



The Parent's Guide to the New National Curriculum

The essential pocket guide.

In September 2014, there were radical changes made to the National Curriculum, which most schools in England are required to follow.

With this in mind, we have put together a handy pocket guide covering primary Years 1 – 6 (ages 5-11) that explains some of the key changes and how to support your child through them at home.

What Parents need to know about English

<p>1. Commas and apostrophes will be taught to six year olds.</p>	<p>How you can help: Ask your child to turn a shopping list into a sentence using commas to separate the different ideas.</p>
<p>2. As well as punctuation, there's an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar and spelling at all ages.</p>	<p>How you can help: Play grammar games such as "odd one out" where your child has to find one noun out of three words.</p>
<p>3. Children should participate in discussions from the age of five.</p>	<p>How you can help: Talk to your children about things they watch and experience.</p>
<p>4. From age five onwards, children will listen and react to poetry at a level higher than their reading level.</p>	<p>How you can help: Share poetry together and have fun performing it.</p>
<p>5. The new curriculum includes spelling lists for ages 7-9 and 9-11.</p>	<p>How you can help: Use spelling cards to practice tricky words. You can find spelling lists in the "English Programmes of Study" area at www.gov.uk/national-curriculum</p>

What Parents need to know about Maths

<p>1. Nine year olds now need to know all their tables up to 12×12.</p>	<p>How you can help: For $\times 12$ try multiplying a number by 10 and then doubling the start number. 12×12 is $(10 \times 12 + 20)$; then $(2 \times 12 + 24)$. Add them together and you have your answer!</p>
<p>2. Maths facts should be learned by heart. Calculators shouldn't be used until mental and written methods have been mastered at the end of primary school.</p>	<p>How you can help: For addition sums, try counting on from the larger number. For subtraction, use known facts, e.g. 'I know $4 + 2 = 6$, so I also know that $6 - 4 = 2$.'</p>
<p>3. Basic fractions such as $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ are now introduced at age five.</p>	<p>How you can help: Investigate fractions through paper-folding and sharing chocolates or fruit!</p>
<p>4. By the end of Year 1, children will be expected to count up to 100. Five-year-olds will also need to learn number bonds to 20.</p>	<p>How you can help: Use a number grid from 1-100 to support your child with counting and place value.</p>
<p>5. By the end of primary school, children should add and subtract fractions – this was previously covered at secondary school.</p>	<p>How you can help: Make sure your child understands that fractions of a whole add up to 1.</p>

What Parents need to know about Science

<p>1. There is a greater focus on scientific knowledge and vocabulary.</p>	<p>How you can help: Identify plants and animals in your local area.</p>
<p>2. Six-year-olds now learn about animal habitats and food chains.</p>	<p>How you can help: Draw a simple food chain to show how animals obtain food from plants and other animals.</p>
<p>3. Eight-year-olds need to describe how fossils are formed.</p>	<p>How you can help: Contact your local museum to see if they have fossil samples to view or plan a research trip to you nearest library.</p>
<p>4. Ten-year-olds now learn about the human circulatory system.</p>	<p>How you can help: Help your child to understand what happens to food inside the digestive system.</p>
<p>5. 'Evolution and inheritance' is taught at the end of primary, developing the idea that living things change over time, adapting to their environment.</p>	<p>How you can help: Introduce your child to Charles Darwin and his voyage to the Galapagos Islands using online resources as a prompt.</p>

What Parents need to know about History

<p>1. British history is emphasised and events should be taught in chronological order, from the earliest times to the present day.</p>	<p>How you can help: Create a timeline and work with your child to put significant events from their memory in order.</p>
<p>2. Five-year-olds learn about significant individuals from the past who have contributed to national achievements, i.e. Elizabeth I, William Caxton and Sir Tim Berners-Lee.</p>	<p>How you can help: Spend time with your child researching these famous people and then ask your child to write about why each is important.</p>
<p>3. From age seven, children learn about the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.</p>	<p>How you can help: Visit local museums, archaeology units or history centres to view artefacts from this period.</p>
<p>4. From age seven, children study the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain.</p>	<p>How you can help: The 'Romanisation' of Britain took many forms, and can still be witnessed today through place names and Roman forts.</p>
<p>5. From age seven, children should carry out a detailed study of their local area.</p>	<p>How you can help: Explore your local area and identify different aspects of its history.</p>

What Parents need to know about other subjects

Languages	<p>All children will learn to modern language from age seven.</p> <p>Children will converse, present, read and write in a second language.</p>
Geography	<p>There's more emphasis on geographical facts, including locating countries and cities on a map.</p> <p>The new curriculum includes both physical geography (rivers, mountains, the water cycle) and human geography (types of settlements, economic activity and trade).</p>
Computing	<p>The new computing curriculum (which was previously called Information and Communication Technology) emphasises programming rather than using programs.</p> <p>Internet safety will now be taught in primary school instead of secondary.</p>
Design & Technology	<p>The new curriculum focuses on designing, making and evaluating.</p> <p>Five-year-olds will use mechanisms in their design projects, and from age seven children will use simple electrical circuits.</p> <p>Children will prepare food, with an emphasis on healthy eating.</p>