



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning



Academic Year 2017-2018

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

Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mrs H Darken
- Mrs A Prentice
- Mrs Raynes
- Mrs H Morris

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our second curriculum overview of our new school year. Its purpose is to let you know what your children will be learning in the weeks leading up to the Christmas holiday. As always we will also take the opportunity to suggest some ways in which you can support children at home.

Homework is important and so it should be attempted by children on their own. Parents/carers should not worry if their children do not understand how to complete their homework. Homework is set to see what children can and cannot do on their own.

If this is the case, we ask parents/carers to reassure their children and encourage them to do as much as they can honestly manage - and then stop. We do not want to cause stress to the children nor do we want anyone else doing homework for them, as there is no point.

We WILL understand and follow-up any issue(s) with your child, and possibly with parents/carers, so that issues are understood and dealt with. We ask parents/carers to notify us (in person, via email or by adding a note to the homework) explaining that a task was attempted and identifying where the issues might be. We will also seek to reassure and encourage the children so that they do not feel worried or become anxious.

Methods and ways of teaching and learning change constantly which is why we are **always** happy to explain them to parents/carers so that they know how to help their children at home. Sometimes it can be more confusing for a child when well-meaning parents/carers try to help them based on what they remember learning at school - as this could be quite different to how children are taught now.

We are **always** happy to arrange workshops or even provide one-to-one support if parents/carers would like this – just speak to one of us in confidence. As always, if you can support us because you have a skill, specialist knowledge; a real-life experience, artefacts, or useful contacts to share – or if you can help with an educational visit or with activities in class, then please let us know. All offers are welcomed and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

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.



This term we will be thinking about the theme of 'Light and Dark'. We will consider Space and specifically the moon using the well know story 'Whatever Next'.

We will incorporate learning about 'Celebrations' in to our theme. We will learn about Diwali, fireworks, Hanukah and Advent.

Throughout their learning the children will be encouraged to ask 'how' and 'why' questions and offer ideas and answers.

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.

Be Safe - Be Happy Week

As part of '**Be safe, Be happy**' week we will think about how to keep healthy by exercising. We will complete planned sessions on skipping and other sports activities. We will learn about how we can ensure we do our best to prevent spreading germs and understand the importance of good nutrition and hygiene. We will also learn about safety near building sites, railway lines and water.



In addition we will consider how to be a good friend, referring to bullying in an age appropriate way. We will also consider safety online which is a vital element of safety in the modern age. We will highlight who to talk to if we have worries or concerns about something online.

P.E. sessions will be continue to be on **Monday** afternoon and children will be given daily PE instruction in the class outdoor area. During this term the children will be developing key skills for PE such as jumping and landing in addition to balancing.

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 autumn reading the book 'Whatever Next'. We will learn to retell the story and consider the different themes within the book such being lost.

We will then explore non-fiction texts to think more about Space, Diwali and Hanukkah.

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 and learn new information and facts. 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

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 to investigate 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. 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

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.

PE

REAL PE

We will focus on jumping and landing, working with a partner and alone. We will consider balance and co-ordination as a key skill for further skills.

Outdoor games

Team games will continue – running, hopping, etc. and using some small equipment. We will develop skills with a bat and ball.

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. Please continue to add 'Wow moments' to Tapestry, the children really enjoy sharing them with their friends. We will routinely share weekly challenges that will be linked to learning from the week.