



# St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

*"We love, learn and succeed following Jesus"*

MAY 2023

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## Monthly Curriculum Newsletter



### Pre School

Preschool have enjoyed learning all about King Charles' Coronation! Preschool celebrated by making their very own jewelled crowns, making (and enjoying) Coronation themed cakes, designing plates and finally ending the week by attending a Coronation Street Party! They thoroughly enjoyed being royal for the day!



In maths, we have become zoo keepers and made our own zoo enclosures for the animals. Preschool have explored more complex construction by combining shapes to make arches. We have made tunnels around our bike track for us all to enjoy. Preschool have



also been working on time in maths by sequencing events using our visual timetable and using 'first, then, next' to sequence our stories. One of our favourite maths meetings recently included the skittles experiment! Preschool were amazed by the repeating pattern which it made.



'Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?' Has been a hit with Preschool in literacy! We have made animal masks and our own brown near bread using chocolate chips, banana and biscoff spread (very yummy)! We have also been reading 'What the ladybird heard'. Preschool have made WANTED posters for the bad guys (Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh) and made posters of their favourite animal in the story.

Recently, it has been mental health week. Preschool have loved their yoga and breathing sessions along with mindfulness colouring. As summer is approaching, we have explored how to be safe in the sun and what we can wear when the summer is out to keep us cool. We have designed summer ice creams, summer drinks and even visited a beach in our own classroom! Every child felt the sand beneath their feet and listened to the calming waves. The children enjoyed closing their eyes and describing what they could see at the beach.



## FSRA

In English, the children have finished the book "Silly Doggy"! The children have really enjoyed this story, and they have all created their own story map of the story so that they can verbally retell it independently. From the story map, the children were either able to write keywords or sentences from each story, in order to retell it in a written way! I am extremely proud of the children's writing!

In Maths, we have learnt about lots of different things! We have learnt about 3D shapes, learning their names, learning about their properties, and also finding them in the environment! Recently, the children have been learning about teen numbers and noticing a pattern in how they are written! The children have really impressed me with how they are able to partition teen numbers into tens and ones! Please ask your children at home all about this, how many tens and ones are in 14? "1 ten, 4 ones" they are amazing!

In RE, our topic has been Good News. The children learnt all about what happened after Jesus died on the cross. The children learnt about Ascension day, and Pentecost day! We completed an activity where the children spread the good news of Jesus! We told all our friends that Jesus is alive! Our most recent topic has been friends. We will continue more about this after half term, and perform an assembly all about it too!

In Understanding the World this half term, our topic has been all about animals. We have learned about different animals, where they live and where we might find them in the world. In our classroom we have had a vets role-play and the children have loved getting in the role of a vet and helping all the poorly teddies.

Hope everyone has a happy and safe half term!

## Year 1

Year 1 have had a phonics filled half term! We have been working very hard practising reading the sounds that we know in words. All our hard work is helping is to prepare for our Phonics Screening after half term. We have even been doing phonics at home thanks to the help of our families.

In English we have finished reading Toys in Space by Mini Grey. We have loved reading this book and have found some of the pages really funny to read. Now that we have created our own Hootopize character we are ready to write our own version of the story. Once we are finished we will be publishing our work for everyone to see.

In Reading we have started to explore a new book all about the planets. The book has taught us lots of new facts that we didn't already know. In Maths we have been working hard on multiplying numbers. We are learning to count and recall our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We are beginning to look at calculating multiplication questions ourselves using arrays. After half term we will be diving into some division and how we can share numbers into equal groups. We have finished our Geography topic looking at our local area. We enjoyed exploring different maps and navigating around an orienteering course in school. Some of us even brought in some amazing 3D maps we made at home using recyclable materials.

In Science we been looking at animal habitats. First, we explored the different habitats around the world including the ocean. We then looked closely at micro-habitats and the animals living in these places. We discovered that insects lived in micro-habitats and went on a mini-beast hunt around school to see what we could find. There were lots of different insects around school but the one that we found the most of was ants. In PE we have been learning all about the sport Handball. During sports week, we will be playing a match against one another using everything we have learnt. Finally, we have been working hard in every subject and lesson on our handwriting. We are trying really hard to make sure our letters are the correct size and shape. This is something we have been taking lots of pride in every day.

## Year 2

We've had a super busy great term in Year 2. We are reading a wonderful book in English called 'The Last Wolf'. This book is helping us to understand the effects that deforestation is having on our wildlife and what we can do to help. We have linked this to our Science unit and we will be learning how to plant trees.

In maths we have been learning all about fractions of numbers and shapes and we have just moved on to time. We've had the chance to use some clocks and played some great time games on Topmarks. This is a great resource if the children would like to have a go at home.

We have just finished our R.E topic on 'Spread the Word' where we learned all about the Ascension and Pentecost day. Our current R.E topic is Rules. We had a great year group debate around 'Do we need rules' and we have had some really important discussions about why we have rules and what the world would be like without them.

Finally, our science topic is 'Plants'. So far we have learned about the different parts of plants and what the function of each part is. After half term we will continue this topic and we will be conducting our own experiment on plant growth.

So, we really have had a busy term! Keep up the good work Year 2!

## Year 3

In Year Three, we have had a wonderful May. It has been fantastic to see all the children apply themselves to their learning in school and on trips!

In RE, we have shared our love of God through learning about choices and the consequences to good and bad choices with a special visit from Father Thomas. The children are thoroughly enjoying planning and practicing their Collective Worship which they will share with families in the coming half term. The children have particularly enjoyed reading and discussing the scripture and reflecting upon their own experiences of choices and forgiveness.

Our English topic this half term is based on the text, 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. The children have used water colours in art to create an alternative ending. Their artwork has then informed their writing. The children have continued to develop using expanded noun phrases.

Within Maths, the children have been applying their multiplication and division skills to reason and problem solve with fractions. 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 time and money.

In History, our topic this half term is 'The Ancient Egyptians'. The children have compared how the Egyptian people lived in comparison to the modern day. The children have studied a variety of sources and identified how archaeologists have learnt about the ancient civilisation. The children have enjoyed learning about Egyptian God's and Goddesses through our cross curricular reading.

## Year 4



It has been an extremely busy month for year 4.

This half term we have been reading the book 'Alba' whose home in the coral has been damaged through plastic pollution. We watched a video about the damage that



plastic pollution is causing to our oceans and marine life. We planned and wrote a letter to a local business outlining these damages and asking them if they could help by giving some suggestions to reduce plastic use.

In science we have been looking at electricity and sound. We discussed what electricity is, what we use it for and how it is generated. We then had a go at creating some of our own electrical circuits using a cell, a bulb, a buzzer, a switch and some wires. We experimented trying to connect more than one bulb to our circuits and observed what would happen to the brightness as we did this.

During mental health week, we all took part in completing some mindfulness activities. We first



started talking about mental health and all the different things that we can do to help us. After this we spoke about mindfulness and how this may be a technique that we could use when we are feeling anxious or worried. We then went on to complete a mindfulness breathing activity called finger breathing.

Our activity that we completed was called

zentangle. We all enjoyed completing this and some

of us showed our patterns to the rest of the school when we had our assembly.



We have enjoyed a fantastic week celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. We learnt facts about his life and watched some of the highlights of the coronation. We made thistles for our coronation party and also decorated some plates which we were able to take home as a keep-sake for this special occasion.

Some of us also made our Holy Communion this month. It was a lovely service and we all had lots of fun celebrations with our family and friends.



## Year 5

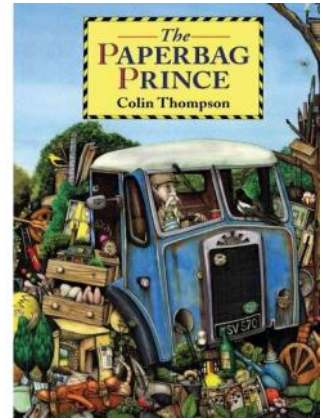
This month in Year 5 has been really busy! In English, we have been reading Paperbag Prince and learning all about the environment and how pollution damages this. We then created a persuasive leaflet about landfill.

In maths, we have been learning about area and perimeter and statistics.

In science, we have been learning about different materials and have completed different experiments testing the properties of different materials.

We have also explored different methods of separating materials including filtration, sieving, magnetic attraction and boiling.

In PE, our topics have been gymnastics and hockey where we have used a range of equipment. We have also competed against the other class in our team sport afternoon in hockey. We also have enjoyed a sports day and cannot wait to complete the fun run!



## Year 6

In SATs week, we had a celebration for the hard work we had done and we played football, crafts and listened to music. Soon after, we had a celebration for King Charles Coronation. We designed plates for the coronation of the king.

In English, we are writing a biography on the French naval officer, Jacques Cousteau. Jacks Cousteau has made some fantastic inventions such as the Aqua-Lung and Sea Fleas, which can go 550m.

In Science, we found out how light works and how we see. Light travels into our pupils and through the lens and into our cornea where the image flips upside down. It then goes through the optic nerve and flips upright in the brain.

In RE, we are learning about the good Samaritan and how Jesus healed the blind man. In mindfulness, we did posters on what we like outside of school and the people we like.

Soon, we are finding out our parts for the end of year play. The play will be called 'What a night'. In June we are going to Robinwood to explore and take part in outdoor activities.

Written by Joseph A and Leo