



# St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

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

OCTOBER 2023

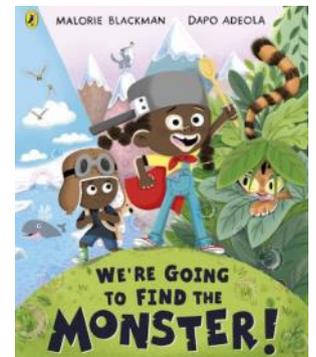
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## Monthly Curriculum Newsletter

### Pre School

This half term, Preschool have been reading 'We're Going to Find the Monster!' The children have enjoyed designing their own monster, creating maps using tea bags, creating a 'bubbly lake' in the water area and finding out that the monster was in fact Charlie and Eddie's brother, Marcus! We have been thinking about what we would need if we wanted to find a monster. The children have contributed some amazing ideas!



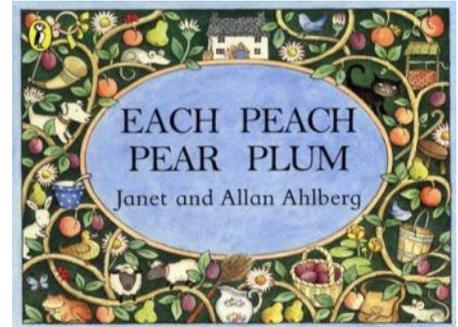
In maths, the children have learnt all about the numbers 1 and 2! Preschool have mostly enjoyed going on nature walks to find numbers in the outdoor area. We have also found numbers on our bodies, for example, we have two arms and one nose. The children have started forming one and two using pencil and paper! We have learnt lots of number songs, one of our favourites is '5 little pumpkins'!

Preschool have had lots of fun at the travel agents! They have been selling plane tickets, bus tickets and even boat tickets! We have been learning about new beginnings. The children have planted their own plants and learnt about what a plant needs to survive. We have all done our own self portrait and discussed how we have all changed. We then compared this to baby animals turning into adult animals. This week, Preschool have enjoyed feeling the autumn leaves and using them to make their own hedgehog. We have designed and decorated pumpkins and named them Bobby and Jenny! We also used a tangerine and cucumber to make a mini pumpkin snack!

## FSAR

Reception have had another fantastic month in school. The children have been engaged in their RE topic all about creation. The children have shared a worship on St Thérèse and have been encouraged to follow her 'Little Way' of helping others. The children have also shared a welcome worship with parents, carers and year 6 prayer partners.

In reading, the children have enjoyed reading 'Each Peach, Pear Plum'. They have loved spotting the rhymes and adding actions. We are now reading 'The Great Balloon Hullabaloo', a story all about doing a shop in space! We've engaged in fine motor balloon activities and created our very own hot air balloons. In phonics we have learnt new sounds and have been working on decoding in our reading books. We also invited parents to join in our learning in a stay and play session.



Our English text has been 'We're Going to Find the Monster'. The children have loved learning about Eddie and Charlie's adventures. We have explored different environments, designed our own bedrooms and retold the story.

In Maths, we have learnt all about numbers 4 and 5. We are working really hard to form these numbers properly! We have practiced counting with number bears and bead strings. We have also enjoyed learning about the Numberblocks and exploring different ways to create a number.



We have been on a nature walk and ticked items off our list. After we have planted our very own plants! We can't wait to watch them grow. We have taken time to notice how the seasons have changed and have enjoyed making our own hedgehog leaf pictures.

In singing we have enjoyed puppet songs, maths songs and learning all of the songs to our phonics sounds. In PE, we have learnt how to throw and catch a bean bag and ball.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support this term!

## Year 1



Year 1 have continued with lots of great learning this month. They have finished reading the story 'Meesha makes friends' by Tom Percival and have written their own diary entry in the role of Meesha. Their entries are going to be published and displayed in school to show how proud we are! The children have also loved hearing other stories by Tom Percival who is our 'Author of the half term'. Santa may be busy finding books written by him to deliver on Christmas Day! We have now begun some poetry work and are looking forward to more super ideas for writing!

In reading we have been learning how to use the cover, title and blurb to make sensible predictions about what is going to happen in a book. We have also looked at the type of text before we begin to read. This could be fiction (story) or non-fiction (information). Each week we have focused on key vocabulary in texts and exploring new words and their meanings. We have particularly enjoyed a poem called 'Alligator Pie' where we have looked at rhyming words and answered questions about what we have read. In handwriting we have explored long ladder letters and one armed robot letters and practised these on their own and in words.

After a really interesting week finding out about the religion of Judaism and welcoming our visitor Nashwa Van Flute, we are now exploring a new topic, 'Belonging' in R.E. As part of this topic, we are looking forward to learning about the sacrament of Baptism in the next few weeks.

In PE we have had fun improving our skills in both tennis and netball. We have talked about safety in using the space available as well as using equipment successfully.



Other learning has included our Personal Development lessons which have continued to concentrate on our relationships with others. We have also spent time developing our understanding of what 'Mental health' is and finding out some ways to take care of it.

In maths we have finished learning all about place value and are now learning to add and subtract numbers. We have started by looking at all the number bonds within 10.

In computing we have been thinking about different shapes and how we can sort them into groups. We have been exploring how to sort and group by colour, number of sides, number of corners and number of faces. We have looked at shapes in class before sorting them on the iPad using Purple Mash.

In science we have completed our investigation to see which material is best for printing with. We will use what we have learnt to help us in our art lessons. In art we have been creating a picture inspired by Kandinsky. We will use the best material to print the final part of our picture.

## Year 2

We have had a lovely first term in Year 2 and the children have been working very hard.

We have just finished our 'Look Up' text in English which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. I hope they have been sharing lots of interesting facts about astronauts and space with you! Our next English unit is a lovely poetry unit called 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. The children will learn how to read poetry with intonation and expression and will write their own poems too.

Our new unit in maths is addition and subtraction. The children will learn how to add and subtract numbers up to 100 and learn skills to help them solve calculations mentally. They will also be exposed to a variety of reasoning and problem solving questions using measurement, money, and statistics.

In R.E we have just started our 'Signs & Symbols' unit. The children will learn the relevance and importance of different signs and symbols, both religious signs and ones we may see in our everyday life. This unit has a focus on baptism and we will look at the different signs and symbols used in the process of baptism. If any children have been baptised/christened and have their candle they are welcome to bring it in after half term.

Our science topic after half term is 'Living Things'. We will learn about life processes, go on an investigation walk around the school grounds and plant some seeds to grow.

Well done on a lovely term Year 2, keep up the good work!

## Year 3

It has been wonderful to see all the children continue to apply themselves in their learning so well! The children have thoroughly enjoyed the 'Laudato Si' days exploring how to appreciate and look after our world.

In RE, we have shared our love of God through learning about being chosen. The children have particularly enjoyed reading and discussing the scripture and reflecting upon when they have been chosen for something significant. The children have shared their thoughts and ideas through drama with their peers.

Our English topic this half term is based on the text, 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. The children have used drama and discussion to talk about characters' thoughts and feelings. The children have produced a final piece of writing, a letter from Floella to her grandma. The children have published their work for our writing display and are extremely proud of their presentation.

Within Maths, the children have been adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers by crossing 10. 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 number bonds.

In Geography, our topic this half term is 'Natural Disasters'. The children have learnt about the features of volcanoes and the impact on their surroundings. In Science the children have carried out experiments exploring the properties of gases, liquids and solids. Within Art, the children have designed and made a printing tile and have created a collaborative final piece. as a school all children are learning about different techniques within printing. P.E lessons have been a highlight so far this term. The children are enjoying developing their skills in table tennis. 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 have earned a book within Read to Succeed. We hope more children will participate in the following term.

## Year 4

This month in Year 4, we have really settled and enjoyed our time. We have carried on with our English text of Counting on Katherine and have written a fact-file about her and her achievements.

In maths we have been practising adding and subtracting crossing boundaries and used the maths resources to help us.

In PD, we have been discussing relationships and the features of positive friendships.

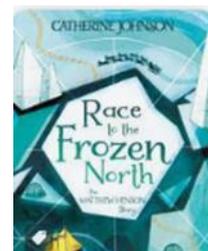
In guided reading, we have finished our class text of animal stories from around the world and have enjoyed listening to the different stories and discussing them.

In 4GS we have really enjoyed our class novel 'Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator' and love it when we get time for a story! In science, we have learnt about the discovery of oxygen and completed an experiment to see what happens when you cover a candle with a glass jar.

In geography, we have been looking at natural disasters and have talked about the features of volcanoes and earthquakes. We have used maps and have located different volcanoes around the world.

## Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy start to our school year. In English we have finished reading Race to the Frozen North. We really enjoyed reading this and could not believe it was a true story. We think that Matthew was wonderful and an inspiration to lots of people.



In Maths, we have moved onto addition and subtraction. We have been learning which strategy we should use to add and subtract and why. We have begun to now apply this to reasoning and problem solving activities too.



We have enjoyed a trip to an art gallery and Wirral County Park. On this trip, we sketched our favourite image from the art gallery and made compasses using natural materials at the park. We loved it!

Last week we learned all about Judaism. We had a special visitor called Nashwa who came to teach about the traditions and faiths. We learnt all about the torah and why it is special. We also learnt about the Passover.

In Geography, we have been learning all about longitude and latitude. We know the links between time zones, climate, longitude and latitude. We can also use coordinates on a map to identify countries around the world.

To celebrate mental health awareness day, we learnt all about big stresses and little stresses and how we can combat stress. We had some excellent ideas including going for a walk, having a bath, or reading a book.



## Year 6

This month we have done lots of different subjects such as Maths, English, Geography, Science and much more.

In our RE topic on vocation and commitment we have been looking at the commitment the John the Baptist showed to God and becomes a Priest through the sacrament of ordination. We used role play to show our understanding of why St Francis of Assisi changed his way of life and committed himself to God.

In maths, we have been learning about place value charts. We have learnt how to draw number lines, multiply by 2 and 1 digit numbers, compare and order numbers, use negative numbers and add integers. We have also learnt how to solve word problems, identify common factors, recognise prime numbers, solve additions, subtractions, multiplications, division and we have learnt about square and cube numbers.

In our English topic we have been reading Anthony Browne's version of King Kong. We have explored different ways how a character can show feelings through their actions and dialogue. We have also written diary entries, wrote an action scene, done a role play about how the main characters of the story met together. We also wrote a plan and wrote a narrative to show what happened to Kong when he was brought to New York City. We also published it.

In Science we learned about animal classification. We looked at animal types such as birds, mammals, fish and amphibians. We also looked at the different kingdoms such as protist, plant, bacteria, animal and fungus. We compared animals to classifications and gave reasons why animals are/aren't in certain classifications.

In PD lessons, we have learnt about relationships and how they can be different. They could be healthy or negative but we learnt about positive relationships. We have learnt about relationships and how they can be different. They could be healthy or negative but we learn about positive relationships. We have also learned that everyone is welcome. We read a book called 'My Princess Boy'. We also learnt what marriage and civil partnership means and what forced marriage is and we looked at the consequences in responding to pressure from friends.

This month we have been on a trip to Thurston beach to expand our learning about coastlines.

Whilst there we learned about different parts of the coastline such as a cove, a bay, a stack, a stump and many more. We also learned about sea defences and what they are made out of.

By Amelia, Harley and Alma