



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

*Sharing our Learning*

## Academic Year 2013-2014

- **Year:** Foundation Stage 2
- **Term:** 5

## Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Miss S Rodgers
- Mrs A Prentice
- Miss Pendlebury
- Miss Hardman

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

## RE Pentecost – Serving: Good News

### **Pentecost- Serving: Good News**

We will focus on the good news of God's love for everyone. At Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit was entrusted to his community of believers (the church) to fulfil Christ's mission of bringing the good news.

We will help the children to know and understand that everyone has good news to share. Children can share their good news by talking to each other and writing messages to each other. We will encourage the children to talk about how they feel in different situations respecting the beliefs of others.

## EYFS Prime Areas

### **Communication & Language, Physical Development & Personal, Social & Emotional Development**

#### **Communication and language**

Many opportunities arise for children to listen and speak in social play and more structured activities. We will be encouraging children to respond to ideas, stories, questions etc. using language (and visual aids as appropriate). Story telling continues to be a key theme, as this links with reading and writing. Stories, role-play and problem solving activities will provide opportunities for children to develop their comprehension and reasoning skills. We will also explore other languages spoken at home, by children in our class.

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**

We will continue to help children develop their independence skills as they are involved in weekly 'challenge' activities. The children will be able to work on activities at their own level, but we will





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encourage them to persist with tasks they may find difficult at first. We want the children to be able to show co-operative skills when working with each other and learning to accept ideas and opinions of others.

Towards the end of last term, some children began to show interest about the different languages spoken at home by the children in our class. We will use this interest as a starting point to help children understand the differences and similarities between communities and cultures.

All of the above links well with our whole school theme of 'GOAL'.

### **Physical Development (PD)**

The theme 'Goal' will run through all areas of learning. The children will be encouraged to achieve their individual 'goals' within physical development. For example, it may mean walking confidently along a balance beam for some children, or using scissors and other tools successfully.

Our PE sessions continue to be on Monday and Friday. We will be using the outdoor space when we can to introduce team games and continue developing skills with balls, hoops etc. If possible, your child will need footwear suitable to use during outdoor sessions e.g. training shoes or similar.

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

- continuing to encourage your child to be responsible for their own belongings;
- helping him or her to understand that not everyone feels the same way about an idea or event; and
- encouraging your child to use sentences when speaking to you about what they have been doing

## **EYFS Specific Areas**

**Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world, Expressive arts and design**

### **Literacy**

We will continue to develop literacy skills using the Read Write Inc (RWI) phonics programme. As before, children will continue to learn in small groups and these will be determined by the skills they need to either consolidate or develop. The RWI books your child brings home may therefore appear to be at a lower level than they are reading in school. Your child may also take a book home which they will need help from you in order to read as they contain words which cannot be read phonetically. It is a good to include a variety of books over a period of time.

During the next few weeks we will start to include more and more stories from other countries or cultures. The story 'Handa's Surprise' (by Eileen Browne) is an example and will be a key book this half-term.

The children enjoyed making story maps earlier in the year and we will be re-visiting this activity to develop the children's storytelling, reading and writing skills.

In writing the children will be developing their skills and confidence in writing captions and sentences. The children will be supported to use non fiction books and IT to find out about other countries. We will also be supporting the children's handwriting skills (linked to Physical development).

### **Mathematics**

The children are enjoying using our new 'Numicon' resources. The children will have daily opportunities to use numbers up to 20 (and beyond where appropriate). We will introduce the vocabulary and practical activities to help the children understand the concepts of 'doubling' and 'halving' numbers. We will include practical activities to continue to explore 2/3 dimensional shapes and pattern making.

### **Understanding the world**

We will use the class computers to find out about another country. We will begin with countries where children have some sort of connection for their family. The children will explore similarities and differences in order to compare two countries. Hopefully we will all learn to say 'hello' in several languages. The children will also use and make maps.





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### **Expressive arts and Design**

The children will be encouraged to retell a familiar story, in role-play, in a small group. Through ideas and discussion, linked to the story Handa's Surprise the children will also have the opportunity to create a large-scale piece of art.

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

- continuing to help your child at home with reading and writing activities;
- reading or telling stories – maybe stories from another country or culture;
- helping your child to use technology safely at home; and
- looking for patterns in the environment – patterns on leaves, animals, buildings

### **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 and 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 tasks.

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.

### **PE**

#### **Topic 1: Skills with Small Apparatus**

This will include using balls, bats, bean-bags, skipping ropes, small hoops, quoits. Children will develop skills individually & with a partner.

#### **Topic 2: Team Games**

Team games will be introduced – running, hopping, etc, and using some small equipment.

### **Assessment**

Assessments for RWI will be completed as appropriate at the end of each cycle, groups will then be reviewed.

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 half term.

