



# St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

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

APRIL 2023

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## Monthly Curriculum Newsletter



### Pre School

This half term the children have been going 'Mad about Mega beasts' in English. With the story, we have been looking at lots of different mega beasts and drawing our favourite from the story.

In Maths, we have been focusing on more and fewer. We have been sorting animals and objects in to groups and we have begun to look at the properties of 3D shapes.

For Expressive arts and design, we have been looking closely at German artist, Friendreich Hundertwasser. We have been interpreting his art and we have even had a go at making our own art in the style of the artist.

For Understanding the world, we have been learning all about life cycles. We have learned about frog, bees, butterfly and chick lifecycles so far. Learning about the chicks was by far the cutest life cycle so far. This week we have been learning all about St George and the legend of the dragon. Preschool have designed and made mighty sheilds, We have designed our own dragons and given them a special power and we have finished the week off with a party (We love a good party in Pre School) and of course, no party of George's would be complete without special St George's day biscuits.

### FSRA

In English we have started a new book called 'Silly Doggy' and the children are really enjoying it! The work that the children have produced in their English books is amazing and I am very proud of them! The children guessed what animal had been routing through our bins outside and wrote all about it. Then the children described what food the bear would like and wrote a list.

In Maths, we have been learning about number bonds to 10. The children used part whole models to work out number bonds to 10. They were able to write their number bonds to 10 in systematically order. From this the children could then partition numbers 6-9. The children have also been learning about 3D shapes, learning their names, building with them and also looking for them in the environment. The children's homework this week is about 3D shapes!

In Understanding the World, the children having been learning about animals. We have a vet role play in our classroom where the children have been acting as vets and looking after the animals. The children have started talking about different animals, where they live and where in the world you would find them.

In Expressive Arts and Design, we have been looking at Henry Moore, an artist who sketches animals, next week the children will have a go at sketching some too!

## Year 1

After our Easter break, Year 1 have continued our learning journey together, including some exciting new topics.

In English, after finishing writing and publishing our 'Missing Mammoth' stories, we have been thrilled to start a new text, 'Toys in Space.' This book is written by Mini Grey, who is our author of the half term. We couldn't believe it last week when a bag of toys appeared in our classroom with some tags to tell us where they had come from. We were able to write some helpful descriptions using adjectives to match the tags to the correct toys. We are discovering more of the story each week and will be getting to know some of the characters very well! Our shared reading lessons have also got a space theme going on with another exciting book, 'Meet the Planets'.

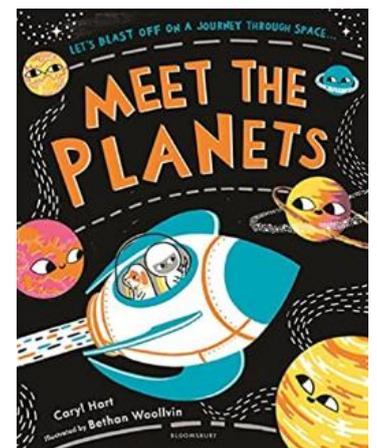
In Handwriting, during the year we have been practising the correct formation for each letter in the alphabet. We know that lots of our letters are grouped in 'families' because they are formed in a similar way. This term we are really working hard to make sure that the size of our letters is right and have been using the extra lines in our special 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!

In Maths we have just completed our place value unit all about numbers to 50 and have been using tens and ones in lots of different ways. We have learnt how to carefully partition a two-digit number and represent it correctly using different types of equipment. To show our understanding, we have then worked on problem solving challenges to prove what we know.

Our RE topic this month is focusing on 'Holidays and Holydays'. After sharing our own happy experiences of holidays or days out, we have now begun finding out about some very special days which Christians have each year – 'holy days'. We know that they each remember something special and important that has taken place in the past, for example: Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and the Ascension. Now we will have lots of fun exploring the events of Pentecost, using role play, music and art to help us to do this. We will celebrate Pentecost as the Birthday of the Church following the death of Jesus. This is also a great way for us to remind ourselves how to be just like Jesus in the way that we treat others and love one another – we are spreading his good news!

Finally, we have been loving our PE lessons doing rounders and now onto Athletics and Handball for the first summer half term. Hopefully we will be able to go outside more with the warmer weather!

In Geography we even managed to do some work outside to fit in with our local area theme. We took part in some orienteering and looked for letters in the school grounds. We have also found out what is in the area around school, for example the church, shops, bus stops and other buildings. We found out about the difference between towns, villages and cities too! We hope our next few weeks of learning will be just as exciting in the month ahead!



## Year 2

What a fantastic term we have had! This month we have started our new RE topic, Spread the Word. We have learnt all about special messages and how to pass these on. We have created our own art work to represent The Ascension Day. We have also learnt about the Holy Spirit.

In English, we have started our new text 'The Last Wolf' where we have met the character Little Red. We are learning how to use apostrophes for possession and how to use conjunctions. This month we have also written instructions on how to catch a wolf and commands for Little Red.

All of year 2 have been working hard to earn stamps on their 'Read to Succeed' challenge, so thank you for your support at home! In shared reading, we have been reading 'Owen and the Soldier' and we have been focused on how to infer character's feelings. We have been learning about fractions in Maths. We have found fractions of shapes and numbers. Year 2 have also been learning their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables.

This month we have been on a school trip to Walton Gardens. We had a fantastic day despite the rain! We visited the zoo where we met chickens, goats, donkeys, alpacas and even peacocks. We had a special visit from Mrs Sheppard and Wilf too! We visited Walton Hall and the greenhouse. After that we went on a mini-beast hunt around the grounds.



## Year 3

In Year Three, we have had a very busy April in school. 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 Ascension and the Pentecost. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing the topic through the Collective Worship. The children have particularly enjoyed reading and discussing the scripture and reflecting upon their own experiences with wind and fire they have been on.

Our English topic this half term is based on the text, 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. 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 the punctuation skills using inverted commas within their writing.

Within Maths, the children have been applying their addition and subtraction skills to calculate the mass using g and kg. 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 and Basic Skills sessions with a focus on using number lines.

In History, our topic this half term is 'The Ancient Egyptians'. The children have compared how the Egyptian people lived in comparison to the modern day. The children have studied a variety of sources and identified how archaeologists have learnt about the ancient civilisation. The children have enjoyed learning about Egyptian God's and Goddesses through our cross curricular reading.

## Year 4

Wow! What a month we have had in Year 4!

In English we have started our new book, *Alba The Hundred Year Old Fish*. We have been exploring the front and back covers of our text and making predictions about the book. We have also been building our vocabulary and looking at apostrophes for possession.

In Maths we are delving deeper into our topic on decimals. Looking at how fractions and decimals link, recognising tenths and hundredths and how to divide by 10 and 100.

We have also started our new Science topic. Electricity and Sound is our topic for this half term. We have been looking at how electricity can be generated and discussing the different sources of electricity.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed our residential that we went on this month. We took part in tree climbing, zip line and low ropes activities and really worked together as a team and encouraged each other in the process. We also had a great time singing songs around the camp fire! We really developed our confidence and independence during this trip!

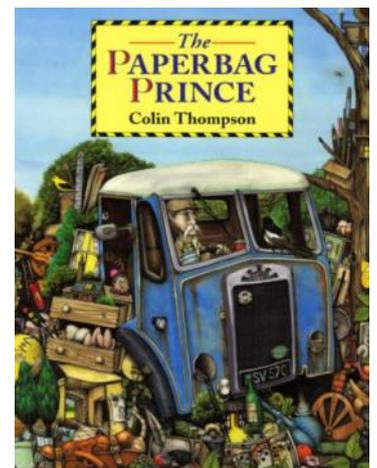
## Year 5

In Year 5, we have been investigating the properties of different materials and finding out which materials are hard, flexible, permeable and magnetic. We will also carry out further investigations in Science to explore dissolving!

In Maths, we have been finding the perimeter of rectilinear shapes and solving problems with missing lengths. Our new text in English, is the *Paper bag Prince* by Colin Thompson. We have been writing sentences about the text, using subordinating conjunctions and modal verbs.

In PE, we are currently practicing hockey and gymnastics. We have learnt specific key shapes in gymnastics and are trying hard to use the correct technique when holding a hockey stick to dribble and shoot.

We have also been rehearsing our songs for our year group Collective worship about Pentecost. Which we can't wait to share with you on Friday 5th May!



## Year 6

In Maths we have been learning about percentages of amounts. We have found many different methods. We have found this topic very interesting and have enjoyed finding methods that work for us.

In English we have been writing a journalistic report about Charles Darwin and his famous voyage to the Galapagos Islands. We had to use subordination, relative clauses and passive voice to be successful in our writing. We enjoyed learning about how the Galapagos was formed and the endemic species of there.

Our new Science topic for this term is light. We have learnt about how light travels and how it can be reflected by some surfaces. We are looking forward to finding more out about this topic.

In P.E we have been focusing on Athletics and Netball. The skills we have been using are pivoting and throwing drills. We are looking forward to using these skills in games later on this term.

We have been busy getting ready for our SATs. All of us are working hard in our revision sessions and we are making good progress.

Written by Amy and Lydia.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is a fantastic parent toolkit on the BBC Bitesize website with lots of useful articles about various different topics for parent/carers, you can access this via the following link

[Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](#)

We will start sharing links on a regular basis, to articles you may find useful . This week we are sharing the following link

[How to reduce stress in the run-up to GCSE and National exams - BBC Bitesize](#)

This is all about how to reduce stress in the run-up to exams.

There are also some really great articles/activities for children which are age appropriate based on your selection. Please visit the following link to access this

[Home - BBC Bitesize](#)

The logo for BBC Bitesize, featuring the letters 'BBC' in white on an orange square background, followed by the word 'Bitesize' in white text on a black rectangular background.