



# St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

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

NOVEMBER 2023

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## Monthly Curriculum Newsletter



### Pre School

Preschool have enjoyed reading and learning about The Three Little Pigs! They have finished this book and have all designed traps for the wolf, designed new pig houses and came up with ways to keep the wolf away! They have mostly enjoyed our little pigs roleplay area, dressing up and re-telling the story. Preschool have also enjoyed sequencing the story with their friends and building pig houses in our construction area.

In Maths, we have learnt all about shape! Preschool have learnt about 2D shapes, learning their names, learning about their properties, and also finding them in the environment! Recently, the children have been learning about 'one more'. They have enjoyed hunting around the classroom for numbers then going back to find one more! We have been using the outside area to find one more of different objects, such as bean bags and steps!

Preschool have also been learning all about Diwali, Bonfire night, autumn and minibeasts! During Diwali, the children created their own Rangoli patterns, henna designs and made their very own Diwali lantern! When they learnt about Bonfire night and Guy Fawkes, the children made their own Bonfire night firework display using paint and forks! They looked amazing! We all designed our own pair of wellington boots when we discussed what we would wear during autumn. The children went on an outdoor adventure to see what autumn looked like outside. We seen lots of orange leaves!

Recently we have been learning about minibeasts. The children have made their own minibeasts, shared lots of stories and enjoyed our minibeast discovery tuff trays! The children have mostly enjoyed using a magnifying glass to take a close look at some of the mini beasts we have in resin. The children have recently made a 'bug hotel' in our outside area so that has also been great to observe!



## FSAR

Wow what a brilliant November we have had! Reception have learnt all about The Nativity story in RE. We have made our own Baby Jesus to put in our class manger. The children have made their own Advent Wreaths and retold the Nativity story using drama. We can't wait to share our Christmas Play too! We have also learnt about Islam. The children spent some time looking at a Prayer Mat in class and designed their own.

In reading, the children have loved sharing 'The Farmyard Hullabaloo' and retold it using puppets, we especially loved being the cow! Our text this week is 'Owl Babies'. The children have loved retelling the story with our very own owl puppets and making our own playdough owls. We have also made owl nests and watched a live owl nest box feed!

In English, we have learnt all about the traditional tale, The Three Little Pigs. The children have made traps for the wolf, written character descriptions and retold the story. Our classroom had also been transformed into the Three Little Pig's houses!

In maths, we have learnt about shape. We have shared a song all about shape and loved singing it to our parents and carers at our Stay and Play. The children have been on shape hunts, completed shape printing and have sorted 2D shapes.

We have also been learning about minibeasts. We have loved going on a butterfly hunt and a minibeast walk. The children have used their investigative skills to name minibeasts.



## Year 1

Another month of wonderful learning has been happening in Year 1! We have enjoyed a visit from Altru Drama group who performed a brilliant play for us linked to the theme of Anti Bullying. This performance and our Personal Development work have really helped us to gain a deeper understanding of how people should treat one another and why.

In R.E. we have been exploring the religion of Islam during a special themed week. In particular, we found out about how Muslims care for nature and shared an important story about this. This week we are beginning our new topic, 'Waiting' as we start Advent, the season of preparation, for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are looking forward to the weeks ahead as we wait together for this special occasion.

In all of 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 strategies using different equipment to help, such as counters, cubes and a rekenrek. We continue to work on improving our mental maths skills, recalling number bonds within, and including 10. Thank you for your support with our weekly Friday maths challenge - this is really helping the children to develop their speed and fluency in

the recall of facts. Soon we will be moving onto subtraction to develop this further too.

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 are enjoying finding out all about London using both a story, "Katie in London," as well as a non-fiction



book 'All About London.' During Reading lessons, we have continued to enjoy a range of different texts and extend 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 Music, you may have heard us singing the songs we have been learning for our performance of 'Christmas with the Aliens' 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...

Other fun learning taking place this month has been starting to explore our local area in Geography. We began by looking at the different countries and seas that make the United Kingdom. We then looked at places that are near or far to where we live. We will be continuing to look at our local area by exploring the street where we live and what places there are around us.

In computing we have explored the different types of transport and the ways we travel to school. We made our own pictogram to show this using Purple Mash on the I pads. In Science, we have been looking at the different seasons and what time of year they are. We then looked at what weather we might see during these seasons and completed a weather log tracking the weather each day for a week. Thankfully it wasn't all dark clouds and rain that week! After completing our printing project in art, we have now moved onto a Design Technology project. We have analysed different greeting cards that move. Next, we designed our own Christmas card which we are looking forward to making in time for Christmas. Keep up the great work Year 1!

## Year 2

Year 2 have been super busy since coming back to school after half term. We have enjoyed an anti-bullying drama delivered to us by Altru Drama which showed us how we should treat other people and why. This tied in with anti-bullying week where we all wore odd socks and looked into how we can 'Make a noise about bullying'.

In English we looked at the poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. We really enjoyed creating our own poems by changing the animals and creating our own nonsense words which we included in our writing. We then looked at the original poem being performed in a variety of different ways and had a go at performing our own poem. Some of us even sang our poem!

In maths, we have been looking at subtraction. We have been working really hard on using our success criteria to help us and are continuing to work on our presentation when drawing our place value counters.

In science we have been looking at habitats. We have looked at what animals we would see living in the Arctic, the ocean, the desert and the rainforest. We used a book called 'Above and Below' to create a brochure which included an interesting fact about each animal.

In history, we have been looking at British Monarchs. We have enjoyed learning about Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth I. We have used a timeline to see when they were on the throne, we have looked at the different palaces that they spent most of their time and have looked at what they tried to do for the country.

During our P.E lessons, we have been doing gymnastics and hockey. We have been showing our balancing skills by walking across beams and have been showing how much control we have when using a hockey stick. We have recently started trying to shoot at a goal and have managed to score lots of points for our teams.

In our guided reading sessions, we have been learning all about The Great Fire of London. This is a non-fiction text and we are enjoying being able to use our retrieval skills to find facts to complete our tasks.

We have been very busy practising our Christmas production, we have been singing songs with Mrs O in music and have been going into the hall to practise our lines. We are looking forward to sharing this with all our grown-ups next month.

Well done year 2 on a fantastic month and for working so hard.

### Year 3

It has been fantastic to see more children reading at home which is having such a positive impact upon their learning!

In RE, we have shared our love of God through learning about being called upon. The children have particularly enjoyed reading and discussing the scripture and reflecting upon renewing promises and the choices made through Confirmation. The children have shared their thoughts and ideas through drama with their peers.

Our English topic this half term is based on the text, 'Nen and the Lonely Fisherman' by Ian Eagleton. The children have used drama and discussion to talk about characters' thoughts and feelings. The children have used this work to inform their poetry inspired by the text. The children have also enjoyed writing diary entries continuing to use a range of adverbs and prepositional phrases to describe a setting.

Within Maths, the children have been using inverse operations to check calculations. 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 sessions with a focus on times tables.

In History, our topic this half term is 'Ancient Greece'. The children have learnt about where the Ancient Greeks were in history using a timeline along with learning about Gods and Goddesses. In Science the children have begun to learn about different types of electricity and how a circuit works. Within DT, the children have explored creating a moving mechanism within a Christmas cards. The children are thoroughly enjoying learning songs and rehearsing for the Christmas play.

Thank you for all the effort and support the children are receiving at home which is evident in the children's fantastic homework! Congratulations to the children who are on track for Read to Succeed. We hope more children will participate.

Please speak to class teachers in regards to costume queries.

### Year 4

This month in year 4, we have been practising our Christmas play which we cant wait for you all to see.

In Maths, we have been looking at area and roman numerals. We have learnt that maths is all around us.

In P.E we have been doing a dance demonstrating a volcano eruption. Also with one of our teachers, Mr Gallimore, we have been orienteering with partners and using a map. Our newest topic is hockey.

In Guided Reading and English we have been looking at Greek Myths and learning about Odysseus.

Written by Ava B and Mia

## Year 5

In year 5, we have recently visited the Town Hall in Runcorn to meet the Mayor and ask questions about what Mayor's do.

We have also had firefighter's visit school to talk about what you should do if you have a fire at home and how long it will take for a fire to spread. We did go in to the smoke tent to see what it looks like, and learnt that if you are in a fire, you should drop to the floor and never get back up. If you catch fire you should STOP, DROP and ROLL.



Soon we will be going to a theatre to watch 'Fantastically Great Women' and we think it will be a great experience.

Written by Olly and Zac

## Year 6

For the last couple of weeks, our topic has been fractions. We have been learning how to add and subtract mixed number fractions. We do calculations such as fluency and problem solving. At the start of this term we were learning how to simplify fractions. We also focused on comparing and ordering them. A few weeks ago, we started to divide using factors. For a couple of days, we began to use the long division method.

In English, a couple of weeks ago, we began to write factual sentences. We also learnt what modal verbs are. These are verbs such as could, should, would, can may, might, must, shall and ought to. Our most recent book is 'The place for me: stories about the Windrush Generation'.

In R.E group one, they have been learning to describe how God's love has shaped the lives of love and told us some instructions for us to follow. They also talked about what they want God to forgive them for. Group two recently picked key parts out of the Maranatha song and explained what they mean. They also drew pictures and explained how John the Baptist shows his commitment to God. Group three wrote a speech on what they are sorry for. They also wrote a letter about the vows.

In Science last term we learnt about vertebrates and invertebrates. The difference between those are one has a backbone and the other one does not. We also learnt about the 5 kingdoms - plants, fungi, protocist, animals and bacteria. This term we have been learning about electrical circuits. So far we have learnt what a circuit needs for it to work and planned a comparative text.

In Geography and History we have been learning about WW2 and how it began. At the start of the year we also learnt about the coast and coastal erosion.

In PE we have started to learn about hockey and dance this half term and we are looking forward to learning more.

Written by Annabelle M and Freya W