



# St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

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

NOVEMBER 2022

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## Monthly Curriculum Newsletter



### Pre School

This term the children in Pre School have learned about Diwali. We looked at the story of Rama and Sita, we have practised Mehdi designs and we have made our own Diya lamps and rangoli patterns.



Our book this term has been 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird', we have discussed what makes us feel bad tempered and what makes us feel better. We have looked at what it is to be a good friend and how we can be kind to one another too.

In Maths we have been comparing quantities using more/fewer, we have been looking at 2d shapes and we have been practising writing our numbers to five.

 The Bad-Tempered Ladybird  
Eric Carle



### FSRA

We have had a jam packed couple of weeks in EYFS!

In English we have started a new book called, "I'm going to eat that ant", we have predicted what we think the story is going to be about! The children's ideas have been amazing! We have been working on initial sounds and writing CVC words using the sounds we know.

In Maths we have now learnt numbers 1-9 and know how to write them correctly. Ask the children about the rhymes and the characters and they should share them with you! We have also been learnt about addition, we have used tens frames, part whole models and numicon to help us.

In RE, last week we learnt about Islam. The children talked about their own precious objects, and then the precious objects that Muslims have. We were very lucky, because we had a visitor who came into school to teach us all about Islam. We looked at his prayer mat, and then we designed our own! Our new topic starting this week is called 'Birthdays', as we lead up to Christmas, we will learn the true meaning of Christmas Day.

In Understanding the World, we have been learning about the seasons, the children have looked at what trees look like at different times of the year and what the weather is like!

We have enjoyed having Mr James in school teaching our P.E lessons, he had taught us lots of skills and new games! Thank you Mr James!

## Year 1

Another month of wonderful learning has been happening in Year 1! We have enjoyed some fabulous visitors and experiences including: the Fire Service who talked to us about safety, Mr James our new sports coach and Altru Drama group who performed for us during Anti Bullying week. Imran Kotwal also came during Islam week to teach us about how Muslims pray. As well as all of this, we had the chance to taste smoothies and pedal on the smoothie bike!

In our lessons we have continued to show lots of enthusiasm and are also trying harder to show perseverance when tasks are a little tricky. This has included our maths work in which we are mastering addition and subtraction strategies using different resources to help, as well as improving our mental maths skills in recalling number bonds that we know.

In English, we have loved our Poetry unit based on the poem 'There's No Such Thing As Monsters!' We explored rhyming words and identified repeating parts in the verses. Finally, we created our own monster to write a verse about and enjoyed sharing these with each other in class. We have now begun a new English text and were amused to find that this is about a book monster called Nibbles. He is causing havoc by nibbling things in our classroom and we have had to create descriptions of him on posters to warn others around school. Keep your eyes peeled in case he appears in your homes too!

During Reading lessons we have been enjoying different fairy tales and comparing them to alternative versions. We are developing our vocabulary by learning and discussing the meaning of lots of new words. We are also improving our skills of prediction and retrieving information by finding specific parts of the text to answer questions in order to prove this. We are also getting better at being able to infer things from clues given in the text.

In Science, we have been investigating the best material for painting and conducted an investigation about this. Now we are putting our findings to good use in a new art topic. In Music, you may have heard us singing the songs we have been learning for our performance of 'A Christmas Recipe' next month – we can't wait for you to hear what we have been working on! As we have learned the songs we have discussed the speed (tempo) and dynamics (volume) of each one. We wonder which will be your favourite song...

Other fun learning taking place has been about Pictograms in Computing, using Purple Mash to help us complete tasks. In Personal Development (PD), we have explored similarities and differences between ourselves and others, celebrating the fact that it is OK to be different. In RE we successfully completed our 'Belonging' topic and planned, then delivered, a wonderful class Collective Worship. This was a very special occasion and was enjoyed by all. An exciting new topic linked to Advent has now begun, all about 'Waiting'.

Finally, we are continuing to emphasise the importance of presentation in everything we do, In particular, we are all working hard to practise the new handwriting style that is being used across school. We know this has been challenging but are so proud of the children for their efforts – keep up the great work Year One!

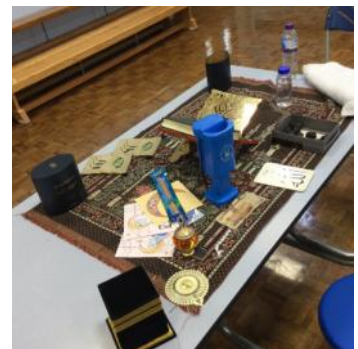
## Year 2

What a fantastic November we have had! In our other faith week, we learnt all about Islam. The children learnt about the importance of the preparation for prayer and the routines of prayer, which happens 5 times a day. The children also had the opportunity to meet a special visitor called Imran and were able to ask him lots of questions. The children finished their topic on Signs and Symbols and created their own Baptism candles.

In Maths the children have continued their learning on addition and subtraction. They have been able to apply their learning to measure too. The children worked hard to create their own success criteria.

In English we have learnt all about the poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. The children rehearsed saying the poem, reading with intonation and prosody. They then created their own poems and shared this with the class. The children are now reading 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' and have been fascinated with owls. They have drawn owls focusing on their talons, eyes, wings and beaks.

The children have been learning all about the UK in their Geography lessons. They have found the 4 countries which make up the UK and used an atlas to find out more. In singing we have been learning all about beat, tempo and rhythm. The children are very proud of their '4 White Horses' and 'I was made to love music' songs. In PE they have been focusing on dance and with Mr James they have been learning about gymnastics.



## Year 3

In Year Three, we have had a very busy and exciting half term. It has been wonderful to see all the children settle in and take on new challenges.

In RE, we have shared our love of God through recognising how love is shown in our families and our school community. The children have explored the topic Promises. The children have particularly enjoyed acting out a Baptism and discussing their own experiences. The children have also enjoyed learning about the religion Islam.

Our English topic this half term is based on the text, 'Winter's Child' by Angela McAlister. The children have used drama and discussion to talk about characters' thoughts and feelings. The children have been producing excellent writing based on the text. The children have continued to develop the punctuation skills using inverted commas within their writing.

Within Maths, the children have been learning the 2, 3, 4 times tables where they have used a variety of methods to solve reasoning and problem solving questions. The children have continued to build upon their knowledge of mathematical facts through Fast Maths and Maths Meeting and Basic Skills sessions with a focus on number bonds.

In Science, our topic this half term is 'Rocks and Soils'. The children have compared a variety of rocks and investigated their properties. The children have enjoyed learning about fossils through our cross curricular reading. It has been fantastic to see the children's Science homework and the support they are receiving at home.



## Year 4

Year 4 have been very busy since returning from half term. We have completed our two pence challenge ran by the PTA. We came a very close second behind Year 6.

As well as this, we have enjoyed working with some visitors. A visitor named Imran came to teach us all about Islam and it's traditions during our multi faith week. We also had a visit from a drama group who taught us all about anti bullying through a drama performance.

In maths, we are learning our timetables. We have also been practicing them using mathsframe, which we can use at home too!

In English, we have just started a new text called Leon and the Place Between. We have made our predictions and many of us think it is set in the circus.

In P.E, we have started working with the sports coach. We have been really excited and working hard in the lessons to get the P.E Star of the Week.

We are also working very hard to learn our songs and parts to our Christmas performance Holy Joe.

## Year 5

We cannot believe we're at the end of November already! We have had a great month and have done lots of exciting things.

In English, we have been continuing with our story 'The Lost Happy Endings' and we have really been enjoying it. We have taken part in some excellent debates and have developed our vocabulary using synonyms of different words.

In maths, we have been multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000 and have just started our topic of fractions.

In science, we have been looking at the different types of forces and have designed an experiment about air resistance. We have made our parachutes ready to test them out soon!

In RE we have just started our topic of Advent which is a very exciting part of the year- we cannot wait to go on our trip that links to this!

Speaking of trips, we had an excellent time at Safety Central and learnt all about staying safe at home and in the community. This trip was amazing and we all had such a good time. The staff even said how fantastic we were! We are so excited for the next month and can't wait to tell you about it at the end of term.

## Year 6

In English, we have been learning about Tigers. Although we haven't learnt the title of our book, we have still been reading and learning about these fierce, majestic creatures. We were watching an advert that raised awareness about tiger-bone wine. We created expanded - noun phrases and a list poem about the advert and tigers. One of our main focus's is Modal verbs and adverbials for possibility and frequency. We hope you want to learn about tigers too.

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions. Recently, we have changed our starter maths activities which we call our 'hooks' to photographs, which will get us thinking more about what maths we will use. Sometimes, we compare fractions or order them. We have been changing mixed numbers into improper fractions and ordering them that way! True or false questions have been including decimals, mixed numbers, fractions and improper fractions.

We have been focusing on Islam in RE. We have discovered the five pillars of Islam, Zakat (charity), shahada (faith), Sawm (fasting), Salat (prayer) and Hajj (pilgrimage). We have mainly focused on Zakat and why Muslim's give Zakat. Key Stage 2 had a visit from Imran (a Muslim), who told us about the Islamic faith and what the five pillars are. Recently, we created an image circle about why Muslim's look after what God created.

In PE, we have been playing Basketball! Some of us are very competitive, but we are all good team mates. We have explored various passes, such as, chest pass, bounce pass and overhead pass. We have even tried shooting in a basketball hoop and many of us are super at it. We have played games to practice our skills and we are all very good at it.

In PD, we have been learning about special families and how they are loved by God no matter what they look like. We have also spoke about our goals and dreams for this year and our mental health throughout Year 6.

In Science, we are learning about Carl Linnaeus and his classification system. We have learnt about the 5 kingdoms: Animals, Plants, Fungi, Protists and Prokaryotes. We have done two fact files, one about Animal groups eg: mammal, amphibian and one about the 5 kingdoms and Carl Linnaeus and his system of taxonomy. We created a classification key identifying the key characteristics of each animal group.

Written by Ellena and Grace B