE CURRICULUM HANDBOOK
2011 2012**

Trips

All boys in Years 1 and 2 go on termly educational visits. These visits are linked to the topics the boys are learning about in their classrooms.

In Year 1, previous trips have included Kew Gardens, Chiltern Open Air Museum and Bethnal Green Toy Museum. Parents are invited to come and support their children where appropriate.

In Year 2, previous trips have included the RAF Museum, Hendon, The Roald Dahl Museum and we end each year with a trip to the beach at Littlehampton, west Sussex. We invite all parents to join us on the Littlehampton trip.

Residential Trip

In Year 2, the boys have the opportunity to visit Cholderton Farm. This activity centre is run by JCA and the boys spend one night and two days having fun on the farm. The activities have included bivi building, fencing, archery and singing around the camp fire. It is a truly memorable trip, which all the boys remember as one of their Falcons highlights!



School Ethos

We share a desire to find and recognise individual talents, to deliver a broad education and to provide a rich tapestry of relationships, activities and teaching which will prepare the children for their future lives, in a fast moving and challenging world.

Our school is a place filled with laughter and fun, where your children are encouraged, nurtured and motivated at every turn. When your son joins us in the Nursery he will be prepared for each new challenge which faces him as he moves through the school.

Introduction

The aim of this booklet is to give you an insight into what your son will be doing during his time with us and how the Key Stage One curriculum is structured. Key Stage One follows on from the Foundation Stage and is made up of Years One and Two. During this time we will build upon all the learning and experiences of Nursery and Reception and prepare the boys for their move to your chosen Preparatory School.

Starting Year 1

In the first few weeks our main target is to help your son settle in comfortably and form relationships with the staff and other boys in the class. He will become familiar with the routines of the days and the week, and our expectations for his behaviour. It is important that we spend time really getting to know your son as he takes part in all the activities in the classroom so that we can build on the firm foundation and tailor our expectations to his individual needs.

Moving To Year 2

There is a natural progression from Year 1 to Year 2. Each year the boys are regrouped into new classes. This gives them opportunities to establish positive new relationships, both with their class mates and the staff. It also ensures that, as the boys grow and mature, there is a balance to the class based on age, ability, friendships (both positive and negative), behaviour and educational needs.

The Curriculum

At the Falcons School for Boys we provide a high quality, broad and balanced curriculum, enriching all the children in our care. We believe that the child remains at the centre of all learning and teaching. We foster caring attitudes, consideration and appreciation of others, and encourage value and respect for all cultures and religions. All our staff spend time developing self-esteem, self-discipline and independence in the children. Our children are encouraged to take pride in their achievements, which are recognised and rewarded. We create a happy, caring, positive and welcoming environment in which all our children can learn and achieve together. The Falcons School for Boys places a great emphasis on the whole school working together to achieve a successful environment for learning and life.

Each area has clear objectives and recognised 'landmarks' which the children reach as they progress through the curriculum at their own pace. These same targets are built upon and consolidated in the Year 2 classes the following year. The curriculum is designed to equip your son with the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes that will prepare him for the future.

Our Approach

Our approach for Key Stage 1 is more formal than the Foundation Stage, in line with the development of you sons. We move from the six areas of learning to traditional subject areas. English and Maths are taught every day, with subjects such as Science, ICT, Art, RE, PSHE, History and Geography making up the rest of the timetable. PE, Games, French and Music are all taught by our specialist staff.

One of the aims at Falcons School for Boys is to prepare boys for prep school entrance exams and we are very successful at fulfilling this. It is very important that the curriculum across Years 1 and 2 supports the development of the boys and prepares them for the next stage of their education.

Currently our pupils sit assessments at age seven for many London prep schools, including our own prep school. These assessments are in English, Mathematics and verbal and non verbal reasoning.



French and Music

Specialist teaching staff in French and Music throughout the school has ensured a high standard of teaching and a clear focus in these subjects. Peripatetic teachers offer lessons in Years 1 and 2, teaching guitar and piano. We have a well established choir made up of the Year 2 boys who attend the Wetherby Choir Festival each year. The boys, under the direction of our Music teacher, put on a whole school performance in the summer, and at Christmas we put on a Christmas play at the church as well as Harvest and Spring concerts.



Physical Education

We place great emphasis on Physical Education (PE) and it is the third most taught subject in our timetable. Due to our location, we do not have the on site facilities for the teaching of some areas of the PE curriculum. It is therefore necessary to transport the children to various venues in our local area. We travel by coach to the Westminster Polytechnic Ground for Games all year round and to Brentford Leisure Centre for swimming during the Summer Term.





Art and Design and Technology

Art and Design technology are taught in units throughout the year, each unit focuses on specific skills and techniques which support creative development throughout the Key Stage. The boys have the opportunity to create masterpieces to support the various areas of the curriculum as well, for example mathematical art in the style of Escher. We look at work from famous artists to support our learning.

Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education

We teach these subjects each week. RE has a Christianity focus in Year 1, where the boys learn about the stories of Jesus and his life. In Year 2, the boys learn about the six main world religions.

PSHE covers personal, social and health education. The boys are encouraged to discuss issues they face, such as keeping safe, keeping healthy and new starts and changes. It is important that the boys learn that all our opinions are important, even though we do not always share the same opinions. Circle Time is an important part of PSHE, where the boys can discuss issues and problems in school as well as world wide events that they are interested in. We encourage the boys to support the school's chosen charities.

English and Maths

We believe that without our focus on these two core subjects we would be failing the pupils in our care. The number of hours we spend teaching English and Maths are therefore high. Each year group teaches approximately six hours of literacy and five hours of numeracy per week. We also feel that this emphasis on developing the core skills of Literacy and Numeracy support and raise standards in other non-core subjects.

English

The four areas of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing are addressed throughout the year.

Speaking and Listening

Children are encouraged to initiate and respond to conversation with each other and the school staff. They are also given the opportunity to present their ideas to others through class presentations, question and answer sessions in small and large groups and through class assemblies. We learn that everyone has a voice and that all opinions, whether they are shared or not, should be given the chance to be aired and discussed.

Good listening is vital for communication and relating to others, as well as for learning effectively. We use a number of strategies to develop this essential skill.

- Practical group games
- Music
- PE
- Circle time
- Using a visual element where possible to hold attention
- Praising quick responses to verbal or visual instructions

Reading

We concentrate on providing activities that develop the reading skills that are necessary for becoming a fluent reader, as it is essential for the boys to not only read the text, but to also understand it. It is vital that the level of book your son reads matches his level of comprehension, not his recognition of words, as this may lead to a lack of confidence and enjoyment in reading.

During Year 1, the boys participate in group reading and one to one reading activities with an adult. The focus is on comprehension as well as recognition of the written word. We encourage the boys to listen to themselves as well as others when reading; we discuss the text and characters, make predictions about the story and share our opinions about the

story and the style in which it was written, this is done verbally. During Year 2, the boys read mainly in groups and complete activities that extend their understanding and involvement in the books. The boys also complete more formal written comprehension activities.

Year 1 use the Oxford Reading Scheme and PM books to support their reading development, Year 2 use a wide variety of books to expand the boy's breadth of reading, including the 'Planet X' scheme, which is specifically aimed at developing boys interest in reading.

We believe it is important that the boys are encouraged to choose from a wide range of books as it increases their confidence, fluency and encourages a joy of reading.

Writing

The boys are encouraged to put pen to paper at every opportunity They are introduced to different writing styles and genre throughout the year as well as all the different elements that help them to become successful writers, for example, grammar, handwriting and spelling.

Each week the boys have spellings to learn. These spellings are linked to the sounds and letter groupings the boys are learning in class each week. They have a spelling test each week along with a dictation exercise based on these words.

Unjoined handwriting is taught throughout Year 1, each letter is taught including its flick in preparation for learning joined up handwriting. During the summer term the boys begin to learn how to join their writing, using the Nelson Handwriting script. This is reviewed and developed in Year 2 and during the summer term the boys have a go at using handwriting pens, in preparation for the next step.



Maths

The boys have maths lessons each day; they focus on number, shape and space, data handling, measurement and problem solving. It is important that the boys learn to apply their mathematical skills to real events; this is reflected in the practical maths sessions and in our problem solving activities.

There will be elements of number taught each week. During Year 1, the boys become secure in their knowledge of numbers and the number system as well as focusing on addition and subtraction. During this year they learn to skip count, for example in 2's, 5's or 10's. This supports the learning of times tables which is one of the focuses of Year 2, along with the introduction of division.

Science

Science is taught in the classroom each week, and is planned using the National Curriculum guidelines. There is a mixture of both practical and written activities which include learning about Electricity, Health and Growth, Our Bodies, Plants and Animals and Light and Dark.

ICT

Each Year 1 and 2 class has access to a set of laptop computers which are kept in their classrooms. These are used in all curriculum areas to support learning and to apply the skills that are taught during designated ICT sessions.

History and Geography

History and Geography in Year 1 is taught through 'Topic' time, in six week blocks. The boys are taught about their own personal timelines and their environment. The boys are given the opportunity to compare similarities and differences between Historical artefacts and Geographical features.

In Year 2, the boys begin to focus on particular countries and time periods, so have separate Geography and History lessons. The boys are particularly interested in these areas of learning.