



THE NEW SCHOOL ROME

PRIMARY SCHOOL

INFORMATION PACK & CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PRIMARY SCHOOL AT THE NEW SCHOOL



*"Children are not things to be moulded but people to be unfolded."
– Jess Lair PhD*

A New School Education is so much more than what children learn - it's about who they become. We nurture curious, compassionate, and creative individuals who engage deeply with the world. Through our holistic approach, we ensure every child not only gains academic knowledge but also a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Children experience subjects through problem-solving, outdoor learning, and imaginative play. This fosters curiosity, a love of learning and resilience that lasts a lifetime. With a strong focus on community and emotional security, we create a safe space where children can take risks, build empathy, and form strong relationships across the school community. Our greatest aim is to help children develop a foundation for a lifetime of social and emotional wellbeing.

Our school is set in a beautiful garden, where students can learn outdoors and connect with nature daily. Opportunities for exploration, hands-on activities, and environmental studies, help foster an appreciation for the natural world. Children engage in learning experiences that promote curiosity and respect for the environment, enhancing their educational journey. The playground includes a mud kitchen, large sand pit, swings, monkey bars and climbing frames, hopscotch and a full-sized football pitch with basketball hoops.

The best way to experience the magic of The New School Rome is to come and visit. Our doors are always open. We look forward to meeting you and your family.

PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

Our structure, our teachers and our class sizes

The primary school consists of Foundation Stage and Primary. The Foundation Stage offers a two-year pre-school programme, for children aged 3 to 5. The Primary School runs from Year 1 (aged 5+) to Year 6 (aged 10+). We follow an enhanced English National Curriculum, tailored to our international student body and utilising the culture and heritage of the Eternal City of Rome.

Our teachers are highly experienced classroom practitioners with a genuine passion for teaching and learning. We are deeply dedicated to our students and committed to our professional development, keeping up to date with best practice and current research. Every teacher embraces and challenges children, whilst ensuring that each of them feels cherished and cared for throughout the day.

Since its beginning in 1972, class sizes at The New School Rome have remained small to provide personalised attention and support to all students, giving our school the family community feeling for which it is renowned and celebrated. We have a maximum number of 16 children per class.

Start and Finish Times of the School Day

School starts at 08:30 and finishes at 15:30. Early drop off from Foundation Stage - year 6 is offered from 08:00 onwards, and a wide range of after school clubs allow for late pick up between 16:30 and 17:00. A full list of activities of the current academic year clubs are available from the office.



Children take part in the following activities outside of the classroom -

Modern Foreign Language - Italian

Starting in Year 1, Italian is taught as a modern foreign language. Our lessons are tailored to meet the needs of both native and non-native speakers.

Drama, Music and Singing

Specialist teachers lead the primary classes in weekly Drama, Music and Singing lessons. The courses aim to develop vocal, composition and performance skills. Each year the primary children put on a high quality performance at a local theatre. Peripatetic instrumental lessons are available both during and after the school day.

Physical Education (PE)

Every week students travel to a local sports centre for gymnastics. They also have weekly lessons with class teachers, which take place on the school site, to teach sports and outdoor and adventurous activities.

Spring Football Tournament

The New School Rome Football Tournament, held every March, provides an opportunity for our community to come together with other international schools and showcase our shared love for the game. It's a time to celebrate sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect for all players.

Events, Trips, Visits and Guest Speakers

The school offers a variety of exciting events for students and families, including Winter and Summer Concerts, parades, technology challenges, water week, football tournaments, and talent shows. Educational visits to museums and historical sites in Rome enhance the curriculum, while guest speakers such as poets, artists, and parents inspire the students. Additionally, children in Years 3 to 6 participate in an annual residential trip to develop independence, teamwork, and leadership skills.

Assemblies

Classes take turns to run weekly assemblies which allow students to share work, discuss important issues and learn about personal and social matters.

After-school

As mentioned above, The New School Rome offers many after-school activities such as Dance, Football, Art, Textiles, Homework help, Computing, Theatre, and STEM. Parents can also enjoy the garden while supervising their children until 17:00.

Learning Support and EAL Provision

For students requiring support, our Special Educational Needs (SEN) Team and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Team provide assistance in the classroom, in small groups, and through 1:1 sessions across the Primary school. The EAL team helps students build confidence, fluency, and accuracy to access the full curriculum independently. We collaborate with parents to assess support needs during the application process and throughout the school year.



YEAR 1 (5-6 YEAR OLDS)

KEY STAGE 1 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English

Pupils are encouraged to talk about matters of personal interest, listen to others and reply appropriately. In writing they will: compose a sentence orally before writing; sequence sentences to form short narratives; reread to check for sense; join sentences using 'and'; begin to punctuate sentences using full stops and capital letters.

When reading children will sound out all 40+ graphemes and begin to blend sounds together to read more accurately. They are encouraged to read daily and talk about what they have read. By the end of the year they should be able to spell common words containing the phonemes learnt, name letters and begin to form them correctly in upper and lower case.

Maths

Daily Mathematics lessons are based on the guidelines set down in the English National Curriculum. The focus is on developing number sense, basic problem-solving skills, and an understanding of everyday mathematics, with a lot of hands-on activities to make learning engaging. By the end of the year they should be familiar with counting to 100, adding and subtracting to 20. Money, time, 2D, 3D shapes and units of measurement are also covered in the programme.

Science

Science is taught through a topic based approach. Plants: identify common plants and structure. Animals including Humans: identify, describe and compare common animals; label parts of The Human Body. Everyday Materials: identify materials and their properties. Seasonal Changes: observe weather and seasons.





Humanities

Humanities are taught through a topic based approach and may include the following topics. *History*: Rome and the Colosseum; Leonardo da Vinci - compare aspects of different periods; Communication through the ages *Geography*: Rome, Australia, Africa, Weather and Seasons, study school grounds and our local environment

Art

Developing skills: drawing; painting; sculpture; collage Study of artists: Andy Goldsworthy (natural sculptures); Leonardo da Vinci; Paul Klee; Henri Rousseau; Gaudi. Knowledge and Understanding: Roman mosaics

Music

Children discover ways to use their voices to describe feelings and moods. They are introduced to famous pieces to stimulate composition. They explore timbre and texture as they explore descriptive sounds. They move and play to a steady beat, link animal movement with pitch movement to help develop understanding and recognition of changing pitch. The children accompany various songs and pieces of music using voices and instruments. They listen to orchestral pieces and improvise their own orchestral music. KS1 classes join together for a weekly singing lesson.

Italian

Twice weekly provision is differentiated to meet the needs of native and non-native speakers.

Homework

Books are sent home every day to read with a parent. Children may also choose a book from our school library once a week. Each child is given some weekly spellings to learn.

Physical Education

To develop running, jumping, throwing, catching, balance. Team games and Dance are also taught.

YEAR 2 (6-7 YEAR OLDS)

KEY STAGE 1 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English

Speaking and listening are key in all lessons. Children improve spelling, punctuation, tenses, sentence structure, and speech marks. Comprehension skills are developed through visual and written analysis. They write both fiction and non-fiction, recording ideas and experiences, while continuing to develop handwriting. Reading, both individually and in groups, is central to language development.

Maths

Daily Maths lessons follow the English National Curriculum, focusing on consolidating Year 1 skills while deepening understanding of number operations, measurement, and geometry. Key areas include counting to 100, addition and subtraction within 100, the 2, 5, and 10 times tables, money, time, shapes, fractions, and measurement units. Problem-solving and real-life applications are also emphasized.

Science

Uses of Everyday Materials: Group objects by material, distinguishing between natural and man-made; explore how materials can be changed and assess their suitability. Living Things and their Habitats: Identify living, dead, and non-living things; learn that living things are suited to their habitats, which provide for their basic needs. Study simple food chains and sources of food. Understand plant needs for water and light. Animals including Humans: Explore basic survival needs of animals, identify variations among living things, and compare animals and humans. Learn about the life cycles of different animals.

Humanities

History topics include: The Ice Age (Early People), Christopher Columbus (an historical figure), The Aztecs. Geography topics include: Map work: Locating/naming continents; countries and capitals in Europe and beyond; rivers and major mountain ranges. Develop geographical vocabulary. Geography of Italy focusing on our immediate environment: regions; cities; rivers; mountains and seas. A contrasting locality (an island, St Lucia): its location; way of life; similarities and differences to our own environment.





Art

Develop skills in drawing, collage, 3D work, painting, constructing, cutting and attaching through the use of a range of media paper, card, clay, paint, pencils, crayons, charcoal, pastels, chalks etc. Year 2 look at line, colour, shape and texture in natural forms. They record their observations and look at the use of illustrations and photography.

IT/Computing

Children become increasingly more familiar with the practical uses of computers in school and in our everyday lives. They learn how to code, producing sequences of instructions to program the computer, and how to debug, sorting problems that arise. Children develop Word Processing skills and research skills through guided use of the internet.

Music

Children accompany a variety of songs using voice and instruments. Exploring sounds: Children have opportunities to create descriptive sounds and rhythms, using body percussion and instruments. They develop their skills in work on beat, and pitch through songs and listening games. KS1 classes join together for a weekly singing lesson.

Physical Education

Games skills: throwing; catching; fielding; bat and ball skills; kicking ball skills; controlling a ball with hands or feet. Gymnastics: different ways of moving and using the space; sequence of moves; stretching; jumping; hopping; skipping; walking; running; slow and fast movements. Athletics: running; jumping; obstacles; passing Dance: creative and interpretive movement using own ideas; music and other stimuli.

Homework

Children take home a book to read each day from the school's reading scheme. Each week children are given some spellings to learn and maths homework.

Italian

Twice weekly provision is differentiated to meet the needs of native and non-native speakers.

YEAR 3 (7-8 YEAR OLDS)

English

In addition to daily English lessons, following the guidelines set down in the English National Curriculum, time is spent promoting writing and developing reading. Students work on personal projects, 'Genius Hour', and parents are invited in to see the final projects presented. Students have daily access to the Primary library.

Maths

Daily Mathematics lessons are based on the guidelines set down in the English National Curriculum. Year 3 Maths places an emphasis on developing fluency in arithmetic operations, understanding fractions, and applying problem-solving strategies. Students also begin to explore more geometric concepts, data handling, and practical applications of measurement. By the end of the year they should be familiar with numbers to 1,000, adding and subtracting 3 digit numbers using column methods and multiplying and dividing by 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 10.

Science

Teeth and Healthy Eating: Focuses on teeth and food. Forces and Magnets: looks at push and pull forces focusing on magnets and springs. Light and Shadows: This unit develops the children's understanding of light and shadows. It also looks at how we can tell the time using sundials and shadows.

Humanities

History topics include: The Vikings/The Middle Ages (These topics are alternated annually). Ancient Greece / Ancient Rome (These topics are alternated annually). Geography topics include: Europe. Map work. Environmental Issues – link to Water Aid

IT/Computing

Combining text and graphics using Microsoft Word. Introduction to PowerPoint. Coding/HTML

KEY STAGE 2 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW





Design & Technology

Design and make: Costumes for the Christmas Show.; A Viking longship / 3D castle; DT challenges

Art

Skills developed in drawing, painting, printing, collage, clay work and 3D modelling/sculpture. Study the lives, works, styles and theories of prominent artists linked to exhibitions in Rome.

PSHE

(Personal, Social, Health and Economic education)

PSHE sessions in Key Stage 2 provide us with an opportunity to explore our feelings, our relationships with others and how we relate to our communities, to society and to the world at large. Our rights and responsibilities as friends, students, family members and citizens are often central to these themes. This is delivered through the 'One Decision' scheme of work. Cultural celebrations and belief systems may also be explored.

Music

Students perform, compose and explore musical beat, pitch and structure. KS2 classes join together for a weekly singing lesson.

PE

Weekly outdoor sports and indoor gymnastics and dance.

Italian

Twice weekly provision is differentiated to meet the needs of native and non-native speakers.

Homework

To supplement class work, consolidate learning and/or challenge pupils, based on individual learning needs. This may include: daily reading, times tables, spellings, Maths/English consolidation or Genius Hour Projects. Key Stage 2 children will record any homework in their diaries.

YEAR 4 (8-9 YEAR OLDS)

KEY STAGE 2 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English

In addition to daily English lessons, following the guidelines set down in the English National Curriculum, time is spent promoting and developing speaking, writing and reading. Children will be encouraged to prepare short presentations, recite poetry by heart, read aloud expressively, draft their work and begin to use paragraphs, headings and subheadings.

Reading at home should be daily. Children will be asked to keep their own reading record of all the books they read both at home and at school.

Maths

Daily Mathematics lessons are based on the guidelines set down in the English National Curriculum. Year 4 Maths focuses on developing fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving skills to prepare students for more advanced concepts in later years. By the end of the summer term children will be:

Adding and subtracting four-digit numbers using formal written methods;

Multiplying and dividing two-digit and three-digit numbers; and be confident with all the times tables up to 12.

Science

Ourselves: The functions of the human skeleton, its role in protecting organs, and basic digestive system functions.

States of Matter: Observing how materials change states with heat or cooling, and the role of evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.

Habitats: Sorting living things, studying habitats, adaptations, food chains, and how habitats change to protect them.

Humanities

History topics include: Vikings/The Middle Ages (These topics are alternated annually). Ancient Greece/Ancient Rome (These topics are alternated annually). Geography topics include: Rainforests. Extreme Earth. Environmental issues linked to Water Aid.





Design & Technology

Design and make a Viking longship / 3D castle, a costume for the Christmas show, 3D volcanoes linked to science, dioramas linked to Geography

IT/Computing

Word processing: Microsoft Office, Word, Publisher, PowerPoint (for presentations), Coding/HTML

Art

Explore techniques and effects using a variety of mediums including; pencils; chalks; oil pastels; water-colour paints; clay, tissue paper and recycled materials for constructing 3D models. Study the lives, works, styles and theories of prominent artists and sculptors linked to exhibitions in Rome.

PSHE

(Personal, Social, Health and Economic education)

PSHE sessions in Key Stage 2 provide us with an opportunity to explore our feelings, our relationships with others and how we relate to our communities, to society and to the world at large. Our rights and responsibilities as friends, students, family members and citizens are often central to these themes. This is delivered through the 'One Decision' scheme of work. Cultural celebrations and belief systems may also be explored.

Music

Students perform, compose and explore musical beat, pitch and structure. KS2 classes join together for a weekly singing lesson.

PE

Weekly outdoor sports and indoor gymnastics and dance.

Italian

Twice weekly provision is differentiated to meet the needs of native and non-native speakers.

Homework: to supplement class work, consolidate learning and/or challenge pupils, based on individual learning needs. This may include: spellings and tables, and a Maths/English/Topic task and reading. Key Stage 2 children will record any homework in their diaries.

YEAR 5 (9-10 YEAR OLDS)

English

In addition to daily English lessons following the guidelines set down in the English National Curriculum, children in Y5 play games on line to enhance their spelling and vocabulary. The children are also taught to improve their writing by learning new grammatical structures and vocabulary. There is a focus on planning, checking and editing writing. Children are taught that reading is a key learning tool as well as an enjoyable activity. In school, pupils read independently for twenty minutes per day after lunch. Year 5 children should also read for at least 20 minutes per day at home.

Maths

Year 5 Maths focuses on deepening students' understanding of key mathematical concepts and improving their ability to apply these skills to real-life problems. Students build on previous knowledge and develop more advanced problem-solving skills in number, measurement, geometry, and statistics. Mathematics is taught every day and is differentiated to ensure that all children are working at an appropriate level and are supported and stretched as required. We regularly practise times tables in a competitive way to encourage the children to improve their own scores.

Science

Life cycles of animals, plants and humans, Properties and changes of materials, Earth and space, Forces

Humanities

History topics include: The Shang Dynasty and The Ancient Egyptians. Geography topics include: Developing map skills including recognising ordnance survey symbols and reading and writing coordinates, Human geography, World of Work, Biomes and climate zones





IT/Computing

IT/Computing: Computing is taught through IT sessions (e.g., coding) and technology used around the school. Students learn new computer skills both independently and through other subjects, with homework often incorporating computer use.

PSHE - (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education)

Explore our feelings, our relationships with others and how we relate to our communities, to society and to the world at large. Our rights and responsibilities as friends, students, family members and citizens are often central to these themes. This is delivered through the 'One Decision' scheme of work.

Art

We follow a pattern of class study to learn about the style and lives of artists, as well as being creative and imitative. We look at a variety of classical and modern styles and develop pencil, painting and pastel techniques.

Design & Technology

Design and make: Ancient Egyptian clay canopic jars. Egyptian flat bread

Music

Children are given opportunities to compose and perform music inspired by their local community, both past and future. KS2 classes join together for a weekly singing lesson.

Physical Education

Gym: Weekly gymnastics lessons with a specialist instructor, focusing on fitness, movement, and dance. Outdoor Sport: Weekly lessons to develop skills for net, invasion, and striking games, with an emphasis on sportsmanship and teamwork.

Homework

Based on individual learning needs may include: daily reading, spellings, times tables, Maths/English consolidation or project work

Italian

Twice weekly provision is differentiated to meet the needs of native and non-native speakers.

YEAR 6 (10-11 YEAR OLDS)

KEY STAGE 2 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English

Children continually work on their own personal writing targets to ensure progression throughout their writing. Weekly vocabulary tests also contribute to their English progress. 'Responding to reading' sees Year 6 students developing their abilities to make relevant points, back these up with evidence and comment on effect.

Maths

Students focus on fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving to prepare for senior school. They revise basic number work and extend their skills in arithmetic, including long multiplication, fractions, decimals, and percentages. Students also work on data handling, shape, space, measures, and probability, with math applied across other subjects. Rapid recall of multiplication and division facts is expected.

Shakespeare Play

Traditionally, Year 6 study a play by William Shakespeare and perform it in the garden in the Summer term. This experience can be a turning point for many students, in that it helps them understand complex themes, build confidence in public speaking, and enhance creativity through emotional expression.

Humanities

History topics include: The Etruscans, The Renaissance, World History Plus a home project entitled 'My Family in WW2. Geography topics include: Mountains. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch & Plastic waste.

Science

Biology: Interdependence and adaptation, microbes, and a mini-unit on human reproduction, body changes, conception, and birth. Physics: Light and forces. Chemistry: Introduction to atoms, molecules, chemical elements, compounds, and mixtures, including dissolving and separating mixtures.

Art

Collage, decoupage and etching are amongst the media we like to call upon in Year 6. The disciplines of perspective drawing and grid enlargement also feature, as well as portraiture.





Design & Technology

Children to make and test load-bearing bridges, but will also require them to identify a practical need for DT, possibly in the area of drama.

IT/Computing

IT is taught as a discrete subject and is also employed regularly throughout the curriculum. Units include multimedia & presentation, spreadsheets, coding and video editing.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education)

We explore our feelings, our relationships with others and how we relate to our communities, to society and to the world at large. Our rights and responsibilities as friends, students, family members and citizens are often central to these themes. This is delivered through the 'One Decision' scheme of work. Online safety and etiquette is an important element of our program. Students are also introduced to philosophy.

Music

We explore rhythm and melody in singing, movement and dance. The children learn about beat, syncopation, pitch and harmony, and take a trip around the world to celebrate the universal language of music. Children are given opportunities to compose and perform music inspired by their local community, both past and future. KS2 classes join together for a weekly singing lesson.

Italian

Twice weekly provision is differentiated to meet the needs of native and non-native speakers.

Physical Education

Each of a range sports, (including rounders, volleyball, and hockey), is examined for its component skills before any drills and matches are staged. Gymnastics and dance units are taught weekly by specialists.

Homework

to supplement class work, consolidate learning and/or challenge pupils, based on individual learning includes: Mathematics, English, History and Science



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