



2022—2023

PRE-PREP

Dear Parent,

At Auckland College we have always placed enrichment at the heart of everything we do to ensure that every child develops to their full potential, both academically and personally.

We are proud that our Outstanding 2019 Ofsted report stated that “Pupils really enjoy the enriched curriculum which provides so many different opportunities, such as projects on sensory science and dances across the world.”

We continue to strive to offer the broadest range of topics that we can, and our Enhanced Curriculum provision helps us to do this.

It is important to us, therefore, that our curriculum continues to enhance our formal academic programme and provide a complete education experience for your child.

In relation to our Enhanced Curriculum, the 2019 Ofsted report also stated that **“The aim is to widen pupils’ intellectual experience, improve research skills and inspire them.”**

As last years’ programme was such a success we have decided to keep most of the activities, but will adapt their content for the 2022 – 2023 academic year to ensure they remain engaging and interesting for your child. The activities include a series of projects, which will further broaden pupils’ experiences. They embrace four key ideas. These objectives are to:

- Widen pupils’ intellectual experiences
- Improve independent learning skills
- To inspire learning within pupils
- Offer them the opportunity to study a variety of options of their choice in something they would not experience under the national curriculum.

Each project is designed to incorporate the investigation of cross- curricular academic subjects, with key skills, creativity, and a community approach. Where applicable, the outcome of each project is a display of both the end result, and the work leading up to it.

The projects link to all core subjects; Literacy, Numeracy and Science. They incorporate skill development in areas such as: dexterity, self-discipline, teamwork, creativity and singing.

There is also a wealth of choice. Pupils will opt for up to 6 different projects over the course of the year. They will have a choice of at least four options each time.

It is important to note, however, that due consideration must be made for group numbers, and places on any of the courses are limited and cannot be guaranteed, although we will continue to endeavour to place pupils in the options they have requested as far as possible. Places will be allocated on a “first come first served” basis.

Below are examples of the activities we deliver across our Enhanced Curriculum for our Pre-prep pupils. Your child’s specific Year-Group choices will be sent via a Google Form for you to choose at the start of each academic year or in the event of a change of activity part-way through the academic year.

For Pre-Prep pupils the following options will be available during the year 2022—2023:

YOGA

We have incorporated Yoga in our Enhanced Curriculum to use as a potential tool for children to deal with stress and regulate themselves. Yoga provides training of mind and body and helps bring emotional balance.

In this topic pupils will learn some gentle exercises and stretches similar to those studied in Yoga.



The poses they learn to hold will help to improve focus and concentration as well as promoting good physical and mental health.



The topic will also help build muscle strength and flexibility.

Benefits of yoga:

- helps children manage their anxiety
- improves children's emotional regulation
- boosts children's self-esteem
- increases children's body awareness and mindfulness
- enhances children's concentration and memory
- develops children's strength and flexibility

DANCE

Dance was a popular topic last year, so we are making it available again this year. In the lessons pupils learn new ways to move – thereby improving both co-ordination and memory skills.



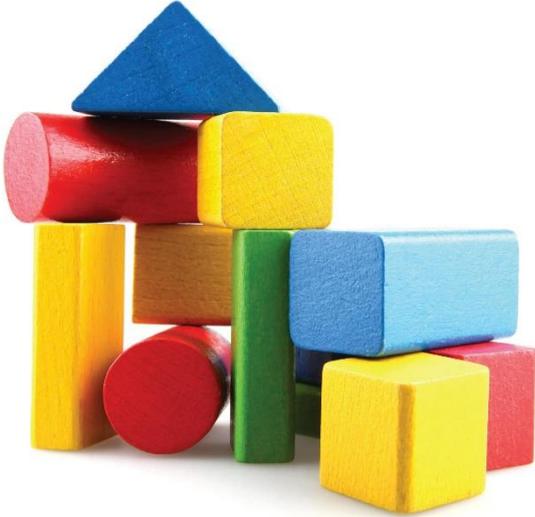
The aim of the course is to use and explore the fundamentals of dance. It will help to improve posture, flexibility and balance. In learning specific dance moves it will also help to practice focus and allow an exploration into different types of music, as well as simply being fun.



Furthermore, movement combinations increase memory, order, and sequencing skills.

Dance also increases self-esteem which is so very important to learning. Utilizing dance in academics also helps children develop skills that are necessary for learning such as creativity, communication, critical thinking, and collaboration.

BLOCK PLAY



Block play offers an open-ended, creative and valuable play and learning experience for the children. This type of play offers children the freedom to explore, take apart and put back together any block-based creation they can think of.

There are 10 aspects of learning that children will benefit from:

1. Imagination – Through block play children are free to follow their own ideas and discover and share in the development of their friends' creations.
2. Self-expression – Children are able to express themselves through their play, creations and discoveries, and this supports children's communication and language.
3. Problem-solving – Blocks offer a great platform to develop problem-solving and reasoning skills as children are working to develop a solution, or as a natural consequence of play, as the children learn first-hand what does and what doesn't work.

4. Mathematics – Due to the many shapes, sizes and colours on offer, blocks offer ample opportunity for children to practise important maths skills, covering measurement, comparing shapes and sizes, number skills and counting, creating patterns and looking at symmetry, as well as balance and estimation.

5. Physical development – Block play promotes the development of spatial awareness and develops hand-eye coordination as children reach for, lift, move and build with blocks, strengthening their fingers, hands and arms.



6. Creativity – Blocks are loose parts, meaning children are free to combine and recombine them in countless ways. The teachers will add alternative resources such as dough, small world characters or paint and pencils to further extend children's opportunities for creativity.

7. Science – Through the exploration of cause and effect and experimentation, children are able to develop their problem-solving skills, test hypotheses and practise scientific reasoning. Blocks will help them to become familiar with balance, weight, spatial awareness and gravity.



8. Self-esteem – Children can take risks in their block play, helping them to discover that they have independent ideas. Block play also supports children experience a sense of achievement as they 'have a go', creating and developing something new and unique.

9. PSED – Block play allows children to co-construct and negotiate as they take turns, share materials and cooperate with others, forging new relationships and friendships. Furthermore, this also encourages self-reliance, increases attention span and develops their sense of self.

10. Communication & Literacy – As children encounter new experiences through block play, there are countless opportunities for discussion and the development of new vocabulary. Social interaction with adults and peers unlocks further benefits, while using blocks can support story creation and collaborative storytelling.

This term we will focus on achieving the whole 7 Stages of Block Play,

A different Block Play Stage will be delivered every week.

The 7 Stages of Block Play are:

Stage 1: Exploring and carrying Blocks

Stage 2: Stacking Blocks

Stage 3: Making Bridges

Stage 4: Making Enclosures

Stage 5: Making Patterns

Stage 6: Constructing and Naming

Stage 7: Planning Constructions

