



"AT A GLANCE" CURRICULUM OF THE LOWER SCHOOL

CLASS	HISTORY	ENGLISH	MATHEMATICS	ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES		MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES	GARDENING	EURYTHMY	RELIGION	HANDWORK	CRAFT	DRAWING	PAINTING	MUSIC	DRAMA	GAMES/GYM
1 Age 6-7 years	Archetypal images revealed through the telling of FAIRY TALES	The LETTERS of the alphabet arise through stories and pictures Simple WORDS The beginnings of WRITING & READING their own writing Practice in speaking Poems with a strong rhythm	WHOLE NUMBERS Introduced through quantitative aspect COUNTING in rhythm Roman Numerals Simple SUMS + ... x ÷ Number bonds	Stories from NATURE involving gnomes, fairies and the elements Awakening to the wonder of nature through observation Seasons table	The classroom The playground	FRENCH & GERMAN	Bulb planting Seed sowing	Movements in nature (wind, water) Movements of the soul (fairy tales)	Stories which awaken wonder, reverence & gratitude	KNITTING on 2 needles made by the pupils Making a white lamb and other animals	MODELLING Exploring form in beeswax or plasticine	FORM DRAWING Straight lines & curves, letters & patterns Illustrations from stories using block crayons	WATER COLOURS on wet paper Simple colour exercises using primary colours Mood more important than form	SINGING pentatonic and other seasonal songs Singing and action games Clapping rhythms Learning an instrument e.g. bamboo pipe or lyre	Acting games Children often perform a short play for parents All words spoken by whole class	Circle games
2 Age 7-8 years	Stories of EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE THE KING OF IRELAND'S SON or similar: A Celtic Tale rich in archetypal images FABLES of Aesop & La Fontaine	CURSIVE WRITING Writing simple sentences of their own SPELLING - consonant & vowel blends Reading practice Speech & Poetry practice	HUNDREDS, TENS & UNITS Whole number sums carrying and borrowing TIMES TABLES learned through rhythmic chanting. Short multiplication Short division Mental arithmetic	More stories of animals, plants, birds and insects Awakening awareness of the four seasons	Encouraging observation of the environment	Both languages taught orally for the first 3 years through Songs, Games Counting, Plays, Dialogues, Seasonal Poems	Looking after the garden Seasonal activities	Straight & curved lines The musical interval of the fifth	Stories with human and spiritual value	PLAIN & PURL KNITTING patterns involving 2 colours Making a recorder case Knitting gnomes	Subjects taken from nature or stories	Free-hand drawing of circles, squares, triangles, etc Illustrating stories from Main Lesson Symmetry & mirror forms	Continuing "wet on wet" Range of colours extended to include secondary colours	Pentatonic songs. Singing and pipe playing	Acting games. Class Play may be based on fables or stories of extraordinary people	Singing games Long-rope skipping Beanbag exercises Running, skipping and jumping
3 Age 8-9 years	Biblical story of THE CREATION and other OLD TESTAMENT STORIES, e.g. JOSEPH, MOSES, DAVID	GRAMMAR The parts of speech incl. Noun, Adjective, Verb, Adverb Writing short Compositions, Punctuation, Spelling rules, Reading books chosen from class library	MEASURING Tasks to do with weight, measure, capacity and time. Long multiplication Continued practice in tables, 4 processes, carrying & borrowing Mental arithmetic	FARMING The four elements the cycle of the year, grains, soil and livestock HOUSE-BUILDING: from caves to modern dwellings Design and construction of a house FISHING, MINING field trips. Practical work		Months of the year etc	Visit to a local FARM for planting, harvesting, ploughing etc	Movements from farming & house building Scale of C and the interval of the third	Stories from and in the mood of the Old Testament Stories with a practical theme	Crochet project. Knitting a hat with their own design using up to four colours Rib knitting	Modelling in CLAY	Above/below mirror drawings Illustrations to Main Lesson themes using wax and water soluble crayons	Themes taken from Main Lesson topics Forms emerge from colour Colour perspective	Singing Pipe playing Music notation is introduced Notes and rests Instrumental lessons are encouraged	Longer plays performed with many individual roles usually in verse	Balancing, tumbling, forward roll Tag games with a story
4 Age 9-10 years	NORSE MYTHOLOGY HISTORY OF EDINBURGH	Past, present & future Tense The 8 parts of speech incl. Conjunctions, Pronouns, Prepositions, Writing stories, letters and accounts from the Main Lesson	FRACTIONS Factors and prime numbers Simple problems involving time, money Long division FREEHAND GEOMETRY Mental arithmetic	THE HUMAN BEING AND THE ANIMALS Human relationship to the animal kingdom Study of a number of animal species and habitats	HOME SURROUNDINGS MAP MAKING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT GEOGRAPHY OF EDINBURGH	Written work begins in French and German with basic GRAMMAR & oral work	Seasonal activities	Alliteration exercises. Exercises with copper rods The alphabet in Eurythmy Rhythms, forms & new musical keys	Stories which highlight the polarity of good and evil	CROSS-STITCH Plotting & designing own mirror patterns & name Making a pencil case. Hand sewing	Modelling animal forms & geometric shapes in clay Clay sculpture	Free-hand drawing of Geometric shapes Drawing from direct observations	Animal forms arise out of the experience of colour Themes from Norse Mythology & local geography	Singing rounds All pupils learn to play the recorder Music notation continues	A class play often based on Norse Myths is performed	Individual skipping Balance exercises Tumbling Tag games with more advanced roles
5 Age 10-11 years	MYTHOLOGY OF INDIA, PERSIA, BABYLON, EGYPT & GREECE HISTORY OF THE GREEKS up to Alexander the Great	Active & passive voice Direct & reported speech Descriptive, report & letter writing using ink Using a dictionary Regular practice in reading, spelling, grammar, punctuation Individual projects	DECIMALS: the 4 processes Problem solving Calculations involving mixed, top-heavy & vulgar fractions Converting decimals to fractions and vice versa Regular practice in basic skills	Further study of ANIMALS, including birds & insects BOTANY a comprehensive study of the plant kingdom	GEOGRAPHY OF SCOTLAND The land & its people THE BRITISH ISLES	Continuation of GRAMMAR (variety of topics). Vocabulary and oral work	Timetabled GARDENING lessons begin Growing annuals from seed Pupils learn to tend their own plots	Movement & forms based on the ancient mythologies Copper rod exercises and musical keys practised & extended	The legend of King Arthur is often a theme for the year	Knitting a pair of socks on 4 needles	Cuneiform & hieroglyphic script on clay tablets Greek vases, oil lamps etc., fired in kiln Mosaic work	Styles from different mythologies Greek and other forms Plants	Forms become more defined. Extended range of colours Light & dark Plants & seasonal themes	Part-singing begins Music theory Recorder playing continues Class orchestra starts	A class play may be performed Regular practice in clear articulation	Greek sports: running, jumping, discus, javelin, wrestling. Juggling
6 Age 11-12 years	HISTORY OF ROME: the Republic, the Empire. The life of Christ, the spread of Christianity and the rise of Islam MEDIÆVAL EUROPE	Conditional Sentences Punctuation, Spelling & sentence structure Writing: descriptive, narrative & characterisation, business letters and reports Regular BOOK REPORTS Longer poems & ballads Project work	MONEY PERCENTAGE incl. interest, profit & loss GEOMETRY: construction of precise forms using compasses AREA, Average, ALGEBRA directed numbers (-1 etc) Basic skills, tables, mental arithmetic	PHYSICS Sound, Light & Heat GEOLOGY A study of the mineral kingdom, water cycle, etc	DIFFERENT PEOPLES OF THE WORLD EUROPE	GRAMMAR, simple reading texts, poems, songs, dialogues & conversation	Growing vegetables Soil preparation Composting Digging	Geometric forms. New rhythms, forms, poems & musical pieces Evolutionary sequence. The octave gestures for musical intervals	Stories from the four gospels or other stories related to the life of Christ	Hand sewing & embroidering a handwork bag Designing & sewing a felt animal	WOODWORK Convex & concave forms: carving an egg, spoon & a bowl	Geometric drawing using compasses Precise work which can be enhanced by careful use of colour	Contrasting moods of 4 elements or different climatic regions of the world. Exploring art from different ethnic cultures Maps	Part-singing Lower School Choir Recorder playing. School orchestra Music theory with textbook	Improvisation & drama exercises may be done, leading to a whole class production Lighting, costume	Team games Aerial skills Gymnastics Pre-sport preparation
7 Age 12-13 years	THE AGE OF DISCOVERY THE RENAISSANCE THE REFORMATION Biographies of people from this time e.g. Jeanne d'Arc, Marco Polo, Leonardo, Luther	Grammar review Compound sentences Clauses Comprehension & summaries Writing in prose and poetry in a variety of styles based on the theme of WISH, WONDER & SURPRISE Longer poems. Projects	ALGEBRA: solving equations and using formulae GEOMETRY: theorem of Pythagoras. Other theorems in Geometry Area of basic shapes incl. circle Squares & square roots, number powers	PHYSICS Heat, Sound, Light, Electricity & Magnetism CHEMISTRY Combustion, Chemical transformations, Acids & basis, salts. The lime cycle HEALTH & NUTRITION	Another continent e.g. ASIA ASTRONOMY Observation of the heavenly bodies and their movement	Revision and extension of GRAMMAR and vocabulary Poetry (ballads), stories, plays, conversation skills	Landscaping projects around the school grounds Environmental projects	Contrasting moods based on theme of "wish, wonder & surprise" Basic elements of Eurythmy are moulded into an artistic whole	Biographies showing the strength and compassion of the human spirit in challenge and adversity	Using hand-operated sewing machines, moving on to electric sewing machines Making a garment of own choice	WOODWORK Construction work Accurate measuring, cutting, simple joining & fixing Making practical objects & wooden toys	Introduction to Perspective Drawing Appreciation of harmony, scale & proportion	Themes from the Renaissance as well as Nature	Class singing Lower School Choir Orchestra or recorder groups	Improvisation Speech & articulation exercises Whole class production	Team games e.g. basketball, hockey, table tennis, gymnastics
8 Age 13-14 years	THE REVOLUTIONS: English, French, American & Industrial THE 20th CENTURY	Summary of Grammar Appreciation of different literacy genres and styles Metaphor and simile CLASS 8 PROJECT: An in-depth study on a subject chosen by the individual, including an oral presentation	3-D construction of GEOMETRIC FORMS PLATONIC SOLIDS VOLUME & SURFACE AREA Simultaneous equations Ratio and proportion Elementary statistics Graphs & loci	PHYSICS: Heat, Sound, Light, Electricity, Mechanics, Pneumatics, Hydraulics PHYSIOLOGY the circulatory system, muscles ANATOMY Study of the human skeleton	Other continents e.g. AFRICA, AUSTRALIA World Geography	Preparation for Class 8 EXCHANGE: a cultural exchange of up to 5 weeks with a French or German speaking Steiner School	No timetabled Gardening lessons in Class 8	No timetabled Eurythmy lessons in Class 8		Design & pattern making Introducing different crafts or revisiting previously learned crafts	WOODWORK further construction work. Mortise & tenon joints Making lamps and/or small tables	Constructions using laws of perspective Exact drawing of 3D solid geometric forms	Various techniques and media are explored e.g. painting on glass, coloured inks	Music theory Biographies of composers Music projects	Preparation & performance of CLASS 8 PLAY, a full length production, e.g. Shakespeare	Basketball, badminton, hockey, table tennis, volleyball, dodge ball, gymnastics

NB: Capitals denotes subjects, Main Lessons, and guiding themes. Updated 2024: This curriculum gives an overview of the main topics that are taught during the eight-year Class Teacher period of the Lower School. It is not intended to be used as a comprehensive checklist, nor a prescriptive plan of what is taught when. Changes may and often do occur for very good reasons.