



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning

Academic Year 2012-2013

- Year: 3
- Term: 5

Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Miss Rybka
- Mrs Pickering
- Mr Hawley
- Miss D Rosa

Dear parents and carers,

In Term 5 we begin a new whole-school Curriculum Theme and I am delighted at how our new curriculum is engaging our children. I was really sad that I could not attend the exhibition which was organised to celebrate the learning that had taken place during our first 'Marvellous Machines' theme. I was extremely pleased with the positive feedback that we received about the theme and exhibition.

I am satisfied at the way we are balancing the importance for a dynamic, inclusive and exciting curriculum with the need to maintain a relentless focus on improving standards and accelerating levels pupil progress. Achieving this balance is key to securing the learning ethos I want for St John Fisher. Our challenge is to develop a curriculum that engages all children and empowers them to be the inquisitive, confident and independent learners who enjoy learning and achieve well consistently.

Please read the overview and contact us if you have something you can offer to enhance our children's learning experience. Perhaps you have a collection of artefacts or some experiences or stories to share. Perhaps you have some expertise in a related field or some useful contacts. We would really love to hear from you if you are interested in getting involved.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

R.E. Topic 1

Pentecost

This half term we will be looking at the Pentecost with a focus on serving. The children will learn about the different ways of serving each other and the Lord. We will also investigate fire and wind power as these are the symbols of the Holy Spirit during this season or the Church's year.

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

- *discussing what wind and fire can be used for and how this can create power*
- *investigating what Pentecost is all about*
- *sharing thoughts and ideas about the immense wonder and power of the Holy Spirit*

English: Daily Reading & Spelling Skills

Read Write Inc. Sessions

Children on the Read Write Inc programme will continue to have daily sessions with their group aimed developing confidence with phonics, reading and writing. Children are assessed regularly to ensure that they are in the right group. If you would like more information about the programme please let us know.

Guided Reading

All children no longer involved in the Read Write Inc. programme will have daily reading activities to boost their levels of confidence and enjoyment as well as their comprehension skills. We will be continuing to look at different types of texts and inference. However our main foci this half term will be reading for meaning. This will be getting to know the text inside out and drawing on inference skills to understand a characters actions, deducing why a certain event happened and understanding what the text is about.





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

- reading your child's reading books with them for a few minutes every day as well as enjoying all sorts of other books and reading materials together
- helping your child to read signs and notices when you are out so she/he realises reading is everywhere
- encouraging your child to write as often as possible whether it is signing cards, making shopping lists, labelling pictures, writing stories or helping you when you are writing
- helping your child to form his/her letters correctly when writing - please ask if you would like more information about this
- talking with them about the stories they are reading and how they would react and feel in the same situation

English: Basic Skills

All children will benefit from having daily handwriting, spelling practise and grammar and punctuation sessions focused on their *individual* needs from the targets set out on their last mini report (PAM sheet).

Mathematics: Daily Number & Calculation Skills

In response to issues highlighted by the last mathematics assessment we will focus on the size of numbers and the addition and subtraction operations.

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

- counting forwards in 2's, 5's and 10's and backwards to and from different numbers up to 100;
- asking your child to identify the number that comes just after or before another number or two/three before or after another number;
- asking your child to compare two numbers and asking them to explain which is bigger/smaller and why;
- giving your child numbers and getting them to place them in order on a number line;
- asking your child different addition and subtraction questions in a context for example when you are out shopping by getting them to calculate the total cost of some items or the amount of change they will receive if they do pay not pay with the exact amount of money required;
- practising the various methods taught in class (please come in and see Miss Rybka if you need support or are not sure about the methods used in school)

Theme 2 Introduction: Goals

For this topic we will be looking at the World Cup. As the World Cup is held in Brazil this year we will start off by looking at Brazil. We will be looking at its physical and human features, their food and culture. Then we will move onto look at the different stadiums and the different countries involved in the world cup.

English: Creative Writing

This half term we will be writing postcards, instructions and poems. Most of the writing will be inspired from the book 'The Kapok Tree' which is a tree found in the Amazon Rainforest.

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

- Look at postcards and how they are written and laid out
- Get the children to read instructions to carry out a task
- Look at the features instruction texts have (what makes an instruction text and instruction text)
- Read different types of poems with them and look at the language





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Mathematics within the Theme

We will be looking at capacity and measure taken from recipes as well as lengths and different shapes.

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

- helping your child to measure different things around the home - making sure they start at 0
- encouraging your child to estimate lengths;
- helping to reinforce how many millimetres (mm) there are in a centimetre (cm), millilitres (ml) there are in a litre (l) etc;
- seeing if your child can spot the shapes we are focusing on in class elsewhere e.g. around the house especially when the shape is positioned (orientated) in different ways

Science

In science our focus on plants will be introduced through the story of 'The Kapok Tree'. We will investigate what they need to grow and survive. We will study the life-cycle of a plant and examine the different parts of a flowering plant. We will also carry out investigations as to how plants transport water.

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

- completing your own research about plants and what they need in order to grow and thrive;
- researching the different parts of different plants and flowers looking for similarities and differences;
- helping you child to grow their own plant

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

This term we will continue to focus on friendship and conflict resolution so that the children understand the importance of respecting one another and learn about the positive things they should do if they fall out.

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

- discussing the importance of being a good friend;
- thinking about why we might fall out now and again and what we can do make things better;
- encouraging your child to try to think about other people's feelings in a situation before reacting

Geography/History

Geography plays a huge part in this topic and is really exciting and fun. We will look at the human and physical differences between England and Brazil. We will locate Brazil in an atlas and at maps and keys. We will also debate environmental issues from the story of the Kapok Tree because of the character wanting to chop down the tree and the animals that it will affect.

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

- reading 'The Kapok Tree';
- sharing opinions on the issues it raises;
- looking at maps to find the Amazon Rainforest and talk about what the different map symbols could mean;
- locating different places on maps, including places you have visited or where relatives live;
- comparing Brazil and the UK and discussing the differences and similarities between us

Art & Design Technology

During this exciting project the children will create a large scale picture of a rainforest by sketching and painting.





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

- practising drawing animals and plants
- using paint and different brushes to create pictures; and
- practising mixing colours to create different tones and colours

P.E.

P.E. is on Tuesday afternoon each week. Sessions are led by specialist P.E. coaches. This term they will cover gymnastics and dance. In dance they will be putting together a Brazilian dance which we will record and be shown at the exhibition at the end of the topic.

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

- doing regular physical activity together e.g. playing games in the garden, going for walk in the park or through the woods, going to swimming together;
- enabling your child to different sporting activities in a club e.g. gymnastics, martial arts, dance or football;
- researching Brazilian dance and viewing videos of people doing Brazilian dance; and
- encouraging your child to practise their dancing without feeling silly

Music

We will be learning how to sing and enjoy music as part of a class group and the school community. They will be listening to and appreciating music from around the world.

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

- asking your child to sing songs to you and talk about music lessons
- listening to music from around the world and listening out for the different instruments being played and the tempo and use of voices within the song

