



# St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

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

FEBRUARY 2024

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## Monthly Curriculum Newsletter

### Pre School and FSAR

EYFS have had so much fun this February! At the start of the month, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday in school. The children designed their own pancakes and even got to taste them too! We also learnt all about Chinese New Year. The children made their own paper chain dragons, dressed up in the roleplay corner and tasted some Chinese food! It was very yummy! We have learnt all about China and their traditions. Last week, the children have learnt all about 'People who Help Us' and have been able to dress up in our hospital roleplay area - we definitely have some great nurses and doctors in the making! This week, we have learnt all about Spring and what we will be expecting to see in the next few months.

In RE, Reception have learnt all about Jesus feeding the five thousand. The children have acted out the story to help them remember and had a go at baking their own bread! The children have particularly enjoyed learning all about Ash Wednesday too. We are currently learning all about Lent and CAFOD. The children have decided to care more, share more, and help more this Lent.

In English, EYFS have been reading 'Something Else'. We have discussed how we are all unique like Something Else in the story. We have also talked about how we would feel at different parts of the story using freeze frames. This week, we have come up with ways to make Something Else feel happy! Something Else would be lucky to have friends like the children in Preschool and Reception!

In Maths, the children have been exploring height, length, and weight! We have arranged ourselves into height order and discussed that we are all different heights. We have compared pairs using 'shorter and taller'. The children have mostly enjoyed using different equipment like rulers, tape measures, and scales. We all now know that the heavier object goes down and the lighter object goes up!

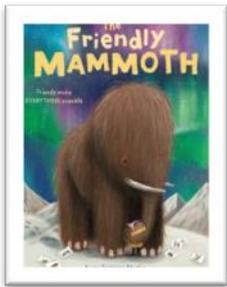
Our shared read has been 'Handa's Surprise'. The children find it hilarious when Handa gets to Akeyo's village with just tangerines! It was a big surprise indeed! We have enjoyed using the Handa's Surprise puppets in the reading corner to re-tell the story and add their own parts!

We cannot wait for what's to come in March!

## Year 1

Another month has flown by and February has been full of great learning and experiences. We did lots of important discussion work and learning about two really important themes in particular before the half term break – Mental Health week and Internet Safety Day. As we have discovered, what we have learnt is important for us to remember ALL of the time, not just on special event days.

In R.E. we have now completed our theme, 'Galilee to Jerusalem,' and really loved celebrating our learning with you at our Class Worship, thank you for joining us! We have now begun a new theme, 'Desert to Garden' and are looking forward to finding out about the season of Lent and how Christians around the world prepare for the celebration of Easter. We will also be getting involved in a fundraising project for CAFOD, the BIG Lent walk! Details will come soon...



Our reading lessons have been really exciting as we have begun a new text to explore over the coming weeks, 'The Friendly Mammoth' by Anna Terreros-Martin. We are pleased to find another children's author that we enjoy and can add to our growing list! It has been lovely to receive ideas of different authors from some of the children who have been bringing in notes with names of authors and books they have read, to recommend to others – keep them coming!

Other authors we have discovered are Oliver Jeffers who is our author of the month and Alexis Deacon, the author of our new English text. Perhaps you could visit the library to see if you can find any of their books, or others that you like!

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.

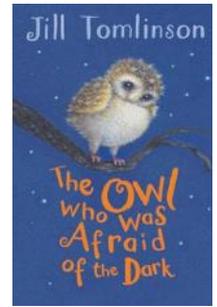
In Science we are continuing our topic all about humans and animals. We have looked at the parts of our body and the 5 senses and are now exploring the different types of animals. We are looking forward to seeing some of these animals when we go to Chester Zoo. In Humanities are going to be looking at hot and cold places. We will also be comparing the weather in London and Widnes.

Other things keeping us busy this half term have been Computing where we have been inputting codes to help complete maze style games. In art we have made our final pieces and we hope you enjoyed seeing our completed clay houses that we brought home.



We look forward to sharing more news with you in March about what else we have been doing!

## Year 2



We have just begun a lovely new poetry unit in English called 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. The children are exploring how to use verbs and adverbs in their writing to make it more interesting and they will write their own poem at the end of the unit.

In maths we are currently focusing on multiplication and division. The children are learning how to share and group objects and numbers equally and have had lots of opportunity for practical maths.

Our current R.E topic is 'Thanksgiving'. We have looked at how Holy Communion and Mass is performed and we will be visiting our local church on Friday to attend our first Year 2 Mass.

We are coming to the end of our 'Animals Including Humans' unit which will finish with an exciting experiment that the children will partake in. We will then start our next Science topic of 'Seasons'.

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

## Year 3

In Year 3 during February we followed our visit to Chester by learning more about the Romans and their invasion of Britain. We have also learnt all about our teeth, the digestive system and food chains in Science. We began to take our learning about Rome to focus on the continent of Europe as a whole and its 44 countries.

In English, we continued to work on the text 'Fossil Girl', learning all about the life of Mary Anning and writing our first person account of her life. We have just begun to read and focus on 'The Silence Seeker' to eventually write our own version of the story.

In Maths we have taken our knowledge of times tables and multiplication to focus on our methods to multiply and divide two digit by one digit numbers.

We have also enjoyed lots of sports in PE, working on tennis and handball as well as beginning our very first class swimming lessons!

We have lots to look forward to in March, particularly our visit to Chester Zoo!

## Year 4

This month in Year 4 we have started our new book 'Wisp' and are really excited to read more about it. We have been looking at what life is like for refugees and what life is like in a refugee camp.

In maths we have been looking at perimeter of different shapes and looking at different units of measure.

In science, we have finished our topic of animals including humans and have enjoyed our experiments and learning about the digestive system. In history, we have been learning about the Romans and what life was like in Roman times.

We have just started our geography topic and have been using atlases to locate different countries in Europe.

We have enjoyed learning how to play happy birthday on the guitar and have been enjoying reading our class novel 'Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator.'

## Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy start to the half term. In art, we have made wire sculptures based on the artist Antony Gormley.

Last week, we started our swimming lessons. We have really enjoyed them. We have learned how to do the different strokes and completed in races against each other.

In English, we have been writing our own myth based on Kai and the Money King. We have been really creative with our villains. We have had villains called Lava Giant, Lava Bird, Ice Giant and Pencil Man.

In maths, we have been learning how to times mixed numbers by integers. Once we had done this, we applied the method to problem solving and reasoning questions. In Geography, we have started to learn about the different climates and biomes.



## Year 6

### Number Day

On number day we had the option to wear an item of clothing or make one ourselves with a number on. Some of our activities were crack the code and so much more.

### Book Lunch

Today, we did a new activity called book lunch, where we explain our book to our friends after we have ate our dinner. Some of the questions we asked were, how is your book going so far? Do you have a favourite character? Other than this book, do you like anymore that similar?

### Geography

In our geography lessons, we have been learning about how different items come from different countries to the UK. We looked at some pieces of clothing and noticed that most of them came from China, but also noticed that the people who make the clothing in China get paid less money than the average clothing maker in the UK. Some of our key vocabulary words are manufactural, interpret, evaluate, imported and export.

### English

In our English lessons, we have been reading a book called Shackleton's Journey where we did a wide range of activities such as a timeline, a drama and a journal entry. Group 1 and 2 did a journal from the viewpoint of Ernest Shackleton and group 3 could do it from either a different crewmember or Shackleton.

### Science

In our science lessons we have been learning about the circulatory system and how it works. We learnt about different parts of the heart (for example a ventricle) lungs and veins. We also learnt how the blood goes in and out of the heart.

### RE

In RE we took part in a large range of activities such as making book marks showing what love is and also reading some scriptures.

### Maths

In our subject we done algebra and we learnt that we can replace numbers for letters. Also we learnt how to substitute numbers for letters. We also done some algebra rules in our work.

### Reading

In guided reading we have started an amazing but mysterious book called 'The Goldfish Boy' and I'm loving it so far. Its about a boy called Matthew who watches what the neighbours are doing out the window in a cul-de-sac.

Written by Freddie F and Noah