

Great Easton C of E (Aided) Primary School
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Headteacher: Claire Jackman

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Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to invite you in to an **open workshop** in your child's class at the end of February. The focus is upon our newly, and aptly named, 'Courageous Curriculum' that has been running since September. We are thrilled with the children's learning following our trial and I have included some more information below:

The Concept:

Jonathan Lear, a teacher from Sheffield, spoke at a headteachers' conference about how he had revolutionised his school's curriculum and I knew this would fit with our school's ethos perfectly! We were able to arrange for several road trips to Sheffield so that teachers could see for themselves the awesomeness in action.

Many staff meetings and planning sessions later we had the foundations for our own Great Easton version of an exciting and innovative curriculum.

One of the most frustrating elements of teaching is never having enough time. We start the term buzzing with ideas about the outcomes we will see in all the different subjects...however, the reality is often very different as we felt as though we were continually spinning plates and rushing the children through a curriculum. Whilst we did our best to make learning as fun and meaningful as possible, there was always a nag in our head that there must be a different way. So hearing what Jonathan had to say about re-thinking the approach to the curriculum resonated with us.

Ultimately, we are passionate that children will leave GEPs ready "for life in the twenty-first century by creating opportunities for learning that are engaging, motivating and memorable." Our new curriculum "is a system that encourages independence, curiosity and creativity; a system that produces collaborators, innovators, leaders and, above all, a system that helps our children to understand what it means to be human". (Guerilla Teaching by Jonathan Lear Independent Thinking Press 2015 p.11)

The Curriculum Design:

Skills

Skills-based non-negotiables that underpin the curriculum and creates a foundation that are essential for learning. (see Appendix One GEPs Subject Skills Map).



Explore, Discover & Create

The difficulty with the old curriculum was that we were trying to teach every subject every week. The limitations of this meant that we could be teaching two or three subjects an afternoon which means that teaching is rushed and children don't get a chance to explore their own lines enquiry. The three term structure enables a deeper focus: 'Explore' is all about geography, 'Discover' has a history theme & 'Create' is based around art, drama & music. This allows us to be able to deepen the children's understanding of these subjects in a much more focused way.

Concept Grid

These are words that make connections across subjects and beyond subjects e.g. human rights - justice, beauty and equality are all concepts that could be covered and explored through history, geography, science and art. By taking a broader view of things we can get some big ideas and also allow us to focus on RE and PSHCE. Each term we will ensure Christian values are included as part of the concept words.

Key Enquiry Question

This needs to be an over-arching philosophical question. This allows us to explore the concepts and kick-start the children's curiosity and desire to learn more. This also allows opportunity for the children to develop further lines of enquiry. All teachers and LSAs enjoyed training from the philosophy man in October.

Authentic Outcomes and Critical Audiences

An authentic outcome means having a real event at the end of the project as a goal for the children to work towards. This builds motivation and raises expectations and expertise. This helps the children to be viewed as professionals or as people capable of producing professional work. Expectation and aspiration are not always the norm. It helps to build self-esteem, belief and confidence and is an excellent way of developing awareness of professions and careers.

Critique

This enables the production of beautiful work. Positive feedback and growth mindset e.g. 'That's an amazing picture, what a great start', the children can begin to embed a subconscious understanding that there are always improvements that can be made. This is a type of feedback that can be individual or given to peers.

Each term we send out a curriculum share letter so that you are aware of how you can support your child with their learning. Exercise books continue to come home so that you can see what they are learning in school so you can discuss their learning with them at home. Dojo is also a fantastic way to keep up to date with day to day events in the classroom. Hopefully you feel up to date with your child's learning and progress.

I am sure you are aware of the exciting things your children have been learning in class and we'd like to invite you in to see the learning in action in the classroom!

The Key Stage Two children also have a visit from a planetarium and I have cleared it with the organisers that parents can also join in with the session and learn all about the planets and solar system. Each class are offering two sessions, before break and after break. There is only space for 5 parents to attend each workshop and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Mrs Lawrence	R/1	Thursday 27th February	9-10	11-12
Miss Wilson	1/2	Friday 28 th February	9-10	11-12
Miss Govey	3/4	Friday 28 th February	9-10	11-12
Miss Miles	4/5	Friday 28 th February	9-10	11-12
Mr Curtis	5/6	Friday 28 th February	9-10	11-12

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the workshops - if you would like to attend, please indicate which class/classes you would like to visit by completing the form at the bottom of the letter and returning it to the schools office - or feel free to email Sharon if you would prefer.

Yours sincerely

Claire Jackman

Miss Jackman



I would like to attend the courageous curriculum workshop in class:

Classroom	R&1 27.2.20	1&2 28.2.20	3&4 28.2.20	4&5 28.2.20	5&6 28.2.20
Session 1 9-10am					
Session 2 11-12 noon					

Name Parent/Carer of.....

Signed Date