



St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

"We love, learn and succeed following Jesus"

JANUARY 2023

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Monthly Curriculum Newsletter



Pre School

This term, the children in Preschool have been reading the book 'Whatever next'. We predicted what might happen in the story, we drew baby bears' journey, we discussed how the characters might feel and we acted out the story using props. In Maths, the children have been focusing on subitising (recognising numbers of things without counting).



We have also been learning number songs that count up to 5. We have also been learning about celebrating. The children planned a party, made invitations, invited Reception and decorated the room. Everyone had a great time.

Over the past week, we have focused on celebrating Chinese New Year. We have decorated lanterns and scrolls; we have looked at some special Chinese traditions. The children really enjoyed trying their hand at Dragon dancing and learning about their Chinese zodiac.



FSRA

This half term, we have been learning about London! In English, we have been reading 'The Naughty Bus'. We have been looking closely at the features of the book and also predicting what will happen next. The children have produced some amazing writing and I am really proud of them!

In Maths, we have been learning all about subitising, the children have really enjoyed this! Ask them all about it! Then, we learned about finding one more, counting confidently, and knowing what number comes next, and also finding one more in an amount of objects. This week we have been learning about patterns. The children have been able to make their own AB patterns, and also ABC repeating patterns.

In Understanding the World, the children have been learning all about Winter, and what's the world looks like during Winter. It has been helpful that it has been snowy and icy outside! Now we are learning about people who help us, real life, superheroes!

In RE, our topic is called Celebrating, the children first thought about different ways to celebrate and different reasons that we might celebrate. Then children have been learning about the Presentation of Jesus, and also learning about two special people called Anna and Simeon, who Mary and Joseph met at the temple.

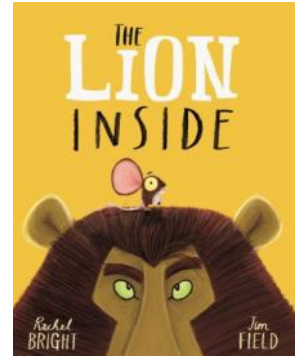
I would like to say thank you to the parents for your support in the children's homework to make a famous landmark from London using recycled materials! We have made our very own mini London in class, the children love it! Thank you for your ongoing support.



Year 1

Happy New Year from Year One, who have definitely come back to school ready to impress! The start of the Spring term has brought lots of exciting new topics and books to inspire us. We are loving the enthusiasm that the children are showing in lessons and can already see some important steps of progress being made.

In English lessons we have been exploring a lovely story, 'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright. We have had lots of chances for discussion and role play, this has helped us to imagine how the characters were thinking and feeling. We are now preparing to write our own stories before we finish for half term. We have been concentrating on how to plan before we write, as well as draft and edit to improve our work. We know how important our handwriting is when we write too – in all of our lessons, not just English! In our shared reading lessons we are in the middle of a new book which was delivered to school for us. This book is about another animal, a Koala bear, and it has brilliant pictures and text to go with it.



Maths work has been fun as we have been exploring numbers which are made up of tens and ones. We have used different types of equipment to support us with this and are really improving when we compare and describe numbers. We know lots of important vocabulary which you could use at home with us too, for example: more, less, greater, fewer, equal to.

This month in R.E. we have loved our topic about Special People, starting off with sharing and describing special people in our own lives, as well as the local community. Thank you for your help with our homework task! Next we explored the roles of different helpers in the parish family – we loved playing the headband game to act out different jobs for our friends to guess! Now we are concentrating on Jesus, the special person for Christians around the world. We have heard some Bible stories about when he was a child and especially like the one about when he was presented at the Temple after his birth. It will be great to hold our class discussion and vote for a story to use in our end of topic worship celebration.

Other things keeping us busy this half term have been basketball lessons in P.E, talking about dreams and goals in Personal Development and investigating life in the past in History. It has been really interesting to compare toys that we have, with the ones our grandparents played with! Finally, we have welcomed our singing teacher Ms Longstaff, into school again. What brilliant fun we are having during our lessons, whilst learning lots at the same time too!

Year 2

We have had a lovely month in Year 2 and we are really excited about our learning!

In English we have been reading 'The Dragon Machine'. We have had naughty dragons visiting our classroom and even had the chance to create our own Dragon Machine. We've been thinking a lot about dragons this month as our Guided Reading text is 'The Dragon Sitter'. It's a really fun book and we're really enjoying reading it.

This term in maths we have covered subtraction and recently moved onto multiplication. We are learning how to count groups, share things equally and represent our calculations through arrays and bar models.

Our topic for this term is History and we have been learning all about the different types of transport over the years. We have compared different methods of transport, learned all about George Stephenson and his locomotive 'Rocket' and discussed how we use to transport to move around.

Our R.E topic this term has been 'Books'. It's a wonderful topic and has given us the opportunity to discover lots of different types of books. We have learned about the Gospels and now understand the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible. We will be doing a Year 2 collective worship on 'Books' and we can't wait to share it with you.

We had lots of fun on our trip to Nantwich this week (even if it was a little chilly) we had a look around the town and saw where the fire began. We dressed up as Tudors and had a go at writing with a quill. Thank you again to the parents/carers that volunteered to help, it is greatly appreciated.

It's been another great term in Year 2 and the children have worked incredibly hard. Well done everyone!

Year 3

In Year Three, we have had a very busy January in school. It has been wonderful to see all the children apply themselves to their learning.

In RE, we have shared our love of God through learning about the significant dates and feasts in the liturgical year. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing the topic through the Collective Worship. The children have particularly enjoyed reading and discussing the scripture and reflecting upon the journeys they have been on.

Our English topic this half term is based on the text, 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. 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 applying their multiplication skills to written methods and can identify the relationship between division and multiplication. The children have used a variety of methods to solve reasoning and problem solving questions. They 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 History, our topic this half term is 'The Stone Age'. The children have compared how Stone Age people lived in comparison to the modern day. The children have studied a variety of sources and identified how archaeologists have learnt about prehistoric Britain. The children have enjoyed learning about Stone Age animals through our cross curricular reading. It has been fantastic to see the children's History homework and the support they are receiving at home.

Year 4

It has been a busy start to our Spring term for year 4.

In English we have been reading *Escape to Pompeii* and have been using fronted adverbials in our writing. We have recently completed a diary entry from Tranio's point of view about how he felt when the eruption started.

In maths, we have been using our knowledge of times tables to multiply 3 digits by 1 digit using short multiplication. We have been continuing to practice our times tables on maths frame every day and our scores are improving.

In Geography, we have been looking at volcanoes and earthquakes. We have looked at the structure of the earth, how volcanoes are formed and what impacts an earthquake can have on an area. We have also compared Pompeii to Widnes and found out lots of differences between the two places.

In Personal Development we have been setting dreams and goals for ourselves and discussing why it is important to set these and what we can do if things go wrong. We are looking forward to our trip to Chester this week to explore what life was like during the Roman times as we prepare to start our next topic 'The Romans in Britain'.



Year 5

In year 5 we are really enjoying our current English text which is "Arthur and the golden rope". We have learned so much about Norse Mythology which links to our guided reading book "Odd and the frost giants". We have had lots of fun lessons learning about the family trees of the gods and we even made top trumps cards using relative clauses about our favourite gods.

In Maths we are working hard to learn long multiplication, it has not been easy but it's a really quick and useful method to use.

In RE we have learning all about Jesus' mission and we have been finding out what part we have to play in it. We have researched about our local Parish community and also found out information about our Diocese.

In Y5GS we have started our swimming lessons and are really enjoying them. We are learning new strokes and improving on existing ones. We are also learning about the importance of water safety.

Y5 also have a science club and we have already taken part in some exciting experiments. We investigated with magnets and tried to see which materials are magnetic and then experimented with these in different ways.

Both classes are still working really hard in music and learning new notes and pieces to play each week.



Year 6

Since we have come back to school, in English we have been focusing on a book called 'The Selfish Giant'. We have been doing predictions, setting descriptions, exploring characters and even creating our own characters during this topic. We have also learnt how to correctly use things like expanded noun phrases, adverbial phrases, semi-colons and much more in writing. We really enjoyed this book.

In Science, we have been learning about the differences between environmental and inherited traits. Also about how animals and humans adapt to their habitats and about Charles Darwin's voyage to the Galapagos Islands. As a whole, this topic has taught us the similarities and differences between humans and animals.

In RE, we have been learning about 'Sources' and how they 'Guide Christians'. We looked at different scriptures as examples of how they show us how to act like Jesus. We looked at the messages that shape the lives of Christians and this helped us to recognise the things we treasure in our lives. We also did explorations and role plays to help us understand the gospel stories that we read. We also summarised the messages using the gospel values and retelling the stories in the New and Old Testament.

We have been playing Hockey in PE and learning the different techniques. We have played games and been learning how to hold the hockey stick correctly. We have practiced dribbling and also the Indian dribble method. As a class we have really enjoyed learning hockey as this is not a sport we usually do.

In Maths we have been learning about ratio and proportion, such as ratio language (for every), ratio vocabulary, ratio symbol and links between fractions and ratio. It has taught us the similarities and differences (comparisons) on how to recognise the different parts of a whole.

Since we've been back from half term, in guided reading we have been focusing on a book called 'The Happy Prince by Oscar Wilde'. We have inferred characters feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions. We have also looked at new vocabulary and used dictionaries to find out the meaning of the words. Our class has really enjoyed this book especially trying to figure out what the moral of the story meant to us.

Written by Grace S and Darcie.