



St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

In God's love we learn and succeed by sharing and caring together.

APRIL 2022

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Monthly Curriculum Newsletter

Preschool

This term our topic is Amazing Animals. We have been reading the book 'Mega Beasts' and we have been talking about Huge Creatures!

We have been practicing counting different animals and recognising the numbers to match. We have been acting out stories using animal puppets and telling stories for an audience when dressing up in costumes.

We are enjoying exploring the animal small world toys and especially the dinosaurs!



FSRA

Since Easter the children have come back and continued their 'Journey Home' story book in English. The children have impressed me so much with their writing skills, they have written lists for birthday parties and lists for what they would take on holiday if they were a chicken!

In phonics, the children are doing so well, learning all their new sounds and using them correctly in continuous provision.

In Maths, we have been learning about addition, we have added in many different ways, we have used objects, numicon and number stories to learn how to add. We have even been writing addition number sentences!

We have started our Understanding the World topic on animals and the children have learnt about fossils! The children have even made their own fossils using clay, we are going to bury them in the sandpit for the children to dig up and discover. Have a look on Twitter!

In R.E, we have started our 'Good News' topic, beginning to learnt about Ascension Day and Pentecost Day!



Year 1

Early in April the Year One had a wonderful, fun and informative trip to Knowsley Safari Park. It followed our science topic about animals and will help with our current science topic about 'living things'. The children used clues and activities to find the animal culprit who stole the safari jeep! They LOVED the sea lion show and were amazed at the tricks the sea lions performed. Finally, the children saw deer, lions, tigers, rhinos, camels and many other animals on our tour of the park on the coach. Excellent behaviour was shown by all the children so well done to everyone!

In RE, we continued our journey through Lent and discussed ways in which we can all grow to be more like Jesus through the choices and changes we can make. We celebrated the end of the topic with a peaceful collective worship and made some Easter cards to take home.

Our English topic this half term is based on the environmental text, 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' by Sarah Roberts. The children have been researching facts about sea animals and will use this knowledge as well as information in the text to write their own fact file whilst also exploring how we can all help to look after 'Our world' and stop pollution in our oceans.

Within Maths, the children have been learning about numbers beyond 20, measurement and capacity with a focus on problem solving and reasoning. This term the children have begun to discuss halves of objects, shapes and numbers and will also explore doubling of shapes and numbers.



Year 2

We have had a really successful month in Year 2 and have enjoyed lots of exciting lessons. Our teachers are very impressed with our attitude to learning and can see just how much we are progressing.

We have just completed work on our English text, 'My name is not Refugee' and wrote a thoughtful and detailed diary entry as our final piece. This text has allowed us to think deeply about the lives of others and this was also helped by our experiences during the 'Day of Prayer for Peace'.

In Maths we have been improving our calculation skills using money as well as solving problems and explaining our reasoning. We hope that this will be helpful in real life as we grow up and use money more often. Please ask us some questions about this and we can share what we know!

Our learning in other Curriculum areas has included finding out all about Widnes and the local area, for example, the nearby landmarks and rivers. We have used maps to help us do this and found them really helpful! In Music, we have been using xylophones and learning how to play hockey in P.E.

Finally, after our hard work and fantastic efforts to learn about and prepare for Easter during Lent, we are now in the middle of our next RE topic 'Spread the Word'. This has given us the chance to explore how messages are sent and received before focusing on the events of Pentecost and how Christians share the Good News about Jesus.

Year 3

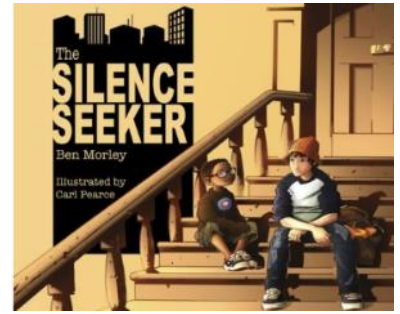
This April in Year 3 we have completed lots of fun activities. In English, we have finished our story of Silence Seeker and have written our own version of the story. We are excited to see what our next story is.

In Guided Reading, we have started our new non-fiction text which is 'The Illustrated Atlas of Britain and Ireland.' Alongside this, we have used Disney's UP and have enjoyed watching the opening few minutes of this.

In maths, we have finished division with remainders and moved on to finding fractions of amounts. We are working so hard at this and our teacher's are so proud of us!

In science, we have started our topic of light and have discussed what a light source is and why we have darkness.

In French, we have been learning the words for different classroom objects and having conversations with our French teacher and each other. We are so excited to see what else we are going to learn about this half term!



Year 4

Year 4 have had a positive start to the summer term. We started our DT topic on different cultures with a focus on textiles. The children explored different patterns, explaining the ones they liked and disliked. This was linked to the Egyptians. They then designed their own fabric pattern and created it. All these materials were recyclable, which will link to our new English text, Alba the 100 year old fish. The children have just finished an English text all about refugees. They used their prior knowledge from our prayer for peace day, when creating diary entries.

In Maths, our focus has been multiplication and division children are practicing daily their times tables - ready for their times table check in June. We would appreciate if you could do the same too, using purple mash and mathsframe.

In RE we have began our new topic which is New Life. We have discussed the importance of honesty and how situations are resolved more effectively if we are open and honest. We learnt about a fictional character called Cameron who was not honest and this caused him to be worried and sad. The children were very good at recognising that Cameron should have done the right thing and the problem would have been solved earlier.

Year 5

Just before the half term ended we finished off making our DT mechanisms. We used tools like saw's and glue guns to create the structure and hold it together. The rotating mechanism lifted our figures up and down or span them around at the top of the structure. The figures we used were also made out of clay and linked to our topic on space.

Since coming back from the Easter break, we made wraps as a part of DT and Healthy me in PD. We had been learning about healthy, balanced foods and meals and identified what things we could use for our wraps. It was so much fun making them and even better being able to eat them at the end!

In Maths we are learning about 3D shapes and how they can be made 3D from 2D nets.

Our new English book focuses on the environment, specifically coral reefs. It has been great watching lots of different videos about the reefs that have inspired us in our writing. Y5AW have really enjoyed getting back to the swimming baths and have really impressed teachers and trainers who have attended.

Year 6

In Maths, Year 6 have been doing algebra and problem solving. Although we thought that algebra would be hard, after our first lesson, most of us were confident. We did code breaking and linear number sequences. We solved problems from past SATs papers to get us ready for this year's tests. We have been working hard to get as many questions done as possible.

In English we have read a book called 'The Day War Came'. It is about a child refugee. We wrote two letters expressing our concerns for not letting unaccompanied child refugees in our country. We did a conscience alley for reasons for and against why the young girl should be allowed in the town. This made us think about the refugees in Ukraine.

We have been learning about the Vikings in History. We looked at King Alfred the Great and the Treaty of Danelow. We learned about the Vikings' first invasion of Britain. We then wrote a report on Vikings including their homes and jobs. Year 6 are very interested in finding out more about the Vikings.

In PE, Year 6 have been playing rounders and have started diamond cricket. We enjoyed playing rounders and even people who didn't think that they were good actually did very well. We are excited to start diamond cricket and hopefully we will learn quick as it has similar rules to rounders.

We will be doing science later on this half term and our topic will be 'Evolution'.

In Guided Reading we have just started a new book called 'The Explorer'. It caught our attention straight away because it had a quick start. We talked about how if it didn't start quick, we wouldn't have been as interested. We are intrigued to find out about what will happen next.

In PD, Year 6 are learning about healthy me. We are learning about what we need to do, eat and drink to stay healthy. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be planning and making a health meal. Some of the things that we can do are having a good sleep and having a balanced diet.

In RE we have been learning about being a witness of Jesus. We discussed during P4C and RE how it takes courage to be a witness. We read Scripture passages about Stephen, who was the first deacon, Lydia and Paul and wrote from their perspective about being a witness of Jesus. We also used freeze frames in role-play to discuss how Stephen may have felt and the difficulties he had in spreading the good news.

Written by Annie Laughton and Alfie Roberts from Y6CH.