

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning



## FS2 INFORMATION:

- **YEAR:** FS2
- **TERM:** 2
- **CONTACT:** [yearfs@st-johnfisher.org](mailto:yearfs@st-johnfisher.org)

## FS2 TEACHING & LEARNING TEAM:

- Mrs H Darken
- Mrs E Walton
- Miss R D'Roza
- Mrs A Prentice
- Miss L Dowse

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our second curriculum overview of the year and its purpose is to let you know what the children will be learning in the weeks leading up to the season of Christmas. As usual we will also share those key words your children will be learning as well as suggestions for the different ways you can support learning at home.

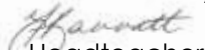
Our approach is always to be encouraging and reassuring, in order to affirm our children and help each of them to feel confident. We do this because confidence builds resilience, and resilience is a trait of all happy and successful learners. We therefore encourage children to see learning as fun even if it is challenging sometimes. So children making mistakes and developing knowledge and understanding through productive struggle are both perfectly normal parts of the learning process. We remind them constantly that we are all here to help and support them, so they can be open about any struggles and worries that they have.

With this in mind, if your children 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. That is pointless and will mask an issue delay some children getting the help they need. If your child has struggled with a task, for whatever reason, please let us know (via a note/email) and tell us what they could do and what they struggled with, so that we can follow it up. Colleagues will always be understanding and supportive, and work hard to ensure that our 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 parents/carers either on a one-to-one basis or in workshops so that parents/carers feel more confident helping their children at home. If you would like help and advice on a one-to-one basis please email or arrange a telephone meeting.

Yours sincerely,

  
Headteacher

## TERM 2 LEARNING VALUE: HONESTY

Our Learning Value is 'Honesty'. Honesty is when a person does not do things that are judged to be morally wrong. Honesty is about speaking and acting *truthfully* and with integrity. Those who break rules/laws or who choose to hide their true intentions and actions (because they know they are wrong) are being dishonest.

Honesty is speaking the truth, it is *not*:

- saying what is definitely untrue
- saying what might be untrue
- making things up in order to hide the truth



Honesty is what you say and how you act toward others. It is also about being honest to yourself. Being honest with yourself means knowing and understanding why you act in certain ways. It is about speaking the truth to yourself and acting in ways that mean you are being true to yourself, your values and all the things that you believe.



## RE

Information about our Term 2 RE curriculum is in the 'Come and See' letter accompanying this overview. It is a continuation of the work already covered in the RE letter sent out with the Term 1 overview.

## TERM 2 THEME

This term we will be thinking about light and dark. We will consider what night-time is and think about all the different jobs people do during the night. We will learn about nocturnal animals and read the books '*It was a cold dark night*' and '*Owl Babies*'. We will link work about key celebrations during our theme as we learn about Diwali, fireworks, Hanukkah and Advent. Throughout the topic the children will be encouraged to be inquisitive and ask lots of 'How?' and 'Why?' questions so they can come up with their own ideas and answers.

### Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ light/dark
- ✓ nocturnal
- ✓ festival/celebrate

## EYFS PRIME AREAS

### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE, PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT & PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The children will continue to develop learning within the Prime Areas. The children are now confident to use the classroom resources and are showing good independence around the school. We will also continue to support the children to develop friendships in class and school. Our buddies in Y4 add a positive element to the children's relationships and we will plan more events to spend time together.

Communicating effectively with each other remains a strong focus. The children will be encouraged to listen carefully to one another and respond appropriately. Children have a 'Talk Partner' to help them do this.

In December all the children will take part in our nativity play and all children will be given an opportunity to take part playing a musical instrument, dancing or speaking some lines.

The children will continue to use our outdoor areas as an integral part of their learning. Most of the children love to be outside and it is in the outdoors where they can develop so many key physical skills, imaginative games, and get involved with problem-solving activities. Warm clothes/wellington boots are needed please!

We will consider ways to keep safe and warm during wet and icy weather. Talking about different clothes and how the weather affects our bodies. As part of 'Be safe, Be Happy Week' we will think about how to keep healthy. We will explore how we can prevent spreading germs and understand the importance of good nutrition and hygiene. We will learn about the importance of oral hygiene and keeping our teeth healthy. We will learn about online safety and ways to be a good friend.

### Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ listen
- ✓ share
- ✓ respect
- ✓ independence
- ✓ healthy

### 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 .....?'
- ✓ continuing to encourage children to be independent when getting dressed/undressed
- ✓ helping children to learn to put on and do up their own coats and do it up



## EYFS SPECIFIC AREAS

### LITERACY, MATHEMATICS, UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD, EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

We will continue to develop literacy skills using our comprehensive Read Write Inc. phonics programme. Children will continue to take home books to support their reading and will be read with frequently in school. We will read 'Owl Babies' and 'It was a cold dark night' to learn about nocturnal animals. We will explore non-fiction texts and think about Diwali, Hanukkah and how Christmas is celebrated now and in the past.

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, captions etc. We will also encourage children to write for different purposes in their play – letters, invitations, lists and cards. During the lead up to Christmas the children will be reading and writing the Christmas Story. We will be using drama to think about the feelings of the different people.

In Mathematics we will continue to recognise and use numbers 1-10 (especially related to practical activities). The children will have opportunities to revisit and apply their knowledge of 2D shapes. We will be focussing on the composition of different numbers to 10, learning more about substituting and thinking about how small numbers can be combined for simple addition and subtraction questions.

Through the topic the children will be given chance to explore light, cold and dark and learn new information and facts. We think about the weather as the days get darker and how we can keep ourselves safe. Across their learning the children will be encouraged to use non-fiction books and the internet. We will be introducing 'Bee-bots', torches, and 'tablets' to encourage the children to use different technology.

The 'Celebration' theme will provide opportunities for children to gain an understanding of cultural and religious celebrations at this time of year. Children's birthdays will also provide opportunities for children to develop an understanding of what celebrations are. Role-play will be also be developed around this theme.

The children will continue to develop drawing, painting skills as well as model-making. The children will explore dance and music linked to fireworks and light and as Christmas approaches, the children will be given opportunities to use their ideas and skills to create decorations, collage pictures and printing.

### Be Safe Be Happy Week 2021

After the holiday it will be 'Be Safe Be happy Week 2021'. Across school children will explore a range of different issues including: bullying, online safety, stranger danger, personal hygiene control and general safeguarding.



### Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ diagraph
- ✓ word/sentence
- ✓ letter formation (writing)
- ✓ nocturnal
- ✓ celebration
- ✓ Diwali/Hanukkah/Advent

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

- ✓ helping them with letter sounds at home
- ✓ reading together every day and sharing oral stories
- ✓ using opportunities such as cooking, baking and setting the table to support mathematical understanding
- ✓ looking for and recognising numbers everywhere (signs, packets, front doors, on television, in books, etc.)
- ✓ playing simple games with numbers
- ✓ talking to them about things that they find in their environment, using construction sets; helping them to make things using everyday objects and how to use scissors and other tools effectively



### Remembrance 2021

All children will have special lessons around remembrance, and the commemoration of Remembrance Sunday. They will learn about its origins and gain an appreciation of its national significance.

On Armistice Day they will participate in our annual Service of Remembrance at Our Lady of Lourdes which will be filmed and uploaded to the school website so that it can be viewed by family and friends after wards by clicking [here](#).

lest we forget



### EYFS CHARACTERISTICS OF LEARNING

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; how they find out about things; how they explore and how willing they are to 'have a go'. We will support and encourage them to be motivated to learn by getting involved, concentrating well, by keeping trying and by enjoying achieving those things that they set out to do. We will also consider:

- ✓ *whether they are able to develop their own ideas*
- ✓ *whether they make links in their learning*
- ✓ *how they choose to do things*
- ✓ *whether they plan, review or change their strategy when approaching a task*

We will talk a lot about the importance of being **resilient**, **resourceful**, **reciprocal** and **reflective** - linking these key characteristics to relatable media characters. These are the learning attitudes children need in order to be happy and successful learners. Our aim is to lay the foundations so that each child is able to grow their skills and achieve both personally and academically.

### MUSIC

This term we will learn a variety of songs, which we will hopefully be able to sing for our nativity concert in line with COVID safety regulations. Children will also get the opportunity to use the instruments to accompany our songs. In addition, we will be exploring how we can use music to represent different things e.g. snow.

### PE

#### Dance

Children will be taught to use movement to respond to music. They will then be asked to use their bodies in different ways to create shapes; they will then create patterns of movement to make a sequence. Children will be encouraged to know the benefits of exercise and the impact on their bodies.

#### Ball skills/Games

The children will continue to learn how to move around safely and will initially do some floor work, moving and using their body in different ways to strengthen their physical skills. Ball skills will be taught so that children have the foundations skills needed to play ball games in the future.

#### Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ movement
- ✓ sequence
- ✓ healthy
- ✓ synchronicity
- ✓ resilience



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

- ✓ continuing to encourage your child to be independent:
  - getting dressed/undressed
  - being responsible for their own belongings
- ✓ playing games in your garden or in the park, particularly running, chasing and ball skills

### **ASSESSMENT**

All assessments throughout Foundation Stage 2 are done through observational assessment. We will collect photos, written observations as part of our evidence. Please continue to share any 'wow' moments. This can include joining in with a swimming/dance lesson for the first time, dressing independently for the first time etc.

