

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning



FS2 INFORMATION

- YEAR: FS2
- TERM: 2
- CONTACT: yearfs@st-johnfisher.org

FS2 TEACHING & LEARNING TEAM

- Mrs V Barratt
- Mrs E Walton
- Miss D'Roza

Dear Parents and Carers,

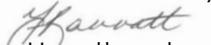
This is our second curriculum overview of the year and its purpose is share what the children will be learning in the busy weeks leading up to the Christmas holiday. As usual we will also share the key words your children will be learning along with suggestions for the different ways you can support their learning at home.

Our approach is always to be encouraging and reassuring. We want to affirm our children and enable each of them to feel as confident as possible. We do this because confidence builds resilience, and resilience is a trait of happy and successful learners. We aim to help the children to see learning as fun, even when it is sometimes challenging. The children will be encouraged to be fearless learners; reassured that making mistakes as they develop knowledge and skills is a perfectly normal part of the learning process. We remind them, constantly, that we are all here to support them, so they can be open about their struggles and worries. With this in mind, if children do struggle with any homework tasks, simply offer them reassurance and encouragement, and when they have done all they can manage *on their own*, tell them that it is ok to stop.

We never want to cause our children unnecessary stress nor do we want anyone else to do their homework for them, because this is pointless and may mask an issue – and delay children getting the help they need. If your child does struggle with a task, for whatever reason, just let us know (via a note/email). It would help to know what they could and could not manage so that we can follow it up. Colleagues will always be understanding and supportive. They will also work hard to ensure that your children feel reassured and happy.

We know that ways of teaching and learning change over time, so we are **always** happy to explain them to anyone who would like more information. We can do this on a one-to-one basis or in workshops. We just want to help parents/carers feel confident to help their children at home.

Yours sincerely,


Headteacher

TERM 2 LEARNING VALUE: HONESTY

Our Term 2 Learning Value is 'Honesty'. To be *honest* is to speak and act truthfully and not, knowingly, say anything that is untrue. It is about being open and transparent. It is about being authentic and acting with integrity. People who are honest do not do things that are wrong, morally, but rather, they try hard to take responsibility for themselves, their words and their actions. They do not break rules or laws, nor do they hide their true intentions and actions from others.



Honesty is as much about being truthful with others as it is about being truthful with ourselves. This includes understanding what drives us and what holds us back; it is knowing why we act in certain ways, in certain situations; and it is about being true to ourselves, our values and beliefs.

RE

Information about our Term 2 RE curriculum is in the 'Come and See' letter accompanying this overview (click [here](#)). Details of liturgies, Masses and services are shared in our online calendar and in our weekly newsletters (click [here](#)). Recordings can be viewed via this [link](#). In Term 2 we will focus on the virtues of '**hope**' and '**patience**'. Information about daily class Advent liturgies in December will be shared in due course.



ST CLARE

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

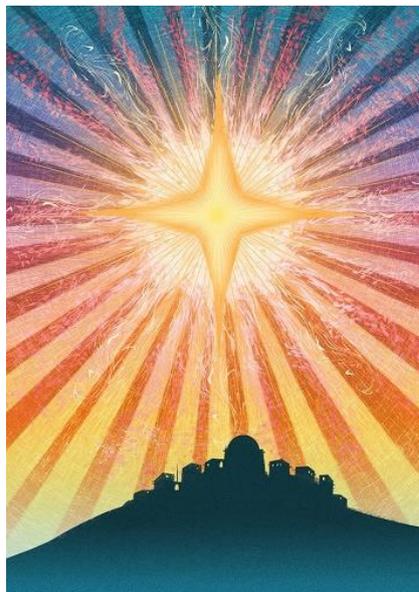


CHARACTERISTICS OF LEARNING IN THE EARLY YEARS

Effective learning must be meaningful to a child, so that they are able to use what they have learned and apply it in new situations. These abilities and attitudes of strong learners will support them to learn well and make good progress in all the areas of learning and development. ('Birth to 5 Matters' – April 2021)

Throughout the year we will be looking at how children develop certain characteristics of learning, for example, how easily and well they engage with their learning and we will consider:

- ✓ *the extent to which the children are able to develop their own ideas and are willing to have a go*
- ✓ *how successfully pupils are able to make appropriate links within their learning and development of skills*
- ✓ *how the children choose to do things on their own and with others*
- ✓ *the extent to which pupils are able to plan, review or change an approach to a task when they need to*



The children will be exploring the theme of light and dark and learning how to find out new information and facts. We will be learning about seasonal changes and the changes in the natural world around us. We will be learning about how people celebrate special occasions with their families and learn in more detail about some cultural and religious celebrations that take place at this time of year, in particular Advent and Christmas. The children will also practise for their first nativity play which will take place on **Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 9.30am**. Refreshments will be served from 8.55am. Ticket details will be shared in due course.

Be Safe Be Happy Week 2023

Week 1 of the new term is 'Be Safe Be Happy Week'. In FS2 we will be finding out about some of the people who help us to keep safe and healthy. We will explore how we can stay safe when we are out with our families and friends (road safety, stranger danger etc.).



lest we forget



We will also investigate some of the different ways we can look after our amazing bodies, which will include tasting super foods, joining in with class yoga, caring for our teeth and having sensible bedtime routines.

Remembrance 2023

The children will have special, age appropriate, lessons that explore the significance of Remembrance Sunday. We will base our learning around a special cbeebies film that you can also view via this [LINK](#).



On **Friday 10th November**, FS2 will join the school community to participate in our Community Service of Remembrance at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Our FS2 children will be sitting with their Buddies in Church. We invite family and friends, as well as members of our wider community, to join us as the children lead us in a simple and prayerful act of remembrance. The service will be filmed so that it can be viewed by family and friends afterwards.

PRIME AREAS: PERSONAL SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PSED)

The children are now confident to use the classroom resources and are showing increasing independence around the school. Our Buddies in **Y4** have added a positive element to the development of the children's relationships and we will plan more events to spend time together this term.

Through everyday activities and by sharing stories and songs we will continue to learn how to play cooperatively with our friends and consider other people's points of view. We will explore why we follow rules; how they keep us safe; and how we can help others. We have a quiet area in class where children can choose to go for rest or time to be in a calm space. Using the **Zones of Regulation** helps us to express how we are feeling and how we may be able to manage difficult feelings by ourselves or with the support of our friends and grown-ups.



Ten:Ten

This term our Ten:Ten focus from our PSED programme covers 'Me, My Body, My Health' and emotional wellbeing.

Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ listen
- ✓ share
- ✓ kind
- ✓ respect
- ✓ independence
- ✓ feelings
- ✓ happy
- ✓ sad
- ✓ lonely
- ✓ frustrated
- ✓ excited
- ✓ joyful
- ✓ angry
- ✓ worried

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- ✓ asking your child all about their day, for example:
 - What made you smile or laugh today?
 - Tell me one thing that you did/ heard/ discovered today
 - Who do you talk to if you feel sad or worried?

PRIME AREAS: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT (PD)

Our weekly PE lessons are on a Monday afternoon, we follow the whole school PE scheme, 'Real PE'. All the skills are introduced and developed through focused thematic stories, songs and games. We will complete Unit 1: developing and applying footwork and one leg balance. In Unit 2 the children will develop and apply their jumping and landing and seated balance.

We will have 'Funky Fingers' activities available every day to support our fine motor skills, for example, using peg boards, geo boards, threading activities and playdough. We also enjoy whole-class 'Dough Disco' or 'Wiggle While You Squiggle' to help us strengthen our fine-motor movements and improve coordination.

The children continue to have daily use of the large FS2 outdoor area during independent learning time, this will help gross motor development, such as running, jumping, climbing, balancing, lifting, throwing, digging, transporting, etc. It will also teach us to work safely with equipment and with each other.

We will be learning how we can keep our bodies healthy and find out about the importance of exercising and being active in our daily lives; including eating a healthy diet to promote good health and strong bones, and the importance drinking enough water to keep hydrated. We also discuss the importance of having quiet time and enough sleep at night; keeping ourselves clean and looking after our teeth.

We will consider ways to keep safe and warm during the colder weather; talking about different clothes and accessories how the weather affects our bodies.



You can support your child's learning at home by:

- ✓ encouraging your child to be as independent as possible when getting dressed and undressed
- ✓ helping your child to learn to how to put on and fasten their own coats and shoes for school
- ✓ helping them to be independent e.g. by using Velcro-fastening shoes and PE trainers rather than loose laces
- ✓ encouraging them choose healthy snacks and to drink water instead of juices and fizzy pop
- ✓ maintaining consistent tooth-brushing (two minutes +) and bedtime routines

PRIME AREAS: COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE (C&L)

We have good routines for speaking and listening within the classroom and we model correct grammar and how to use new vocabulary. We are learning how to work with 'talking partners' to encourage all children to be involved actively in discussions and develop both their speaking and listening skills. The children are encouraged to share any home news with the class from their Tapestry page. Our weekly 'Mouse Club' activities link to the stories, songs and rhymes that are shared in class and we would love all our families to use the resources at home and share their activities on Tapestry. The children will also be shown simple Makaton signs to support communication each day in the classroom.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- ✓ asking 'open-ended' questions (questions where there are many possible answers) for example: 'I wonder what would happen if.....?' or 'How do you think?'
- ✓ trying some of the **Mouse Club** suggestions on our class page and posting what you did on your child's Tapestry account so that they can talk to the class about their activities
- ✓ playing traditional games that encourage speaking, listening and turn-taking like 'Guess Who?'

SPECIFIC AREAS: LITERACY

The children's literacy skills are developed using our daily Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics programme, which includes learning new letter sounds, blending/segmenting words to help with reading, writing and letter formation. They will continue to take home a weekly library book to enjoy every **Thursday**.

There will be links added on the Tapestry Memo page so that the children can practice their sounds at home and their 'Fred Talk' with the clips from the RWI phonics portal. This term children will also be bringing home other RWI resource sheets with explanations on how to support your child at home.

In class we will have a focus book each week and we will also look at non-fiction texts when we learn about Diwali, Hanukkah and how Christmas is celebrated now and long ago. We will also use non-fiction books and online information during our topic work covering light and dark.

The children will be encouraged to write in a variety of ways: writing their name on their own work, using their phonic knowledge to write labels and captions etc. The children will also be encouraged to write for different purposes within their play, e.g. writing their own letters, invitations, lists and cards. Amongst the texts shared in our adult-led sessions this term, we will read:

- Stick Man
- Kipper's Birthday
- Little Glow
- Dear Santa
- Whatever Next!
- The Owl Babies
- My First Diwali
- The Christmas Story

Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ sounds
- ✓ phonics
- ✓ books
- ✓ story
- ✓ title
- ✓ author
- ✓ cover
- ✓ blurb
- ✓ illustrator

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- ✓ reading to your child regularly
- ✓ using the weekly **Mouse Club** links and having a go at the suggested activities
- ✓ using the links on our **Tapestry Memo** page to practise the RWI letter sounds with your child
- ✓ playing the 'Fred' games on our **Tapestry Memo** page – the 'sounding out' games
- ✓ visiting a library or bookshop together to find fiction/non-fiction books that interest your child e.g. pirates,

SPECIFIC AREAS: MATHEMATICS

Number: This term we will continue to work on our numbers within 10 - including subitising and estimating. Using a range of objects and practical activities we will practise counting and ordering and exploring numbers and amounts. We will use the terms 'more' and 'less' as we do this. We will learn number rhymes that say the number names in order to 10 and also counting back from 10. Construction, block play and model making all our enhance our work on positioning, placing, sorting, ordering and counting.

Shape, Space and Measure: We will be sequencing our day, learning to follow our daily timetable independently, and learn the days of the week song each morning. We will develop our understanding of 2d and 3d shapes and practise identifying and making repeating patterns.

Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ now ✓ next ✓ morning ✓ afternoon ✓ today ✓ numbers ✓ subitising
- ✓ numeral ✓ counting ✓ repeat ✓ pattern ✓ tomorrow ✓ more ✓ less

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- ✓ counting everyday items or activities, both at home and out and about, for example
 - counting stairs at home every time they go up or down
 - looking for numbers around them e.g. house number, bus numbers and care registration marks
 - sorting and pairing up socks and shoes
 - sorting the fruit and vegetables – by type, colour, size, etc
 - collecting autumn leaves/ pumpkins – talk about 'same and different', size, weight, etc.
- ✓ talking about what day it is and their routine(s) on different days e.g. school days and weekends
- ✓ involve your child in baking – measuring, weighing, counting, sharing

SPECIFIC AREAS: UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD (UTW)

Sparkle and Shine is an overarching topic linking to seasonal change and seasonal celebrations. During this term we will use our outdoor environment to explore the changes from autumn to winter – discussing the changes in the temperature and weather, the darker days and noticing the changes in nature and how our lives are affected in different ways, including questions like:

- ✓ Why is it darker at this time of year?
- ✓ What can we use to help us see (and be seen) in the dark?
- ✓ How can we all be safe in the dark and how can reflective clothing and shiny materials help us?
- ✓ What changes have we observed during the change from autumn to winter, including changes in some trees, the weather, the lives of nocturnal and hibernating animals?
- ✓ Why it is easier to see the moon in the wintertime and how can we find out some facts about the moon and space travel?
- ✓ How does this time of year link to different festivals and celebrations such as Diwali, Bonfire Night, Hanukkah, the season of Advent leading up to the feast of Christmas?

Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ light ✓ dark ✓ nocturnal ✓ hibernate ✓ evergreen ✓ deciduous ✓ festival
- ✓ celebrate ✓ celebration ✓ tradition ✓ traditional ✓ reflect ✓ reflective ✓ reflecting
- ✓ illuminate ✓ shiny ✓ dull ✓ moon ✓ earth ✓ space

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- ✓ comparing how it feels to be light and darker spaces
- ✓ researching how different animals live during the winter, and where they live - and which hibernate
- ✓ involve your child in baking – measuring, weighing, counting, sharing

SPECIFIC AREAS: EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN (EAD)

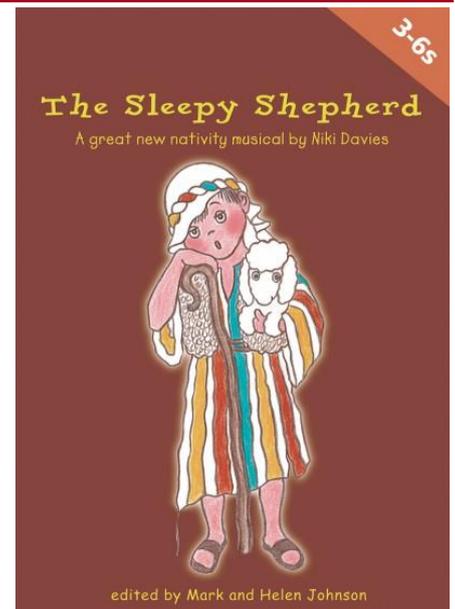
We encourage individual creativity during independent learning time as well as teaching the children skills in mark making, painting and using equipment such as scissors, glue, Sellotape and the play dough tools.

We will create a range of Christmas items using different media, including information technology.

Every Tuesday Miss D'Roza will teach the class music, following the whole school music scheme and we will also have a weekly song on Mouse Club. The children will also explore dance and music linked to fireworks.

As Christmas approaches, the children will be rehearsing and performing their very first school nativity play, **'The Sleepy Shepherd'** on **Tuesday 19th December at 9:30am!**

On the day the children will be welcomed in the usual way and refreshments will be served to parents/carers in the school hall whilst they wait for the performance to begin. Please save the date!



Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ colour
- ✓ mix
- ✓ shine
- ✓ sparkle
- ✓ paint
- ✓ print
- ✓ perform

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- ✓ looking at our class page for Mouse Club suggestions each week – sharing the songs and trying the activities
- ✓ look at your child's Tapestry page – talk to them about our activities in school – what can they tell you about their learning? Can you try some activities at home?

