



# St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

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

MARCH 2024

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## Monthly Curriculum Newsletter



### Pre School and FSAR

Wow! What a month! This March, EYFS have had so much fun! Starting off with World Book Day, the children were all super excited to dress as their favourite character! All of the children participated in lots of different activities throughout the day. We set up a tea party based on 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', used our construction area to build houses for the three little pigs and designed plates to stop the very hungry caterpillar from being so hungry! The children also made a zoo based on the story 'Dear Zoo' and lots more! Our author of the half term is Claire Freedman. The EYFS classroom was taken over by the dinosaurs that love underpants! We have read lots of Claire Freedman's stories but 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants' is definitely our favourite!

This half term, our theme has been 'Healthy Me'. The children have learnt all about healthy/unhealthy foods and where they all come from. They have had so much fun designing healthy plates and trying healthy foods. Our shared read has been 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We have enjoyed sharing this story and talking about which foods are healthy/unhealthy. The children have enjoyed re-telling the story using puppets. Our favourite part is when the very hungry caterpillar turns into a beautiful butterfly! We have continued learning about 'People Who Help Us'. The children have dressed as fire fighters, doctors and lots of other important people in our roleplay areas.

In English, we have been sharing poems from 'I am the seed that grew the tree'. The children have enjoyed putting together some silly rhyming strings, making puppets to act out 'Six Little Ducks' and contributing to a whole class poem! We have some poets in the making in EYFS! Each day, we have shared the poem of the day. We love looking at the pictures and finding the rhyming words.

In Maths, the children have been learning all about patterns! They have made some lovely pieces of patterned jewellery! We have designed scarves, umbrellas, and clothing using different patterns. We have also had a lot of fun using body percussion to recognise and create patterns. One of our favourites is 'stomp, jump, clap'! We have been playing 'guess the pattern', maybe you can try this at home!

In RE, Reception have been learning all about Lent and the Easter Story. We have mostly enjoyed learning about Palm Sunday. The children made their own palm leaf and acted out the story with their friends. We also learnt about Good Friday. The children all made a lovely cross to take home to help us remember. Last week, we all took part in the Big Lent Walk. We enjoyed walking around, catching the fish, finding the different pictures and reading the facts on each flag. This week, we have made special Easter cards for our families to celebrate the life of Jesus. We are super excited for new learning in April!

## Year 1

We are coming to the end of a jam packed term! Our hard work has continued this month with lots of engaging learning experiences and a fun trip to Chester Zoo. We have been learning all about humans and animals. We have explored the different types of animals and what they need to survive. Our trip to the zoo was full of seeing these animals up close. Some of our favourite animals to see were the lions and giraffes. A special thank you to the grownups who volunteered to come with us!



In maths we have been mastering adding and subtracting numbers to 20. As well as this, we have started to explore numbers to 50; how to count to 50 forwards and backwards, how to order numbers to 50 and partition them. We were also lucky to participate in World Maths Day where we completed a 'Mathletics' event. We enjoyed exploring maths in a different way. In English we have been exploring the story of Beegu. We have found some suspicious things in our classroom over the last few weeks including footprints and pictures that led us to Beegu herself. We have been learning all about adjectives and been trying our best to include them in our writing. We have now finished reading the story and have developed our own alien creature to include in our own versions of the story.

In R.E. we have continued our learning and preparations for Easter during this season of Lent. Through our theme, 'Desert to Garden' we have shared some really important Bible stories. This has included the story of Palm Sunday, which we acted out with the palm leaves we had made. Hosanna! We also heard a new story called 'The Widow's Mite,' which taught us all about the importance of kindness. We discovered that what is most important to God, is not the quantity or value of a gift, but the generosity of the person doing the giving. We also know that giving time and effort show our love as much as giving money. We had great fun putting our love into action when we joined in with the CAFOD Big Lent Walk – thank you for supporting us!

In Geography we have been learning all about the seasons and weather. We started our unit by recording the weather and wind speed. We used an anemometer to measure the wind speed and the fastest wind speed we recorded was 1.4ms. In Design Technology we have been exploring healthy eating and what a healthy packed lunch consists of. We completed a food tasting of different fruits such as blueberries, raspberries and melon. We talked about how the foods felt, smelt and tasted. We have designed our own healthy packed lunch and are looking forward to creating a healthy sandwich or wrap to eat. In computing we have been completing a unit on online safety and what safe logging in looks like. We know that we should never share our passwords with other people and have created an avatar for our profiles.

In P.E. we have developed key skills with Mr Ward to help us play tag rugby – this has been lots of fun!

Finally, we have done some important learning in Personal Development and have explored how everyone has different strengths, in and out of school. We know that these strengths and interests are needed to do different jobs and what types of jobs and work people may do. We also looked at people whose job it is to help us in the community.

We are now quickly approaching our phonics screening check and want to thank you for your continued support at home. Please remember the importance of reading with your child daily and completing homework.



## Year 2

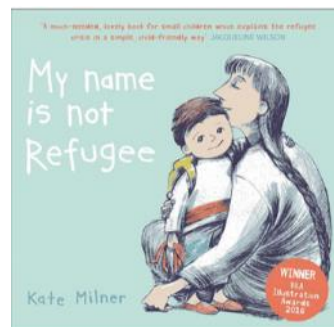
Our current English text is called 'My Name is not Refugee'. The children are really enjoying this book and have learned a lot about what it might feel like to be a refugee. The children have written diary entries, postcards and instructions for games. We will also be doing food tasting to experience some of the foods Kawa (our main character) might have eaten in his home country.

In Maths we have just finished our unit on multiplication and division and we are now focusing on measurement. The children will learn how to measure using different metrics such as centimetres and metres.

Our current R.E topic is 'Opportunities'. During this topic we have been learning all about Lent and Easter. We have spent some time focusing on all the important days of Holy Week and have had lots of opportunity for role play and Art in our learning.

We have finished our Science Unit on Animals Including Humans. The children have enjoyed participating in an experiment about the effects of different foods on our energy levels. Our next Science unit is 'Seasons'.

Well done for your hard work Year 2, keep it up!



## Year 3

In Year Three, we have had a very busy March; 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 self-discipline. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about life during lent. The children have read and discussed the scripture along with describing how Christians should fast, pray and give to one another during Lent.

Our English topic this half term is based on the text, 'Silence Seeker' by Ben Morley as part of the refugee unit. 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 their sentence structure by using adverbs to describe time and place. They have begun to use inverted commas when using direct speech within their writing.

Within Maths, the children have been learning how to calculate the perimeter of shapes as part of the measurement unit of work. They have continued to build upon their knowledge of mathematical facts through Fast Maths and Maths Meetings. Thank you for your support in practising times tables at home.

In Geography, our topic this half term is 'Europe', the children have explored the question 'Is life the same in every European country?' The children have compared and contrasted several European towns along with Widnes. The children have been continuing to build upon their knowledge of countries, continents and oceans along with developing their map reading skills.

In Science, the children have been learning about animals and their habitats. The children thoroughly enjoyed visiting Chester Zoo and researching a variety of amphibians, reptiles, mammals, fish and birds. After the trip the children presented their research to their peers.

Catalyst Trip Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Catalyst Trip Meeting. We will be giving out further information after the Easter break.

## Year 4

In year 4 this half term we have really enjoyed our guided reading text 'Anki and the Island of Wonders'. We enjoyed it so much that we now have Nicola Davies as our author of the half term..

In English, we have been reading 'Wisp' and have re-written the story from the point of view the Wisp.

In Maths we have enjoyed our topic of fractions and the start of our new decimals topic.

In Science, we have been learning about living things and their habitats and really enjoyed our trip to Chester Zoo.



## Year 5

In Year 5 we have had a very busy half term. We have found out lots of information about Malala Yousafzai and how she believed, 'One child, one teacher, one book and one pen.' could change the world. Children have listened to each others viewpoints and debated the different ideas that they had. Jack thinks, 'This is a very bold statement to make and it would take a lot of time for all of that to work.' Whereas Alyssa said, 'Just like Malala, one child with the right guidance can make a change if they stand up for what they believe in.'

In Maths, children have been working hard to find fraction, decimal and percentage equivalences. Children have completed a range of practical activities to encourage talk for Maths and also an opportunity to work collaboratively.

We hope children have a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing them refreshed ready for the Summer term!



## Year 6

### English

We have been learning about refugees in our book 'The Day War Came' by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Rebecca Cobb. It is about a little girl who loses her family through war and has to travel to a refugee camp. We talked about the different viewpoints people would have about the little girl and we created a 'conscience alley' to share feelings. We wrote a diary from the point of view of someone from the town.

### Maths

We have been learning about fractions, decimals and percentages and how to convert them. We have also worked on rounding numbers and adding and subtracting decimals. In our hook at the start of the lesson, we look at a picture and we discuss what the questions could be. This gets us thinking mathematically.

### R.E

In RE we have been learning about how important Easter is to Christians. We read the scripture about the rising of Lazarus and how Jesus brought him back from the dead to show the people that he really was the son of God. We drew an Easter candle, which is also known as a Paschal candle, and found out about what the different symbols mean on the candle.

### Geography

We have been learning about globalisation. We have learned that some of the world's biggest importers and exporters are China, USA and Germany. We used maps to see where we import some products to the UK. We also learned about Fairtrade and we had a P4C debate about whether or not Fairtrade is fair for everyone. At the start of our lesson we have a little quiz to see what we have remembered from the week before.

### Science

We have been learning about the circulatory system and what it consists of. We learned about what a healthy diet is and how it can affect the body and what an unhealthy diet looks like. In our experiment to see how our heart rate changes, we measured our heart rate then we did start jumps for one minute. We wrote down what our heart rate was. We did this again for two minutes and three minutes and we found out that our heart rate went faster the more we exercised.

### Other activities

Last week, we took part in the Big Lent Walk for CAFOD. We walked around the school field and followed 6 different paths. At the end of each path, we collected a fish and put it in a net. As a school, we collected donations to give to CAFOD. We enjoyed the walk because we got to learn different facts about CAFOD and how they help others around the world.

By Gabriel, Jake, Merian, Caitlyn and Arabella