



St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

In God's love we learn and succeed by sharing and caring together.

MARCH 2022

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Monthly Curriculum Newsletter

Reminder—School closes for the Easter holidays at 3.10pm on Wednesday 6 April and the children will return to school on Tuesday 19 April.

Preschool

This term preschool have been learning about Pirates! We have dressed up, created pirate names and even made Pirate Stew! We have been learning about shapes and found shapes in the environment. We have started to explore the globe and learn about some countries and we have enjoyed exploring the signs of spring in the outdoor area. Our tulips have begun to flower and we are very proud of them!



FSRA

This half term, the children have enjoyed reading 'Something Else' in English. From this book the children have discussed being a good friend towards others, and how people feel when they are left out. The children have produced some super writing, writing in full sentences and I am very proud of them!

In RE, the children have learnt about gathering and growing. The children are able to talk about gathering as a parish family to celebrate God's life and also how Jesus gathered his friends and family and blessed them. In the growing topic, the children talked about how they have grown since they were little and we discussed together how as we grow up we grow in God's love. Easter is a time when we think about growing in God's love throughout the time of Lent.

In Understanding the World, the children have learnt about springtime, and even went on a walk around the school grounds collecting evidence that spring has sprung and then they used all the items they collected to create art just like Andy Goldsworthy, who is the artist we have been looking at this half term.

Year 1

In Year One, we have had a very busy and fun filled half term. The children have grown in independence and continue to take on new challenges.

In RE, we have learnt about God's love through the topic Change. The children have explored the meaning of Lent and how to prepare for the celebration of Easter. The children have particularly enjoyed creating palm leaves and learning about Palm Sunday and the story of Good Friday. The children thoroughly enjoyed raising money for Mary's Meals.

Our English topic this half term is based on the text, 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon which the children have learnt about 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 creative stories, based upon the text.

Within Maths, the children have been using a variety of methods to solve subtraction and addition calculations. The children have continued to build upon their knowledge of mathematical facts through Fast Maths and Maths Meeting sessions, using multiplication and number bonds to solve missing number calculations.

In History, our topic this half term is Explorers with a particular focus on the life of Neil Armstrong. The children have compared the lives of different astronauts. The children have created a time line representing the significant events in Neil Armstrong's life.

Within Personal Development and DT lessons the children have designed, made and evaluated a healthy fruit smoothie. The children have identified how to follow a balanced diet and how to keep their mind and body happy and healthy.



Year 2

We've had a super busy but great term in Year 2. We are reading a wonderful book in English called 'My name is not Refugee'. This book is helping us understand what life is like for refugees all over the world and teaching us how we can show compassion to those who have recently become refugees. We have discussed and role played what it would be like to be a refugee and have to leave our home behind.

In maths we have been focusing on crossing tens in addition and exchanging tens in subtraction. We have even been adding and subtracting numbers greater than 100! Next week we will be moving onto money and learning all about the different coins and notes we use in the UK, how to make a certain amount and how to work out 'how much change would I need?'

Our R.E topic is Opportunities. We have been exploring ways in which we have the opportunity to help and show our love for others. This is especially important during Lent as we prepare for Easter. The children have been so dedicated in their work for Mary's Meals and also really enjoyed their fundraising event too!

Finally, our science topic is 'Animals including humans'. We had lots of fun drawing around each other on the playground and labelling body parts. We have learnt about our five senses, the human life cycle, animal life cycles, what animals eat, how to keep our bodies fit and healthy and lots more. We even got to become mini scientists as we conducted an 'EGGperiment' for science week. We investigated the effect that different liquids have on our teeth using eggs, vinegar, sugar, tea and water. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and all agreed they would be looking after their teeth after seeing the soggy eggs!

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

Year 3

We have had an exciting month in Year 3! In English, we have been continuing our refugee unit with our text Silence Seeker. Alongside this, we have looked at Ziba came on a boat and Ali's Story. We have used these texts to write letters to a refugee child and setting descriptions.

In maths we have been practising adding and subtracting two digit numbers crossing boundaries so that in the summer term we can use column method! This week, we have started our new topic of multiplication and division and division with remainders.

For Science Week, we combined science and DT and designed and created our own cars using recyclable materials. We also used different surfaces to investigate the impact of friction on the distance a toy car travelled. In computing, we have been learning about how to email safely and have created E-Safety quizzes and sent emails to our friends and teachers using Purple Mash.

In Personal Development, we have been learning about the importance of mental health and what we can do to look after ourselves. We have also been learning basic first aid and practised putting our friends into the recovery position.

In RE, we have been preparing for lent and have created our own Lenten Promise that we would like to complete. It's been a great month for us in Year 3 and we have worked so hard. We can't wait to see what's in store for us next half term!

Year 4

Year 4 have continued to improve on their guitar skills this half term by perfecting the song Happy Birthday. We have enjoyed exploring our RE topic of Self Discipline and discussing what that means to us individually as well as in groups and activities that we go to. We have spent time reflecting on different aspects and thinking about how we can show self discipline and what that really means to us.

In English we have really enjoyed looking at our new text 'Wisp, a story of hope'. This has linked closely to current events around the world and has given us time to think about different places around the world. This helped us focus today during our Prayer for Peace, where we continued to reflect on the lives of others.

In Maths, we have developed our understanding of addition and subtraction, time and are currently working on multiplication and division. We are understanding the processes and we are working towards being able to write our own success criteria to support us in our learning.

We really enjoyed Science Week this half term and exploring shadows, which linked to our Victorian topic in History. We have really enjoyed our dilemma based learning and have discovered how it felt to be a child in the Victorian era.

Finally, we have been lucky enough to go swimming this half term and we have thoroughly enjoyed developing our ability to swim. We look forward to next half term and are looking forward to learning new things.



Year 5

During Spring we have learned all about space and forces in our topic. We have investigated the different stages of the Moon and also all about our solar system. We created bottle rockets to see the effect that water pressure would have on them. The testing was successful and lots of other year groups enjoyed watching us show-case them. We enjoyed a great afternoon during the Science Fayre where we had the opportunity to look at what all the other year groups had been doing for science. We especially loved the year 6 moving models with electricity and motors.

Another memorable day was when we raised lots of money for Mary's Meals by running and delivering food tokens to different countries on the field. It was great fun and for a great cause.

In English we have been reading Malala's Magic Pencil and we are looking forward to writing an autobiography from Malala's point of view. In maths we have been working very hard on long multiplication for the first time and we are all determined to keep trying our best. Yet another great afternoon was when we went to the Crucial Crew event at the Halton Stadium. We learned all about the emergency services and how to be better citizens within our community.

Year 6

In English, we were learning about refugees and how their lives change because of war. We learned about the '#3000chairs' campaign and how we can help refugees. I like the #3000 chairs tweet and I disliked the fact that refugees have to flee their homes.

In Maths, we were learning about ratio, statistics and algebra. In ratio, I liked how it looked hard but it was really easy. In statistics, we had different types of graphs and interpreted data from them. My favourite but most challenging was pie charts. In algebra, we used letters to replace any numbers that we did not know yet. I found it hard because you had to use what was left in the equation to answer the question.

In History, our topic was Vikings. The Vikings came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark (Scandinavian countries). They invaded Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England. They decided to invade England because it was warmer and richer. I liked the poster we made about Viking longships because it was interesting.

In reading, we have been focusing on the Amazon rainforest. The Amazon rainforest is mostly in Brazil. We were taught about photosynthesis and what it does for our survival. The tree absorbs carbon dioxide and exchanges it for oxygen. We described the trees as 'lungs of the planet'.

In PD, we researched charities that focus on mental health. We talked about what their aim is for children and their mental health. We also discussed where we can go to if we need help with our mental health.

In RE, we focused on the topic death and new life. We looked at how loss can bring change for people. We looked at the true meaning of the Bread of Life and we as Christians believe Jesus is like bread who nourishes our hearts. We also looked at how our lives can be more fruitful like the grain of wheat. At the end of the topic, we did a collaborative collective worship where we discussed what we learned and celebrated with some juice and biscuits.

During the science fair week, we created scaled-down versions of our own fair rides. We made sure to include a motor, wires, cells and cell holders. We then presented them.

(Written by the following children from year 6, Sonya, Emily, Olivia and Jack)

