



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning



Academic Year 2015-2016

- **Year:** FS2
- **Term:** 2

Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mrs H Darken
- Miss R D'Roza
- Mrs A Prentice
- Miss J Pendlebury

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the second curriculum overview of the year and takes us all the way up to Christmas. The purpose of the overview is to let you know what the children will be learning this term and set out some of the ways in which you can support them at home.

It is important that children receive the right kind of support in school and at home so that they can really understand and use all the new things that they learn in school every day. This is why we set homework tasks. That gentle, but constant reinforcement is very important. Developing good homework routines/habits in primary school is also key for future success, which is why teachers' expectations are shared in this overview along with suggestions for supporting your child/ren at home.

It is very important that all homework is at least attempted. If your child does not understand something, do not worry, the homework has done its job. It has revealed a gap that we can then work to close. The quicker we close gaps the better, so just send a note in or email or have a word with the teacher and we will act. No child will ever get into trouble if s/he has honestly done their best but does not understand. It is important that children always feel supported and encouraged especially when they are challenged by something they are learning.

We know that teaching and learning methods change over the years and so are **always** happy to explain them if you have a question or are not sure about something. Just let us know. We are also happy to arrange workshops or even support you on a one-to-one basis if you would find this more helpful. Please speak to your child's teacher in confidence if you would like some support.

If you can support us because you have a skill, specialist knowledge; a real-life experiences to share; or useful contacts, please speak to your child's teacher. All offers of help are welcomed and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

R.E. Topic 1: 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.

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*

R.E. Topic 2: Advent/Christmas

Birthdays

We will help the children to know and understand what a birthday is. We will talk about what it feels like to wait for this special time.



Advent

We will be looking forward to Christmas and the birth of Jesus. We will read the nativity story and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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

- *Talk about why we celebrate birthdays – how it is special for your family*
- *Talk about advent and what it means to celebrate the birth of Jesus – maybe make and advent wreath*
- *Talk about why we give and receive presents at Christmas*

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 continue to support the children as they develop friendships in the class and the whole 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 each other and respond appropriately. Children work with a 'Talk Partner' to help them to develop confidence to do this.

Our main theme continues to be 'The way we were'. So far we have focussed on families and used the book owl babies. We will now look at another owl book and think about light and dark. We will incorporate learning about 'Celebrations' in to our theme. Throughout their learning the children will be encouraged to ask 'how' and 'why' questions and offer ideas and answers. The children will also be encouraged to talk about their feelings and consider similarities and differences between themselves and others.

In December all the children will be taking part in a Christmas performance and all children will be given an opportunity to take part by singing, dancing or speaking lines.

We will continue to use the outdoor area. Nearly all the children love to be outside – it is often here where they develop physical skills, imaginative games, and are involved in problem solving activities. Warm clothes and wellington boots will be needed!

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.

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.*

EYFS Specific Areas

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

We will continue to develop literacy skills using the RWInc programme. Children will begin to take home books to support their reading and will be read with frequently in school.

We will think about the dark reading the book 'The owl who was afraid of the dark'. We will learn to retell the story and consider the different themes within the book such being scared and what makes us feel happy. We will then explore non-fiction texts to think more about nocturnal animals.

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. The children will also have an opportunity to bring home the travelling nativity set. Please encourage them to tell you the story. This will be a special time for celebration. If you have any books or resources to support the children in telling the Christmas Story and wouldn't mind sharing, please bring them in to school.

In mathematics we will continue to recognise and use numbers 1-10 and also beyond 10 – especially related to practical activities within the class. We will be comparing items with differing capacity, thinking about whether containers are full or empty and ordering these. We will also use positional language (backwards, forwards, above, below etc. to program a roamer. The children will have opportunities to revisit and apply their knowledge of 2D shapes.

We will start using the language of time and money in practical ways becoming more familiar with these ideas in relation to real life.

Through the topic the children will be given chance to explore light and cold and dark out new information and fact. We will be thinking about the weather as the days get darker and how we can keep ourselves safe.

Across their learning children will be encouraged to use non-fiction books and the internet. We will be introducing 'Bee-bots', torches, 'and ' talking postcards' to encourage the children to use different technology.

We hope the 'Celebration' theme will provide opportunities for children to gain understanding of cultural and religious celebrations during this part of the year. Several children have their birthday this term, so this provides opportunities for children to develop their understanding of a celebration which is meaningful. Role-play opportunities will also be developed around this theme.

The children are developing their drawing, painting skills. They also love creating structures with blocks and making models. As Christmas approaches, the children will be given plenty of opportunity to use their ideas and skills by making decorations, collage pictures & printing.
The children will be exploring dance and music linked to fireworks and light

Be Safe - Be Happy Week

When we return from the break it will be 'Be Safe – Be Happy Week, our third special curriculum week of the school year. Across school the children will explore a range of different issues including: bullying, fire safety, road safety, e-safety, stranger danger, basic first aid, 'Bikeability' and safeguarding.



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

- *helping them with letter sounds at home – saying, reading and writing*
- *reading stories and looking at non-fiction books*
- *writing lists and cards*
- *helping children use technology safely at home*
- *doing activities that explore ice e.g. making and melting ice cubes, investigating the weather and the changes that occur as winter comes*

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.

Music

Music is taught by Miss Pendlebury, our specialist music teacher. This term we will be learning a variety of songs to sing at our nativity concert. Children will also get the opportunity to use some of the instruments to accompany these songs. In addition we will be using music to represent snow.

The performance will be on **Wednesday 9th December** at **2.15pm**. We hope you can all be there.

PE

Topic 1: 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.

Topic 2: Ball skills /Games

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.

Assessment

All assessments throughout Foundation Stage 2 will be 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.