



In September 2014 the primary school curriculum is changing!

For most children, these changes will take effect from September 2014, but children in Years 2 and 6 will follow the existing programmes of study until September 2015 in English, Maths and Science.

Although the new curriculum is intended to be more challenging, the content is actually slimmer than the current curriculum, focusing on essential core subject knowledge and skills.

What are the main changes?

The table below summarises the main changes in the core subjects covered by the National Curriculum.

Subject	What's new?
English	<p>Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1)</p> <p>Handwriting – not currently assessed under the national curriculum – is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy</p> <p>Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children to be taught debating and presenting skills</p>
Maths	<p>Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100 (compared to 20 under the current curriculum) and learn number bonds to 20 (currently up to 10)</p> <p>Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) will be taught from KS1, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. $0.375 = 3/8$)</p> <p>By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12 (currently 10x10 by the end of primary school)</p> <p>Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic</p>
Science	<p>Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms</p> <p>Evolution will be taught in primary schools for the first time</p> <p>Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory</p>

	system
Design & technology	Afforded greater importance under the new curriculum , setting children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future More sophisticated use of design equipment such as electronics and robotics In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world
ICT	Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs From age five, children will learn to write and test simple programs, and to organise, store and retrieve data From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet Internet safety will be taught in primary schools
Languages	Currently not statutory, a modern foreign language or ancient language (Latin or Greek) will be mandatory in KS2 Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language

Will the 2014 primary curriculum involve any new tests?

The Department for Education is currently in the process of reforming KS2 tests, but details have not yet been published.

At Russell Hall, we have taken the opportunity to look at our Programmes of Study, plan some exciting new topics and buy new resources for September. Look out for new topic webs on the website, to see what your child will be studying!

