



NEWSLETTER

Happy Friday!

Curriculum Development

I am excited to be able to share with you news of one of our key school development priorities for this year - curriculum development.

Our current curriculum is very good in many ways and it will continue as normal this year. Meanwhile, in the background we are going to be building a new Southville curriculum which we will trial next year before launching in all its finalised glory in September 2025.

The new curriculum will cover the entire National Curriculum as is statutory so the key concepts and much of the knowledge it is built on will remain the same. However, schools have a fair degree of choice about the contexts, stories and examples we use to deliver the curriculum and it is this choice that we are going to exploit in order to build something uniquely Southville!

Setting out on this journey, there are three key aims for our new curriculum:

1. It will be richly diverse, with a representative selection of people and stories. To achieve this we will be ensuring that staff and partners with a range of lived experiences and expertise in establishing diversity in the curriculum have a leading voice in shaping the content.
2. It will be rooted in our locality, built upon stories and people who are connected in some way to North Street and Bristol. I truly believe that we are one of the best located schools in the country! This may sound a bit over the top but we do have North Street and all it has to offer (street art, the Tobacco Factory etc); Ashton Gate; the harbour and its links to maritime and global history; the theatres and museums in the city centre and so much more all within walking distance, and we have to make the most of the opportunities, experiences and connections this offers us.
3. It will be full of inspiring and surprising stories and experiences. Simply put, our children deserve the very best.

To achieve this, we need your help. We need your expertise, your local knowledge and your imagination. Just before half term I will be sharing a series of google forms. Each will link to a different subject area and I will be asking you to dip in and out of whichever subjects most interest you to share your ideas about the stories, examples and people we could use to bring to life that particular teaching objective. Whether you have professional expertise, a healthy amateur interest, or you just have great ideas, we would love for you to contribute.

This will form a big pool of possible content, from which we will begin to shape the new curriculum.

CARGO Partnership

An exciting part of achieving the first aim of the curriculum (it being richly diverse and representative) is a new partnership with Bristol organisation CARGO (<https://cargomovement.org/classroom/>) who have been developing free to use classroom resources for secondary schools to embed in their curriculum. You may have seen a Points West programme about their work last year. Dr Lawrence Hoo, the Bristol-based poet and speaker has collaborated with Creative Director Chaz Golding to produce a selection of secondary school resources and they are keen to work with us to continue this work into the primary curriculum.

Their expertise, alongside the diverse range of voices in our school community, will be invaluable in ensuring our new curriculum is richly representative and I am very excited about this partnership evolving.

Social Media

Over the coming weeks we are going to be increasing the number of social media platforms we use so that it is easier for you to access the photos and celebrations that we currently share on the platform formerly known as Twitter.

We are going to be posting content on the Weduc newsfeed, which you can access through the app.

This will also be duplicated across all of the following platforms:

Twitter: @southville_prim

Instagram: southville_prim

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552125988790> or search for Southville Primary School. There is an old account that is no longer accessible so please look for the new logo.

These accounts are live now so feel free to seek them out and follow/ befriend etc. We are going to tread slowly at first while we get the syncing right so please bear with us if there are teething issues. However, we are hoping this will enable all of our parent/carer community to follow what's happening in school in whichever form you prefer.

Whole School Assembly Theme

This week Mr Commander picked up on his previous theme of growth mindset, particularly around the importance of making mistakes and learning from them. He used the example of basketball legend Michael Jordan who has often spoken about the value of failure and the importance of learning from mistakes: "I've failed over and over again in my life, and that is why I succeed".

IEP Meetings

Just a reminder that as part of our new cycle of IEP reviews, class teachers will be arranging meetings to take place this side of half term. Please look out for communication about this. This is in addition to the parents' evenings which are coming up during the first week of next term (week beginning 30th October).

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman