



Curriculum Newsletter

January 2021

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our curriculum newsletter. Each-half term we look forward to sharing news about the exciting learning that children from all our year groups are involved in. In this first edition we give a general round up of what our 'Menston' curriculum is all about. Like schools around the country, we base our curriculum on the National Curriculum but we hope our new newsletters will give you a flavour of what makes our Menston Curriculum extra special.

Award Success



At the end of summer term 2020, we received the wonderful news that we had achieved the Geographical Association's Primary Geography Quality Mark. This recognises our commitment to providing a high standard of geography education and, in the words of the assessors, recognises "the lively and effective geographical learning in the school". The award will be officially announced on the Geographical Association's website in Spring 2021 but we are very happy to be able to share this fantastic news with you in advance.

SKILLS BUILDER COMES TO MPS



We are delighted to announce that, last term after a very competitive application process, our school was accepted as a partner school within the Universal Skills Partnership under the partnership's Accelerator programme. Only a very limited number of schools in the country are admitted to this particular part of the partnership each year so we are highly delighted to be accepted. In our school, our teaching incorporates age-appropriate activities to help all children in our school to develop the eight universal skills (see above). Last half-term we focussed on developing listening skills. This half-term we will continue to develop listening skills whilst also starting to focus on team work skills. Look out for the special certificates from Skills Builder which will be presented to children as they achieve their age appropriate skills.

Find out more about universal skills and more detailed descriptions about what is included in each on our new Skills Builder website page: [Skills Builder](#)

OUTDOOR LEARNING



Our strong commitment to providing high-quality outdoor learning is reflected in the fact that we hold the Outdoor Learning Quality Badge. But, we never stand still! We continue to look at how we can further develop the opportunities for our children to learn outdoors. So, this year we have introduced the 'Wild Passport' programme. Children in EYFS, KS1 and LKS2 have weekly lessons based around the programme which helps them to build confidence in the outdoor environment as well as develop a range of exciting outdoor skills – including den building!

You can find out more on our outdoor learning page: [Outdoor learning at Menston](#)

STEM



Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths!

STEM UK is an initiative which aims to promote the teaching of, and involvement of young people in, STEM subjects. Here at Menston, promoting STEM education and the aims of STEM UK is a key element within our curriculum. We do this by providing high quality teaching of these subjects and also by providing an increasing range of additional projects and activities to enable children to explore STEM areas. In the Autumn term, for example, children attended the Otley Virtual Science Fair, watched a Christmas panto all about coding, explored in detail what is inside a flower bulb and built machines using pulley systems.

You can find out more about our strong commitment to STEM education on our website page: [STEM at Menston](#)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING



After this rather strange year we have all been living through, the importance of caring for our health and wellbeing has been widely acknowledged. From running 'The Daily Mile' to delivering the Coram personal, social and health education curriculum (with Harold the Giraffe and friends to help!) we continue to help our children learn how to care for their physical and emotional health.

For more information about our bespoke Menston curriculum on our website: [Curriculum overview](#)