



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

*Sharing our learning*

## Academic Year 2013-2014

- **Year:** Foundation Stage 2
- **Term:** 4

## Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Ms C Pugh
- Mrs A Prentice
- Miss S Rodgers
- Miss J Pendlebury

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term we continue to pilot our new curriculum as we continue with our whole-school 'Theme' called 'Marvellous Machines'.

This is our fourth curriculum overview of the year and the aim remains to provide you with information about what your children will be learning along with tips for supporting them at home. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the parent/carer workshop focusing on subtraction and addition strategies has been rescheduled for **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014** and will take place from 3.30pm starting in the school hall. You are all welcome to come along in order to find out more about the strategies your children are taught.

If you have any questions about the curriculum or if you require any support yourself please let us know straight away. We would still like to hear from you if you feel able to support us in any way – especially if you have an interest or expertise in anything being covered during this theme. At the end of the theme we intend to have a whole-school exhibition - to which you will all be invited - so we can share what we have done and celebrate what we have learned.

I would also welcome your thoughts and feedback either throughout the theme or via a questionnaire I will send home towards the end of the theme. Thank you for your continued support - it is appreciated by us all.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

## R.E. Topic 1: 'Eucharist – Relating and Gathering'

The parish family finds strength in gathering for the celebration of the Eucharist, a sign of God's love in our lives. The children will explore how and why people gather together – in class, with the whole school and as part of the church community. We will discuss what things are better to do together and why. We will give thanks for God's love.

You can support your child's learning at home by thinking and talking about the times your family and friends get together. What is special about these times? How do you feel when you gather together with your friends or family?

## R.E. Topic 2: 'Lent/Easter – Giving'

Lent is the time to prepare for Easter, celebrating the death of Jesus and his resurrection at Easter. It is a time to think about growing – spiritually as well as in nature. Building on the previous weeks learning, we will be thinking about what we need to grow. We will be looking at how plants and animals grow and how we celebrate new life. We will look forward to Easter.

You can support your child's learning at home by noticing any signs of growth and of the start of 'Spring' in the garden. Maybe sow seeds with your child and watch the plants grow. Talk about how you celebrate Easter.





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## EYFS Prime Areas

### Communication & Language (CLL), Physical Development (PD) & Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)

**PSED:** The children will continue to develop their independence skills. They are all familiar with the school routines and the environment and now join in with assembly every week. We are encouraging the children to think about what they can do well and encouraging them to persevere with things they find a bit difficult. Many of the children support and praise each other as they are learning and we will be encouraging these skills. Discussions, stories and everyday events provide opportunities for children to talk about their ideas thoughts and feelings. We will be encouraging the children to share their thoughts with each other, beginning to understand that not everyone feels or thinks the same about a shared event or interest. This also links with the specific area of learning – 'People and communities'.

Our class visit to Whirlow Hall farm will provide many learning opportunities. It will be the first time our class has ventured 'out of school'. We will prepare for the visit by talking about what will happen and keeping safe.

**CLL:** The 'alien' and spaceship theme (linked to 'Marvellous Machines') has promoted a lot of conversation and discussion. The children have been creative in their ideas and talked to each other and children in Y1 and Y2. The whole school theme will continue with 'Marvellous Machines'. We are adapting our theme slightly to link with our farm visit will hopefully stimulate lots of questions and discussion about the animals, plants and machines on the farm. One activity during our visit, is linked to the story of 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. We will be reading the story in class.

**PD:** 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 are essential. Their physical activities will be supplemented by the twice-weekly P.E. sessions. The children have really enjoyed using the apparatus in the hall. We will continue work with apparatus and develop movement activities. The children's skills in dressing and undressing for P.E are really improving which is fantastic for everyone. Fine motor skills will continue to be developed through drawing, writing, painting, threading and manipulating small equipment. We will also think about what we need to do to be healthy and what happens to our body when we exercise.

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

- Continue to encourage your child to be independent when getting dressed/undressed and being responsible for their own belongings.
- Encourage your child to talk about something they have enjoyed and why they like it.
- Talk to your child about stories, books and their interests to support them in their thinking/questioning skills.
- Play 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 RW1 phonics programme and children will continue to learn in small groups and these will be determined by which skills they need to consolidate or develop. Children will also take home books or words to support reading.

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. The whole school will celebrate World Book Day on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Children will be encouraged to write for different purposes, using their phonic knowledge to sound out words. We will help the children to think about what they write ahead of the task.

In mathematics we will continue to recognise and use numbers 1-20. Children will be encouraged





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estimate and calculate in practical situations. They will be adding and subtracting and will be encouraged to explain their ideas and record their findings when appropriate.

Number activities will include counting orally forwards and backwards from a given number, recognising and writing numerals, accurately counting how many in a 'set'. We will introduce counting in 2's or 10's as appropriate. The children will also count with coins and begin to understand the value of different coins. This will be supported by shop play. We will also explore size and capacity in practical ways and use the vocabulary associated with this.

The visit to Whirlow Hall Farm will provide an opportunity to find out about more about our environment and how we live. The children will see farm animals and learn about what they need to grow. They will be encouraged to look closely for similarities and differences between the animals and describe their features. We will encourage the children to use all their senses during the visit. Spring-time provides lots of opportunities to notices changes or growth in plants and animals. The children are already commenting on the growth of bulbs we planted in the Autumn. We will provide opportunities for children to record the changes they see, in a variety of ways – observational drawing, taking photos or writing.

The story of The 'Gruffalo' captures the children's imagination and hopefully the activity on the farm will add a new dimension. The children will continue to be encouraged to draw, paint and make models of their ideas. We will introduce clay as a different material for model making. The children will be also encouraged to express their ideas through music, movement and acting out a story.

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

- Continue to help your child at home with reading and writing activities e.g. writing lists, messages with you
- Reading stories – maybe looking for stories and poems with rhyme
- Help your child to use technology safely at home.
- Visit the Whirlow Hall Farm website together [www.whirlowhallfarm.org](http://www.whirlowhallfarm.org)
- Talk to your child about the coins you use when you are buying something.
- Look for signs of Spring in your garden or in the park or countryside

## **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, but we will also be using musical instruments to accompany poems and stories. We will be learning songs about Spring and farm animals. In our unit entitled 'Working World' the children will learn about texture. They will sing and use untuned percussion to build up a representation of the 'layers' of sound that we hear in our everyday world.

## **PE**

### **PE Topic 1: Gym Work**

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.

### **PE Topic 2: Movement**

This will include movement linked to the story of 'The Gruffalo'.





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## Assessment

Assessments for RWI will be completed in line with the school cycle. All other assessments throughout Foundation Stage 2 will be done by written observation or captioned photographs.

**Please continue to share any 'wow' moments from home including activities outside of school, new skills they have learned and anything they may have found out about the topic we are covering this term.**

