

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning



## FS2 INFORMATION

- YEAR: 2025-26 • TERM: 2
- CONTACT: [yearfs@st-johnfisher.org](mailto:yearfs@st-johnfisher.org)

## FS2 TEACHING & LEARNING TEAM

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this second curriculum overview of the year, we share details of the learning planned for the busy seven weeks leading up to Christmas. You will also find the key vocabulary your children will be learning, along with ideas for how you can support their learning at home. Our approach is to be encouraging and reassuring. We want children to enjoy learning, and to feel happy and confident, knowing that making mistakes or sometimes finding things difficult are part of the learning process. Building confidence and resilience helps them grow into happy, successful learners unafraid to ask for help. Top tips for supporting learning:

- ✓ read to your child every day – bedtime is perfect
- ✓ encourage them to try Mouse Club activities, but stop when they've done their best
- ✓ reassure them if they find something tricky and let us know so we can support in school
- ✓ encourage independence with getting dressed, putting on coats/shoes etc. and avoid over-helping

Please register for website updates and reminders, if you have not done so. It is very important that you use our 'Tapestry' learning journey and read our weekly FS2 Mouse Club newsletters. Both are full of information about our curriculum and ways you can help your child this year



We also recognise that teaching methods evolve, and we're always happy to explain our approaches so that parents and carers can feel confident supporting learning at home.

Yours sincerely,

*H Barrett*  
Headteacher

## TERM 2 LEARNING VALUE: HONESTY



Honesty means speaking and acting truthfully, with openness and integrity. Honest people take responsibility for their words and actions, follow rules and laws, and do not conceal their intentions. It involves being truthful not only with others but also with ourselves—understanding what motivates or limits us and staying true to our values, even under pressure. Though not always easy, honesty is something we should always strive for in life.

## RE & CATHOLIC LIFE

The focus is 'To the Ends of the Earth'. Please click [here](#) for the Term 2 FS2 RE overview. Our focus virtues are 'hope' and 'patience'.



## SJF Collective Worship

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Statement of Belief & Citizenship Assemblies	Hymn Practise ----- Virtues Assemblies	'Picture News' & Themed Assemblies	Weekly Liturgy of the Word	Celebration Assembly ----- Chaplains' Celebrations



**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*)

As part of this we will consider:

- ✓ *the extent to which the children are able to develop their own ideas and 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 plan, review or change an approach to a task when they need to*

**OUR TERM 2 TOPIC: SPARKLE AND SHINE**



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 16th December at 9:30am. Refreshments will be served from 8.55am. Ticket details will be shared in due course.

**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 happy today? Did you find out something new? Who do you talk to if you feel sad or worried?**

- ✓ recognising and talking about the feelings that characters might be experiencing in your stories
- ✓ modelling how to use good manners, and praising your child when they say 'please' and 'thank you'
- ✓ encouraging your child to be more independent when getting dressed/undressed
- ✓ encouraging your child to persevere when fastening their own coats and shoes
- ✓ encouraging your child to hold a knife and fork correctly, and try to cut up their own food correctly
- ✓ playing simple board or card games together to practise taking turns and waiting for the next go

**PRIME AREAS: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT (PD)**

Our weekly PE lessons take place every Monday afternoon, following the whole-school *Real PE* scheme. All skills are introduced and developed through fun stories, songs, and games. In Unit 2, the children will focus on developing and applying their jumping, landing, and seated balance skills. We also have daily *Funky Fingers* activities to support fine motor skills, including peg boards, geo boards, threading, and playdough. The whole class enjoys *Dough Disco* or *Wiggle While You Squiggle* to strengthen fingers and improve coordination.

During independent learning time, the children have daily access to the large FS2 outdoor area, which helps develop gross motor skills like running, jumping, climbing, balancing, lifting, throwing, digging, and transporting. It also teaches them to use equipment safely and work together. We will be learning how to keep our bodies healthy through regular exercise, a balanced diet, staying hydrated, and taking care of our teeth. We will also talk about the importance of quiet time, rest, and enough sleep. As the weather gets colder, we will discuss ways to stay safe and warm, including appropriate clothing and how different 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
- ✓ supporting independence 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
- ✓ getting active as a family - going for walks somewhere new, riding a bike or going swimming

**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 'SJF Mouse Club Newsletter' 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
- ✓ listen and join in with your child when it is their turn to bring home our 'Travelling Nativity' during Advent
- ✓ 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 at home 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' 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 there will be a focus book each week and the children will also look at non-fiction texts when they learn about birthdays, Hanukkah, Advent and how Christmas is celebrated now and long ago. They will also use non-fiction books and online information during topic work covering light and dark, the moon and seasonal change.

The children will be encouraged to mark make and 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:

- The Smartest Giant in Town
- Whatever Next!
- Goodnight Moon
- Kipper's Birthday
- How to Catch a Star
- Little Glow
- Stick Man
- Dear Santa
- The Christmas Story

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

- ✓ sounds
- ✓ phonics
- ✓ blend
- ✓ story
- ✓ title
- ✓ author
- ✓ cover
- ✓ blurb
- ✓ illustrator
- ✓ fiction
- ✓ non-fiction

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

- ✓ reading stories to your child every day
- ✓ sharing the Mouse Club stories and songs with your child several times a week
- ✓ 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 your local library or a bookshop together to find fiction/non-fiction books that reflect interests e.g. space, dinosaurs, animals and pastimes they enjoy
- ✓ giving your child opportunities to 'mark-make' and write their name using the name cards we send home
- ✓ modelling writing using Read Write Inc. letter formation (do not use all capital letters/upper case in words)

**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 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 using 2D and 3D shapes.

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

now } next } morning } afternoon } today } tomorrow } subitising } numeral } 2D shape } counting } 3D shape } repeat } pattern } sequence } 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 the stairs at home every time they go up or down them
  - looking for numbers around them e.g. house numbers, numbers on a clock, bus numbers and car registration plates
- ✓ sorting and pairing up socks and shoes
- ✓ collecting autumn leaves and sticks and looking at pumpkins – talk about 'same and different', size, weight, length, etc.
- ✓ talking about what day it is and their daily routine(s) on different days e.g. school days and weekends
- ✓ involve your child in baking – measuring, weighing, counting, sharing
- ✓ sorting everyday items at home e.g. toys, socks, fruit by their colour and size
- ✓ playing board games together, using dice, to practise counting e.g. Snakes and Ladders

**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 could we find out space and moon facts?

**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	✓ planets

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

- ✓ comparing how it feels to be in light and darker spaces
- ✓ going out together and discussing the changes in nature
- ✓ looking at the sky at bedtime – what can they see?
- ✓ researching how wild animals in the UK live during the winter, and where they live and which hibernate
- ✓ involve your child in baking – measuring, weighing, counting, sharing, and notice what happens to the ingredients when they are mixed, diluted, heated or cooled

**SPECIFIC AREAS: EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN (EAD)**



We encourage individual creativity during independent learning time as well as teaching the children specific skills in mark making, painting and using a variety of equipment such as scissors, glue, Sellotape and clay and play dough tools. We will create a range of Christmas craft items using different media, including information technology.

Every Friday afternoon 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 bonfire night.

As Christmas approaches, the children will rehearse for their very first nativity play, '**A Wiggly Nativity**' which will be performed on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am**. On the day of the Nativity the children will be welcomed in to class 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
- ✓ model
- ✓ glow
- ✓ illuminate
- ✓ sing
- ✓ perform
- ✓ audience

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

- ✓ looking at our class page and Mouse Club suggestions– sharing the songs and trying the activities
- ✓ looking at your child's Tapestry page – talking to them about our activities in school and what they can recall about their learning? Can you try some activities at home?
- ✓ singing well-known nursery rhymes and popular song together, e.g. in the car, on a walk or before bed, such as 'Ten in the Bed', 'Wind the Bobbin Up', 'Ten Fat Sausages' (See the Tapestry Memo page for links to songs)
- ✓ encouraging your child to act out stories, rhymes and action-songs
- ✓ checking which colours your child knows as you chat or play with them – ask them to pass you the yellow banana, the light green apple, the blue and white stripy cup, or can they describe the colours they can see in the garden?
- ✓ when you are outside notice the patterns and colours in nature – ask them what they see
- ✓ talk about fireworks in the sky and the Christmas lights – describe them, notice the patterns and have a go at making decorations at home

**Be Safe Be Happy Week 2025**

Term 2 begins with 'Be Safe, Be Happy Week', which is dedicated to promoting the children's physical and mental wellbeing. This week is designed to equip children with the essential knowledge, skills, and experiences with which to maintain healthy, happy bodies and minds.

Highlights include special safety visits from a water safety officer and road traffic police to cover vital safety skills; sessions focused on physical health, including instruction from a dance teacher and a visit from an NHS nurse to teach about hygiene; and dedicated mental health sessions, such as a Healthy Minds workshop and engaging time with miniature Shetland wellbeing ponies and a wellbeing dog. There will also be a session delivered by an organisation that works with Sheffield City Council, for our oldest children, explaining the potential risks and dangers of smoking and vaping. Practical activities like apple crumble making and bulb planting will further enhance their understanding of nutrition and outdoor wellbeing.



**ST CLARE**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust





Taylor Shaw  
Seeing food differently



Healthy Minds



Lifeboats  
NHS



**Remembrance 2025**

The children will have special lessons and an assembly to explore the origins and significance of Remembrance Sunday.

On 11th November 2025 we will come together, on Armistice Day, as we always do, to participate in our Community Service of Remembrance at Our Lady of Lourdes. We invite family and friends, as well as members of our wider community, to join us as the children lead us in a prayerful act of remembrance.

The service will be filmed so it will be possible to view via our website.



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