Summer Term Newsletter 2024

Year 2

'With Christ as our guide,
we inspire and thrive.'

Welcome Back: We hope that you have all had a restful Easter break and we are looking forward to working with you and your children until the end of the year. A polite reminder – please ensure that your child brings their reading book to school every day and that they have at least 3 adult signatures each week to indicate that they have been reading at home. Homework will continue to be set on Google Classroom on Mondays and spellings will be sent home on Tuesdays. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to any of the Year 2 team.

Religious Education: During the Summer Term we will be starting the RE curriculum, To Know You More Clearly.

We will be working on Branch 5 - Baptism – To the Ends of the Earth where we will be exploring events from the resurrection of Jesus to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We will continue to listen to and discuss Gospel stories of the appearance of the resurrected Jesus to the apostles. We will be exploring the fruits of the Holy Spirit and will be making personal responses to different symbols of the Holy Spirit. We will live out what we have learned by considering how the Holy Spirit can help us transform our own lives and the lives of others.

Then we move onto Branch 6 – Dialogue and Encounter where children will be recognising links and simple connections between the Jewish faith and the Catholic faith. We will also be listening to the religious experiences of others from different communities.

RSE: We will be learning to understand what diversity is and will be teaching this through the book 'The Great Big Book of Families' by M. Hoffman. We will also be learning to understand how we share the world and we will be teaching this through the book 'The First Slodge' by Jeanne Willis.

Mathematics: Below are the main areas that we will be covering and all skills learned are applied in real-life contexts.

Recognise, find, name and write fractions 1/2, 1/4 , ¾, 1/3, and 2/ 4 of a length, shape, set of objects or quantity. Write simple fractions e.g. 1/2 of 6 = 3 and recognise the equivalence of 2/4 and 1/2.

Choosing and using the appropriate standard units to estimate and measure length/height, mass, temperature and capacity to the nearest appropriate unit using rulers, scales, thermometers and measuring vessels.

Using mathematical vocabulary to describe position, direction and movement.

Statistics including interpreting and constructing pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams and simple tables, and asking/answering questions about them.

Phonics: We will continue using Supersonic Phonic Friends as our curriculum and we will continue to have daily phonic lessons.

Reading: We will complete our 'Pathways to Read' unit using the text 'Owen and the Soldier.' We will also be reading 'Fantastic Mr Fox,' by Roald Dahl and will be reading tales from 'Grimm's Fairy Tales.'. We will be focusing on both whole class and grouped reading, looking at the texts in greater detail. We will continue to predict, discuss word meanings, read, retrieve and infer meaning.

Writing: We will complete our 'Pathways to Write' unit using the text 'Major Glad and Major Dizzy. We will spend a week completing a poetry unit where we will be exploring poems based on the theme of night time. We will then use the text 'The Last Wolf,' by Mini Grey to write a letter in the role of the character to save the trees. Lastly, we will read 'Grandad's Secret Child,' by David Litchfield to write our own story with a moral focus.

Grammar: We will learn to use the subordinating conjunctions 'when,' 'if,' 'that,' and 'because.' We will be adding -er and -est to adjectives and will be adding other suffixes to spell longer words like '-ment' and '-ful.' We will also be using apostrophes for possession (i.e. the girl's bag) and apostrophes for contraction (i.e. can't, don't) and use these words within our writing.

How you can help at home: Continue to read with your child on a daily basis, ask your child questions to check that they have understood their reading book. Encourage your child to write where possible, encouraging them to practise the grammar that they have been learning in class and helping your child to learn their weekly spellings.

In maths, talk about fractions in everyday life such as when cutting a pizza or a cake. Allow children to help at home with weighing ingredients or measuring out liquid in a container, discussing the units of measure and asking questions such as 'this weighs 120g, how much more flour do we need to have 200g?'

Science: Our first science topic will be 'Plants - Growth and Care.' We will be investigating why plants grow as they do and recognising the journey from seed to flowering plant. We will be carrying out a fair tests with variables to understand the best conditions for growth of a plant. Then we move on to Habitats where we will discover more about natural habitats and the organisms that live within them. We will study various habitats, locally and globally and consider how the habitat maintains itself through its food chain.

Computing: We will continue our topic of creating pictures on Purple Mash and then we will move onto Questioning where we will be creating pictograms using yes/ no questions to separate information and also make binary trees. Our final computing topic will be coding and we will find out what an algorithm is, understand the collision detection event, debug programs and create a program that includes a button object.

History: We will be continuing our topic of 'Significant Women' and will then begin the theme 'Exploring Changes within Living Memory of Holidays, Fashion and Toys.' Children will use artefacts, timelines and an array of sources to explore the changes and to conclude if it was for the better.

Art: The theme will be 'Stick Transformation Project' where children will learn how artists use their creative skills to re-see and re-imagine the world. The children will explore how they can transform a familiar object like a stick into new and fun forms.

Music: We will be using a new scheme called 'Sing-Up' and will be exploring the unit 'Swing-along with Shostakovich' where the focus will be 2- and 3-time, beat, beat groupings and 20th century classical music. The next theme will be 'Charlie Chaplin' where the children will be learning to create music to accompany a short film featuring Charlie Chaplin, focusing on pitch (high and low), duration (long and short) and dynamics/volume (loud and soft).

French: We will be learning the months of the year, identifying items of clothing and starting to learn animal vocabulary.

PSHE: Children will be learning about how to deal with feeling sad, exploring how sadness makes us feel and how sadness can help us to help ourselves. The children will also be learning that a problem shared is a problem solved and the importance of talking to someone we trust.

PE / Sports: The focus will be striking and fielding games and then the children will move onto the theme of athletics.

How you can help at home (in relation to the above subjects): Use the internet to research what kinds of clothes and toys your parents and grandparents had when they were children. Ask your child what they have been learning in Music and Science and whether they can explain to you some of the terminology that they have learned.