



St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

"We love, learn and succeed following Jesus"

JANUARY 2024

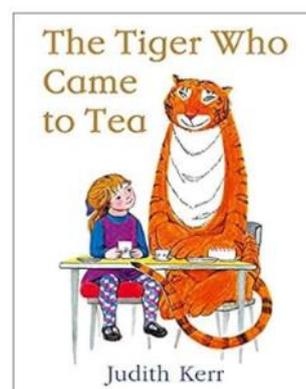
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Monthly Curriculum Newsletter

Pre School and FSAR

Wow, what an amazing January we have had! In reading, the children have loved sharing 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. They are all now experts in retelling the story! We have especially enjoyed pretending to be the tiger in the home corner and eating all of the food our friends have made us! This week, we have been reading 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?'. The children have enjoyed dressing up as the different animals and reading the story to each other.



In RE, our topic is Galilee to Jerusalem. The children have learnt the Glory be prayer and decorated their own prayer sheet. We have read 'Jesus loves the little children'. Reception really enjoyed creating their own piece of art after reading this!

In English, we have been reading 'Let's All Creep Through Crocodile Creek'. We have made crocodile warning signs and obstacle courses for the characters! We have opened a class zoo where the children have been able to visit the different animals too. The children love retelling the story with lots of expression on their faces! It's safe to say, we will not be going down Crocodile Creek any time soon!

In Maths, the children have learnt all about the numbers eight, nine and ten! They can now make eight, nine and ten on a tens frame! The children have enjoyed learning more than and fewer than. The children have used this in the maths corner to share the counting bears with their friends.

We have learnt all about the town that we live in and what we see on our way to school! The children have enjoyed playing in the arctic tuff tray and learning all about winter. This week, we have been learning all about Chinese New Year! Miss Barwell has taught all of the children a special Chinese New Year dance, it's amazing! We have all tasted Chinese noodles, rice, prawn crackers and Chinese sauce; it was so yummy!

Year 1

Happy New Year from Year One, who have definitely come back to school ready to impress! The start of the Spring term has brought lots of exciting new topics and books to inspire us. We are loving the enthusiasm that the children are showing in lessons and can already see some important steps of progress being made.

This month in R.E. we have had the chance to begin a brand-new theme, never taught before! It is called 'Galilee to Jerusalem,' so we began by researching where these places are on a map! Our new Religious Education curriculum is being introduced gradually throughout the school and has lots of exciting new



ideas to inspire the children even more. We have loved looking in our golden box each lesson to find different objects and stories about the life of Jesus and those people who encountered him. We especially liked the story about when Jesus was presented at the Temple after his birth. Thank you for your help with our homework task all about the celebration of this event each year, called 'Candlemas.' We are really looking forward to sharing this learning with you in our upcoming class worship for parents on the 7th of February!

Maths work has been fun as we have been exploring numbers which are made up of tens and ones. We have used different types of equipment to support us with this and are really improving when we compare and describe numbers. We know lots of important vocabulary which you could use at home with us too, for example: more, less, greater, fewer, equal to.

In Science we are starting our new topic all about humans and animals. We are beginning to look at the parts of our body and the 5 senses. In Humanities are going to be investigating life in the past. The children are going to be looking at the toys they play with compared to the toys our grandparents had. We think it will be really interesting to compare them!

In English lessons we have been exploring a lovely new fiction book, 'Grandpa's Gift' by Fiona Lumbers. We have had lots of chances for discussion and role play, this has helped us to imagine how the characters were thinking and feeling. We will be preparing to write our own stories before we finish this half term. We have been concentrating on how to plan before we write, as well as draft and edit to improve our work. In our shared reading lessons, we are in the middle of a new book. This book is about a Koala bear, and it has brilliant pictures and text to go with it – we can't wait to read more!

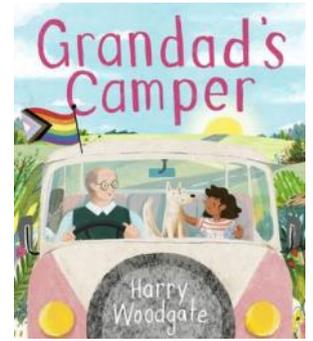


In Handwriting, during the year we have been practising the correct formation for each letter in the alphabet. We know that lots of our letters are grouped in 'families' because they are formed in a similar way. This term we are really working hard to make sure that the size of our letters is right and have been using the extra lines in our books to help us get tall ascending letters, short letters and descending letters exactly the way they should be. We hope you can notice a difference with our handwriting at home too!

Other things keeping us busy this half term have been basketball and dance lessons in P.E. with Mr Ward and exploring what it means to belong to a community in Personal Development. Finally, we have loved learning and performing lots of new songs, also working with Mrs Baynton on some Peace themed songs for our Peace week in school. What a brilliant month January has been well done Year One!

Year 2

We are currently reading a wonderful text in English called Grandad's Camper. The children are really getting to grips with using verbs and adverbs in their writing as they think about all the places they enjoy going to and the things they enjoy doing. During this unit the children will write diary entries, letters and postcards.



In maths we have just finished our unit on 'Shape' and we have now moved on to 'Money'. The children will learn to identify coins and notes, how to add money to make a total and how to subtract money to give change.

As you know from our wonderful collective worship, our current R.E topic is 'Books'. We have spent some time looking at different types of books and discussing the importance of books and scripture in our everyday lives.

Our current Science unit is 'Animals Including Humans'. The children will explore different types of animals, food groups, food chains, the importance of a healthy diet and life cycles.

We've had a lovely start to the Spring term and the children are working hard as always. Well done Year 2, keep up the hard work.

Year 3

In Year Three, we have had a very busy January; 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 the Parish Community. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing the topic through role play and writing. The children have particularly enjoyed reading and discussing the scripture and reflecting upon the communities they are a part of.

Our English topic this half term is based on the text, 'The Fossil Girl Mary Anning's Dinosaur Discovery' by Catherine Brighton. 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.

Within Maths, the children have been applying their multiplication and division skills, identifying multiple ways to solve a problem. They have continued to build upon their knowledge of mathematical facts through Fast Maths and Maths Meeting and Basic Skills sessions with a focus on number bonds.

In History, our topic this half term is 'Ancient Rome', the children have studied a variety of sources and identified how archaeologists have learnt about prehistoric Britain. The children have enjoyed visiting Chester and visiting the amphitheatre and battling with a gladiator!

Year 4

What a first month of 2024 we've had in Year 4! We have had a great start to the year and spent the first two weeks swimming where we all made excellent progress.

We also went on a trip to Chester relating to our History topic about the Romans. On our trip we walked around Chester and had a 'Roman Army training session' where we had to stop our teachers and other adults breaking through the lines. We also got to run at them too which was really fun! We looked around the Grosvenor museum and learnt lots about the Romans.

We also had our Peace Week which was amazing where we got to reflect on things that brought us peace and how we could bring peace to those around us. During this week, we learnt how to sign the song 'Peace Perfect Peace' and we really enjoyed this session. We also had Prayer Spaces in the hall which was very relaxing as we completed the different activities including peace pebbles and a peace river. Finally, we took part in a workshop with Peace Pathways and learnt about the different animals that we were during a conflict, how some of us act similarly and how our reactions can be different based on different circumstances.

In English, we have been reading 'Our Tower' and are excited to see what happens.

We have been learning how to multiply two and three digit numbers by one digit numbers in maths and are moving on to division over the next few days.

In science, we have been learning about the teeth, have discussed why it is important to look after our teeth and have completed an experiment to see the effects of different drinks on our teeth.

Year 5

The return back to school has been very busy but very fun for Year 5.

Last week, we enjoyed two wonderful days learning all about peace within ourselves. There were a lot of activities that we took part in. We did dance, we painted pebbles, we made a St Francis of Assisi prayer book, learned some sign language and had a peace workshop. We learned a lot and took some time to reflect. It was lovely. On one of these days, the Arch Bishop visited school. He came to see our class and when he did we were writing peace poems. He was very impressed.



This half term we have also had visits from charities that we support. We have had Nugent Care visit us and Nightstop. We learned all about how the money we have raised helps people within our local community.

As well as this, we have been having coaching sessions with Widnes Rugby club each Wednesday.

Year 6

Maths

This half term we learnt how to use ratio language, here is an example. For every 3 blue circles there are four yellow squares, this would be written as 3:4. We also learnt units of measures including cm, mg, mm, g, tonne, ml, l, mile, inch, foot, stone, ounce, pound and gallon.

History

In history, we learnt about the Magna Carta and the difference between King John's reign and King Charles's. We understand because of the Magna Carta, King John lost power because the Barons had more say than before.

Swimming Gala

This week, on Wednesday some children from year 6 got to go to a swimming gala at Kingsway (children picked: Freya N, Jude, Sophie, Annabelle, Flynn and Freya W). The girls came 5th overall out of 16 schools. Sophie placed 2nd in back stroke and so did Annabelle. Freya W came 2nd in front crawl. Also the girls came 2nd in relay. All of the boys tried their best and gave it their all. In the relay they had to do two lengths because there were only two boys, so overall they were fantastic. Everyone of these children were great.

R.E

On Monday 15th January 2024 we looked at the scripture reading of the miracle of Jesus feeding the great crowd. We looked at Mark 6:30-44 and used role play in groups to interpret the Good News. As a class we discussed why the food was so simple and the importance of the abundance of food left over what it symbolises. The class filled in a grid with the new and old testament. On our tables we named parts of the Bible and the name of the book.

P.E

Recently in P.E we have learnt a dance to the fantastically great women. We learnt many new moves and Ms Barwell taught us this brilliant dance. When it has been good weather we have played hockey on the black playground with Mr Gallimore.

English

Today we started to write a diary entry as if we were part of Ernest Shackleton's crew or from the perspective of someone in the crowd. On Monday the 22nd of January, we explore the subjunctive form e.g. we demand that suitable language is used on this trip or he recommends that everyone has warm boots.

P.D

In P.D we learnt about prejudice and discrimination. Also we learnt about Equality Act of 2010. our class made a poster all about the protected characteristics e.g. age, disability, religion, sex, marriage, race, gender, sexual orientation and pregnancy.

Written by Alexis, Tenuli and Freya W.