



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning

Academic Year 2014-2015

- **Year:** Foundation Stage 2
- **Term:** 1

Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mrs H Darken
- Miss A Prentice

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the first curriculum overview of the new school year. It is so important to share our learning with you because you have a key role as our partners in helping and supporting your child(ren).

The purpose of this document is to let you know what your child will be learning this term and setting out some ways in which you can support your child.

New learning can be very fragile and can be lost altogether if a child does not receive the right kind of follow-up support in school and at home. This is one of the reasons we set homework tasks which aim to support and extend your child's understanding of new concepts.

It is therefore very important that homework is at least attempted. If your child is ever unsure about anything, please reassure him/her and notify the relevant teacher who will be able to provide all the help and encouragement that is required.

We also understand that methods of teaching and learning change and so we are **always** happy to explain them to you if you have a question or are not sure about something. We are happy to arrange additional workshops or even support you on a one-to-one basis.

During our first term the children start their theme which is called 'Home Sweet home'. If, when you have read this overview, you realise that there is something that you (or someone you know) can support us with please let us know as soon as possible. Perhaps you have a skill, knowledge or real-life experiences to share. Perhaps you have contacts that could be useful.

If you can support us and help us make the learning even more fun and special, please get in touch.

Thank you - as always - for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

R.E. Topic 1: My Family

This will focus on how we are part of a family, whether this be at home or school or as part of the family of the church. It will look at how God knows and loves each and every one of us.

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

- *talking to your child about why they are special*
- *together looking at family photos of people who are special to them and talking about why they are special*

R.E. Topic 2: God's Family

This will look at how baptism is used to welcome us into God's family and the church and will recap and enhance the topic covered during the first part of this half term on myself.





CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning

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

- talking to them about what it means to be part a family
- talking to them about any family baptisms and tell them about when they were baptised or their naming ceremony

EYFS Prime Areas

Communication & Language, Physical Development & Personal, Social & Emotional Development

The EYFS Prime Areas of learning will be the main focus of our teaching and learning this half term. They underpin all aspects of learning in Foundation Stage. The Foundation stage is designed to overlap and compliment all the different areas which make up the curriculum as a whole and hopefully this overview will give you a flavour of how this will work.

Our main theme is 'Home Sweet Home' which links well with the R.E topic. We want the children to settle well in our class and become familiar and happy with all the new routines. During the next few weeks we will be helping the children to establish simple class rules, which will support positive learning behaviours. The staff will use photos, pictures and gestures with language to support all learners. Children will learn to listen to each other in small groups and sometimes with the whole class. We want to encourage the children to speak confidently to each other and to familiar adults. The children will be expected to care for themselves, each other and our environment. The staff will help the children to keep the classroom tidy and look after the resources. Independence and the child's unique personality will always be valued.

Moving safely around the school environment is important. The children will be supported to keep safe and develop appropriate hygiene routines.

Children will use the outdoor environment every day, so they will need a coat as the weather becomes cooler. The children develop many physical skills and social skills when using the outdoor environment. Already children are showing good turn-taking and co-operative skills.

Longer P.E. sessions will be on Wednesday and children will be given daily PE instruction in the class outdoor area. During this term the children will be getting used to listening to instructions and responding appropriately in the hall and outdoor. They will also get used to dressing and un-dressing independently – all good practice for developing physical skills!

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

- giving your child time to think and respond if you ask them a question
- encouraging your child to dress and undress independently (perhaps helping them by setting out their clothes in the correct order)
- using a knife and fork to eat meals

EYFS Specific Areas

Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world, Expressive arts and design

We will be using the school 'Read, Write Inc.' programme to deliver the sound work (phonics) which will help the children to begin to read and write with more confidence. During the first term we will cover different letter(s) sounds each day and will be sending home sheets with the daily sounds on them so they can practice at home. We will be running some sessions for families on phonics and reading during the first term and will send details out later.

In literacy we will role model the different areas in the classroom, we will read a variety of stories including 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' learning and performing the story plus many more bear related activities.

In mathematics we will be looking at recognising and creating patterns, counting and





CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning

recognising numerals 1-10, sequencing these numbers, ordering items by length and weight. We will look at the language used to describe 2D and 3D shapes and explore and create patterns. The curriculum places a lot of emphasis on mathematical language so much of the work will be done orally with little formal recording.

Our topic will support the children's learning about people and communities, helping them to understand that people are both different and similar and what make us unique. In expressive arts we will be exploring colour, using different media and materials and selecting and using tools safely and appropriately.

We will be exploring the outdoor area doing planned activities around the school grounds and learning about how to respect and care for our school environment.

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

- *helping them with letter sounds at home*
- *using everyday opportunities such as cooking, baking and setting the table to support their understanding of mathematics*
- *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*

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. We will talk about being resilient, resourceful, reciprocal and reflective linking these characteristics to media characters.

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.

Music

Music is normally taught by Miss Pendlebury, our specialist music teacher but as she is away on maternity leave until after half-term we do it in class. We shall be using musical instruments and singing songs throughout the week. We will be singing many of the songs your children will know - nursery rhymes and other familiar songs. We will also learn some new songs which will link with festivals and topics.

PE

This year the children will be taught by PE specialists. The children will cover the fundamentals of ball skills and movement.

Assessment

All assessments throughout Foundation Stage 2 will be done by observational assessment. We will collect photos, written observations as part of our evidence. We also hope you will contribute to your child's learning journey by adding photos and information from home. You will be invited to fill in 'Wow moments' about your child's achievements at home, more information will follow. We will share more information with you as the term progresses.

