



Curriculum Overview

Sharing our Learning



Academic Year 2014-2015

- **Year:** Foundation Stage 2
- **Term:** 3

Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mrs H Darken
- Mrs A Prentice

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our third overview of the year and the aim is to give you an overview of all the things that the children will be learning in school this term. It also includes tips for supporting them at home and information about homework.

If you have any questions or if you require any support so you can help your child(ren) at home 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 shared 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 (more information will follow very soon on how to access this) 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.

The phonics formation/ writing sheets are merely a fun activity that can be completed at home. As discussed at the parents meeting there is no obligation to return this to school. In addition for this being a chance for your child to consolidate their understanding it also provides you with information on what sounds have been learned and if needed how to say them.

As well as this a list of different activities that could be done at home will be sent home each term so that parents can choose to complete a more creative or practical activity with their child.

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 Parish celebrations /Chinese New Year

We will continue to think about different celebrations focussing on celebrations within the parish. The children will consider some of the celebrations that take place within church life, how people learn about these celebrations and the role of the priest within this.

In addition the children will be told the story behind the Chinese New Year and how this is a traditional festival celebrated by Chinese communities across the world

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

- *talking about church celebrations and how we find out about them*
- *talking about story of Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple*
- *talking about how celebrating as a parish makes us feel*
- *talking about some of the traditions associated with Chinese New Year-how the years are have a named animal*

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 focus on attitudes to learning and in particular thinking skills, including thinking things through before acting and developing empathy and listening attentively to others,

Communicating effectively with each other continues to be a key focus of life within the Foundation Unit. The children will be encouraged to listen carefully to each other planning, responding appropriately to, and asking relevant questions. Children will continue to work with a 'Talk Partner' to help them to develop confidence to do this.

Our main theme this term is 'Our World' and we will incorporate learning about 'Parish celebrations' in to our theme.

Throughout their learning the children will be encouraged to ask 'how' and 'why' questions and offer ideas and answers. Children will be asked to think about their own lives and the people around them. We are hoping to arrange visits from people with different professions so the children can ask questions and learn more about people with different jobs and how they help us.

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

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*
- *talk about past experiences with the children encouraging them to use past, present and future tense within their speech*
- *talking to them about stories, books and other things and support them in their thinking about these things encouraging them to ask their own questions and ask for explanations*
- *playing 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 Read Write Inc. programme. Children will begin to take home books and words to support their reading and will be read with frequently in school.

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. Children will be encouraged to write for a variety of purposes—using their phonic knowledge to sound out words and we will encourage the children to think about what they might want to write ahead of the task.

As part of the theme we will be thinking about different jobs starting with construction workers using the story the three little pigs as a stimulus. We will consider the properties of different materials and the reasons they would be good or bad materials to build a house. We will attempt to build houses using different resources. We will then learn about transport thinking about buses and cars and how to keep safe near traffic. We will plan and build moving vehicles from a variety of different materials. Continuing with the transport theme we will learn about the job of a fire fighter and the equipment that they use. This learning will form a transition in to our next topic looking at the work done by people who help us in the community.

Within this theme we will explore non-fiction texts related to the topic. Looking at the features of nonfiction texts and using phonic knowledge to read labels and captions.

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 –MOT certificates, building plans, safety signs. Children will be required to move towards writing in sentences using finger spaces and full stops in their writing.

In mathematics we will continue to recognise and use numbers 1-10 but this term there will be greater focus on knowing and recognising the numbers between 10 and 20. We will be comparing items with differing weight, thinking about whether containers are heavier or lighter.

The children will have opportunities to revisit and apply their knowledge of 2D shapes and we will start to learn the names and properties of 3D shapes.

We will start using the language of time, considering different events during the day and knowing how these events relate to different times. We will also continue to learn about and use money in practical ways becoming more familiar with these ideas in relation to real life.

Number activities will include counting orally forwards and backwards from a given number, recognising and writing numerals, accurately counting how many in a 'set' and finding 'one more' or 'one less' We will also revisit positional language (backwards, forwards, above, below etc.)

Through the topic 'Our World' the children will be given chance to explore different jobs and find out new information and facts. .

Across their learning children will be encouraged to use non-fiction books and the internet. We will be talking about how to use the internet safely and learning how to log on to the class computers and the school reading programme 'Bug Club'. We will discuss the importance of keeping internet passwords safe and who to talk to if they have a problem when using the computer.

The children are developing their drawing, painting skill and we will investigate a variety of skills and techniques. The children also love creating structures with blocks and making models. We will apply these skills when we make moving vehicles and investigate how materials can be joined together.

The topic should give children ample opportunity to continue to develop their imaginative skills through music making, singing, role play and painting and model making. It is through many of these activities that we will be encouraging children's thinking and planning skills so they become more successful in their learning

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

- *Helping them with letter sounds and words 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*
- *Talk to children about all the different people in their lives and the jobs they do.*
- *Consider all the different people who help us and how they work together.*

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.

These characteristics are often referred to as resilience, reciprocity, resourcefulness and reflection. Staff use these words and describe their attributes to the children. Each characteristic has an associated media character that's behaviour links to their skill. If you find opportunity to talk about the characteristics with your children then this supports their understanding out of school

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

Topic 1: Gym skills

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

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

All assessments throughout Foundation Stage 2 will be done by 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.