



# Curriculum Overview

*Sharing our learning*

## Academic Year 2014-2015

- **Year:** Foundation Stage 2
- **Term:** 4

## Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mrs H Darken
- Mrs A Prentice
- Miss J Pendlebury

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our fourth overview of the year and the aim is to let you know about all the things that the children will be learning in school this term along with tips to support them at home and information about homework.

If you have any questions or if you require any support with anything please do not hesitate to contact us. We would also really like to hear from you if you can support us in any way.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

## Homework

In Foundation Stage 2 (FS2) much of the home work takes the form of conversation and experiences that are sharing within the home. There is no expectation to record and return work that has been done at home. However if children feel they would like to share their work from home they are very welcome to bring it in to school for a stamp or sticker.

There is an expectation that reading will be done with children at least 5 times per week as stated in the 'reading adventure' book.

This may take the form of children reading or attempting to use their phonic skills to read a school scheme book, accessing bug club to read a phonic book on a computer (You will be given information on how to access this at parents evening) or may be sharing a book at bed time with your child and talking about the story or the characters.

In addition to books there will not be words or sound cards sent home with children to support their phonics.

In FS2 homework is meant to be fun and therefore if children are resistant to doing the homework please talk to us about it and do not feel that they **have** to complete it.

## R.E. Topic 1: 'Eucharist – Relating and Gathering'

The parish family finds strength in gathering for the celebration of the Eucharist, a sign of God's love in our lives. The children will explore how and why people gather together – in class, with the whole school and as part of the church community. We will discuss what things are better to do together and why. We will give thanks for God's love.

You can support your child's learning at home by thinking and talking about the times your family and friends get together. What is special about these times? How do you feel when you gather together with your friends or family?

## R.E. Topic 2: 'Lent/Easter – Giving'

Lent is the time to prepare for Easter, celebrating the death of Jesus and his resurrection at Easter. It is a time to think about growing – spiritually as well as in nature. Building on the previous weeks learning, we will be thinking about what we need to grow. We will be looking at how plants and animals grow and how we celebrate new life. We will look forward to Easter.

You can support your child's learning at home by noticing any signs of growth and of the start of 'Spring' in the garden. Maybe sow seeds with your child and watch the plants grow. Talk about how you celebrate Easter.

### EYFS Prime Areas

Communication & Language (CLL), Physical Development (PD) & Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)

**PSED:** The children will continue to develop their independence skills. They are all familiar with the school routines and the environment and now join in with assembly every week. We are encouraging the children to think about what they can do well and encouraging them to persevere with things they find a bit difficult 'Never, never, never give up!'

Many of the children support and praise each other as they are learning, we call this reciprocity, and we will be encouraging these skills. Discussions, stories and everyday events provide opportunities for children to talk about their ideas thoughts and feelings. We will be encouraging the children to share their thoughts with each other, beginning to understand that not everyone feels or thinks the same about a shared event or interest. This also links with the specific area of learning – 'People and communities'.

**CLL:** We continue to have many discussions in class about the children's achievements in and out of school and your completed 'Wow moments' are really valued. Children often use language to share their experiences and we will continue to encourage this. We will be thinking about how we need to express ourselves clearly for different audiences as we prepare for our liturgy and we will be learning lots of subject specific vocabulary related to our theme of different jobs. We will also continue to focus on the need for good listening skills and how we can show someone we have understood what they have said.

**PD:** We will continue to use the outdoor area to support children in developing their skills and ideas through the use of imaginative play, games, problem solving and physical activities. Many of the children prefer to learn outside so warm clothes and wellington boots are essential. Their physical activities will be supplemented by the twice-weekly P.E. sessions. The children have really enjoyed using the apparatus in the hall. We will continue work with apparatus and develop movement activities. The children's skills in dressing and undressing for P.E are really improving which is fantastic for everyone. Fine motor skills will continue to be developed through drawing, writing, painting, threading and manipulating small equipment. We will also think about what we need to do to be healthy and what happens to our body when we exercise.

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

- Continue to encourage your child to be independent when getting dressed /undressed and being responsible for their own belongings.
- Encourage your child to talk about something they have enjoyed and why they like it.
- Talk to your child about stories, books and their interests to support them in their thinking/questioning skills.
- Play games in your garden or in the park, particularly running, chasing and ball skills.

### EYFS Specific Areas

Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design

We will continue to develop literacy skills using the RW1 phonics programme and children will continue to learn in small groups and these will be determined by which skills they need to consolidate or develop. Children will also take home books or words to support reading. It is a fantastic support for the children if they are confident with these words.

The children love books and we will use a selection of both books and IT resources for shared reading sessions. These will include non-fiction books, poetry, stories and information and stories downloaded from the computer. The book corner will include books about the current topic as well as favourite picture books. The whole school will celebrate World Book Day on 6<sup>th</sup> March and as a school we will be focussing on bedtime reading. The importance of reading **to** cannot be expressed enough because children learn so much from being read to by an adult.

Children will be encouraged to write for different purposes, using their phonic knowledge to sound out words. We will help the children to think about what they write ahead of the task. We have been writing for many different reasons and any writing your children complete at home independently can also be shared in school.

In mathematics we will continue to recognise and use numbers 1-20. Children will be encouraged estimate and calculate in practical situations. They will be adding and subtracting and will be encouraged to explain their ideas and record their findings when appropriate.

Number activities will include counting orally forwards and backwards from a given number, recognising and writing numerals, accurately counting how many in a 'set'. We will introduce counting in 2's or 10's as appropriate. We will also explore size and time in practical ways and use the vocabulary associated with this.

As we prepare for Easter we will also be welcoming the arrival of Spring. Spring-time provides lots of opportunities to notices changes or growth in plants and animals. The children are already commenting on the growth of bulbs. We will provide opportunities for children to record the changes they see, in a variety of ways – observational drawing, taking photos or writing.

The work we have done on different jobs has inspired many of the children and we will continue to think about different professions. We recently had a visit from the fire service and will focus on the important work that is done to keep us safe by fire officers, doctors and police officers. We will also I think about how some of these jobs have changed and consider people in the past and the differences to now.

As part of our theme we are looking at heroes both in real life and fantasy and we will consider the different attributes that a 'superhero' may have. This will give us many opportunities for designing, making and thinking about right and wrong behaviour.

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

- continuing to help your child at home with reading and writing activities e.g. writing lists, messages etc.
- reading stories – maybe looking for stories and poems with rhyme
- helping your child to use technology safely at home
- discussing your heroes with your children and explain why they are a role model to you
- talking about shapes with your children asking them to name the 2d and 3d shapes they see
- highlighting different times of the day, days of the week and months of the year to your children
- looking for signs of Spring in your garden or in the park or countryside

### **EYFS: Characteristics of Learning**

Throughout the year we will be looking at how children develop certain 'characteristics' such as how they engage in their learning, find out, explore and 'have a go'. If they are motivated to learn by being involved, concentrating, keep trying and enjoying achieving what they set out to do. We also consider whether they are able to develop their own ideas, make links in their learning and the ways they choose to do things, whether they plan, review or change their strategy when approaching a task.

These are all attitudes to learning that children need to become successful learners. Hopefully we will lay the foundations for these young children so they grow their skills and achieve both personally and academically.

### **Technology**

We are still working on logging on to the class computers and bug club. We will continue to program the roamers. The children are getting very confident at accessing the age appropriate software on the class computers and have built up a variety of skills.

This term we will be considering how we can take photographs and edit using digital media.

### **Music**

In music we will be learning about special people, focusing on Personal, Social and Emotional Development through:

- singing echo songs

- performing movement to a steady beat
- creating and performing actions
- playing instruments to a steady beat at different speeds

## PE

### **PE Topic 1: Gym Work**

This will include moving and travelling in different ways using mats, benches and other larger apparatus which will encourage and develop balancing, climbing and spatial awareness skills.

### **PE Topic 2: Ball skills /games**

Ball skills will be taught so that children have the foundations skills needed to play ball games in the future.

## Assessment

Assessments for RWI will be completed in line with the school cycle. All other assessments throughout Foundation Stage 2 will be done by written observation or captioned photographs.

Please continue to share any 'wow' moments from home including activities outside of school, new skills they have learned and anything they may have found out about the topic we are covering this term.