



St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

"We love, learn and succeed following Jesus"

DECEMBER 2023

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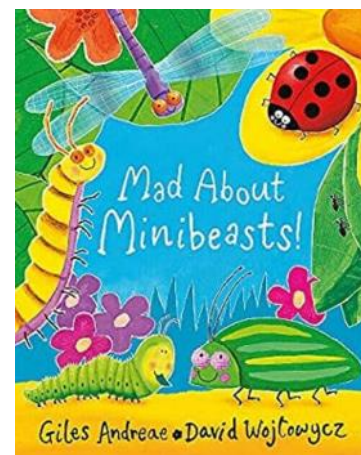
Monthly Curriculum Newsletter



Pre School

Preschool have enjoyed reading all about minibeasts this half term! They have mostly enjoyed our minibeast investigation station. The children have used magnifying glasses to look closely at the minibeasts!

In maths, the children have been learning all about one more and one less. We have found objects in our classroom and then found one more and one less!



Our favourite stories this month are; Mad about Minibeasts, Owl Babies, Stick Man and The Night Before Christmas.

We have really been getting into the festive spirit this half term! We have opened three new Christmas roleplay areas; Christmas Corner, Elf Wrapping Station and Basil's Café! Preschool have took on the role of barista in our new Christmas café, they have been selling coffee and donuts for ONLY 50p between the hours of 9am and 3pm! The children have enjoyed writing Christmas letters, colouring Christmas pictures and designing snowmen in the Christmas Corner. They have all painted their own Christmas Tree card for their families, made magical reindeer food and baked their own salt-dough men and decorated them with some cool outfits!

This week, Early Years is full of excitement! The children have had the opportunity to play on a bouncy castle and soft play. – Thank you, Mrs Sheppard! We have had our own Christmas party and mini disco! Everyone is so excited!

FSAR

What a fantastic December we have had! In RE we have learnt about Advent and how Catholics prepare for Christmas. We have thought about how others celebrate Christmas and how we can share the true meaning of Christmas. The children have used knitted puppets to retell the Christmas story. We loved sharing our Christmas play, The Wiggly Nativity with our parents and carers. We hope you enjoyed it too!

The children have loved sharing 'The Stickman' in shared reading and have retold the story. In English, we have shared poems from 'Mad About Minibeasts'. The children have worked hard to create their own minibeasts and label them.

In maths, we have focused on shape and have learnt a shape song. We have also practiced our numbers to 5 and have learnt about one more and one less.

We have had so much fun making our own Christmas cards and crafts including our very own baby Jesus to take home. We have made our own salt dough ornaments and decorated them too. We enjoyed a trip to Church for Y5's Collective Worship. Reception loved their Christmas craft morning with our prayer partners and going on the bouncy castle! We wish all our parents and carers a very merry Christmas.

Year 1

Year One have finished off the term just as it began by working super hard and enjoying a variety of learning experiences. In Science we have been exploring the different seasons and what the weather is like during those seasons. We have started a science experiment exploring how much rain falls on different days. We will be exploring the results before we break up for Christmas. In Geography we have continued to look at our local area. We looked at the facilities that are near to school and accessible to our community. We have used maps to locate these.

Our English work has continued on the theme of London. After finishing our story, 'Katie in London,' we have concentrated on how to present information about the landmarks and sights from the story as a piece of non-fiction text. We have discussed and explored features such as facts, headings and sub-headings. Finally, we have planned our own facts to present as a page in a class book, 'All About London.' The children have loved their work on this unit and have produced some excellent writing!

In Maths we have continued exploring addition and subtraction. The children particularly enjoyed Active Maths sessions where they have hunted around Year one for different calculations to solve. We are finishing off the term by exploring 2-D and 3-D shapes. We have welcomed our singing teacher Ms Longstaff, into school this term. What brilliant fun we have had during our lessons, whilst learning lots at the same time too! Please asked the children if they know what a 'squashed tomato' means.

Our RE topic has focused upon the topic of 'Waiting'. We have loved learning about Advent as an important time of preparation for the Birthday of Jesus. We have found out about different ways that Christians get ready for this celebration. We have read special messages on our Advent calendar in class each day and found simple things that we can all do to make a difference. We were so excited to perform our Nativity play 'Christmas with the Aliens' and have been busy making some lovely things in class to bring home and share with you!

Other fun learning taking place has been about Pictograms in Computing, using Purple Mash to help us complete tasks. During P.E sessions with Mr Ward we have been learning all about and playing activities related to the sports of gymnastics and hockey. In Personal Development, we have continued to explore relationships with others and what respectful behaviour is. This has included when things are appropriate or not and different ways that people can share if they are happy or unhappy with something. Well done for a fantastic first term Year one, we hope you and your families all have a wonderful, happy and peaceful Christmas!

Year 2

Well what a term! The children really have worked so incredibly hard this term.

In English and Guided Reading, we have been learning all about The Great Fire of London. The children have learned all about what life was like in 1666 and why the fire caused so much destruction. Our next English unit is a wonderful fiction text called 'Grandad's Camper' which I'm sure the children will thoroughly enjoy.

In maths we have just finished our Addition and Subtraction unit and will be moving onto Shape in the new term. The children are confident in adding and subtracting both one and two digit numbers and know how to use the inverse to check their answers.

We have just finished our 'Preparations' unit in R.E where we have spent some time looking at the preparations we make for Christmas and Jesus' birthday. The children have created some wonderful pieces of work and had lots of opportunities for role play.

In Science we have been learning all about Living Things and Their Habitats. We have explored different habitats around the world through books, the internet and even Google Earth which the children really loved. We made Habitat brochures, informative posters and also had the opportunity for some art.

We've had such a lovely term in Year 2 and the children have worked so hard, I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Year 3

Thank you for all the support for the Children's Christmas play, the children thoroughly enjoyed the performances! The children have enjoyed learning about the meaning of the Nativity through the play 'The Donkey Seller' where they shared their love for dance, singing and drama. The children have also been learning about Advent and how to prepare during this special time in the liturgical calendar.

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 their own interpretation of the story using a range of adverbs and prepositional phrases to describe a narrative.

Within Maths, the children have been using inverse operations to check multiplication and division 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. The children carried out a debate arguing if Sparta or Athens was a better place to live. 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.

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 in the Spring Term.

Year 4

During Science we have been learning about electricity and how it works e.g. main electricity objects need to be plugged in to work but battery electricity doesn't.

In Maths, we have been learning about multiplication and division, such as 12, 11, 7, 6, 9, 1, 0 times tables.

We have been learning about Greek myths in English and guided reading. Between the 18th and 20th December we should be publishing a Greek myth (in English).

During History we have been learning about ancient Greece and how people lived, plus city states like Sparta, Corinth, and Athens!

We have been learning about communion, Advent, and thanks in RE because we are close to Christmas!

In PD we have been learning about collaboration and anti-bullying, this includes staying safe online.

During PE we have been learning about dance and hockey which includes learning tricks, skills and some dance moves!

In Computing we have been learning about animation and using purple mash.

We have been learning how to play the guitar in music and certain notes. In these lessons we have played Jingle Bells, Haunted Mansion and Dance Monkey!

Written by Sienna and Lorcan

Year 5

Year 5 went on a trip called 'Heaven Sent'. While we were there, we were told about the three wise men and Jesus as well as Jesus's birth in Bethlehem. We were taken on a look around the village of Bethlehem and met the three wise men, the blacksmith and met the Roman soldiers as well as baby Jesus.



We also went on a trip to The Lowry theatre to watch 'Fantastically Great Women'. The women were Frida Khalo, Amelia Earhart, Emmeline Pankhurst, Rosa Parks, Gertrude Ederle, The Three Marys and Agent Fifi. They all told us that you are all great in your own way.

Year 5 went to Upton Community Centre to sing our Christmas songs to everyone. At the end we were given a letter to hand out to the people that were watching us sing. We were given a selection box off Santa for our amazing singing.

Written by Madeleine and Archie W

Year 6

Maths - Fractions

In Class, we have learned how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. We have enjoyed this topic because it was a fun challenge for us to complete. We started our topic by adding fractions to fractions.

History WWII

In this topic, we learnt about Liverpool during the second world war. We completed quizzes to recap our knowledge ready for the lesson ahead. In the quizzes we had questions such as when did WWII start and who was the main allies of WWII. We also learnt about Adolf Hitler and why Liverpool got bombed so much.

English - Fantastically Great Women book

In English we have been reading about fantastically great women who changed the world. We learnt about Anne Frank and how she hid in a secret book shelf to hide from the Nazi's. We also learnt about Mary Anning who was the first women who found ancient fossils. We also went to the theatre and watched a role play about all the fantastically great women who changed the world.

RE - Advent, Angelus

In RE, we have learned about Advent and how we can act out the gospel values during the run up to Christmas. We discussed about what we could do to show our understanding of Advent (such as - cleaning the dishes for our parents or donating to charity).

DT - Stir Fry

In this topic, we were learning about how to cook a stir fry. First of all we had to make our recipes. We worked with our partners to create what we wanted in our stir fry. On the day we cooked it, we got to cook vegetables and we all got a turn to do this. We then got a chance to stir the noodles and veg. this was a very enjoyable topic.

Science - Electricity

In science, we have been learning about electricity. We discussed how we make a circuit and what we need to make one. We made an experiment of what would happen if we added more cells in a circuit to only one buzzer. We then concluded and discussed if our predications were right. The buzzer got louder. We enjoyed this topic because it was fun to make the circuits.

Christmas Parties and Disco

We had lots of fun at these parties singing our favourite songs and choosing what to play. We also had even more fun dancing around to just dance with our friends and enjoyed it a lot. We played musical statues for chocolate. I am very excited to see the pantomime tomorrow and I am sure my friends are too.

Service at the Cathedral

At the Cathedral we watched a show all about the story of how Jesus was born and how Mary went to Bethlehem. We donated toys that we had bought with money we raised on own clothes day.

Written by Jessie, Noah and Jake