

YEARS THREE – YEAR SIX (ages 8 – 11 years)

"The top three skills needed in 2020 are complex problem solving, critical thinking and creativity" Carl Robert TES IBCP in an article from the Education Policy Institute (EPI) "Educating the Economic Future" The World Economic Forum

'If children exceed your expectations, it almost certainly means your expectations weren't high enough'

This stage of a child's education (Key Stage Two of the National Curriculum) is a time when the most important skills are embedded, particularly in literacy and numeracy and when learning habits reinforced. The main points of difference are a reversion to traditional methods of classroom teaching in the core subjects, including a prescribed script, spelling levels and the memorisation of times tables (i) This would be inclusive, differentiated as necessary within the classroom, but rigorously and methodically taught and focused on (a) the ability to read and write and (b) tables and the four operations (c) learning spelling rules (although slight to moderate spelling weaknesses should not be singled out for extra assistance).

Why? Because in all my years of teaching, I have yet to see any modern individualised approach method work as well as that achieved in a formal setting by good teaching. This would not flow over to all subjects but would be for the core lessons each day (9.30am – 12.30pm)

Some Key Points

- Developing the Four Attitudes
- Learning to read using phonics where appropriate
- Teaching printing and handwriting
- Numeracy / exploration and questioning
- Development of the skills of memory, (tables) mnemonics, flow diagrams, coding and creative thinking
- Myth and history / the world, memory,

- Communication, ethics, environmental science
- Preparing children for life-long learning and explaining what that means
- Working on organisation and self-discipline
- Group and personal assessment
- Understanding education
- The environment, conservation and sustainability – the earth and its oceans water cycle, rivers, oceans, lakes, water conservation etc
- Art and music appreciation
- Revisiting the provision of learning support and classroom assistance
- Revisiting the teacher's job description

Spelling: *'I quit school in the 5th grade because of pneumonia. Not that I had it, but I couldn't spell it.'* Rocky Graziano

Appendix (i) Some children would benefit from learning the Trachtenberg method of multiplication and simple rules such as the product of any number $\times 9 = 9$ (56, 81, 72 etc)