



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning

Academic Year 2013-2014

- **Year:** Foundation Stage 2
- **Term:** 3

Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term we are piloting our new curriculum. Instead of individual termly topics in each year group we now have whole-school 'Themes' and our first pilot theme is called 'Marvellous Machines'.

This is our third curriculum overview of the year and the aim is to provide you with information about what your children will be learning along with tips for supporting them at home. We are also arranging parent/carer workshops for **Wednesday 5th February** to explain the calculation strategies used to teach and learn the four rules of number (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Further details will follow in due course.

If you have any questions about the curriculum or if you require any support yourself please let us know. We would also 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 all the children have learned, achieved and enjoyed.

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

Yours sincerely,


Headteacher

R.E. Topic 1: Our Church/Chinese New Year

Our Church: We will tie this to the concept of different communities or groups and how people belong, and are parts of, different groups. For example, all the children are part of their school community, home community and [school] class community. These different communities all have a foundation and, amongst other things, exist to support and guide us through life. The foundation for the church is belief and we will look at what it means to belong to a church community based on faith. One of the elements will be to visit the church to see it as a meeting place where people come to celebrate their faith and receive guidance.

In addition the children will be told the story behind the Chinese New Year and how this is a traditional festival celebrated by Chinese communities across the world.

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

- Talking to your child about different groups and communities-for example their family or other groups such as Brownies, Scouts, sports teams, choir etc. or other teams or groups to which family members may belong.
- If you attend a place of worship then chat about what it means to belong to this community for your family and others.
- Talking about some of the traditions associated with Chinese New Year-how the years are have a named animal and that 2014 will be the year of the snake.

Theme 1 Introduction: Marvellous Machines

Our theme this term (Marvellous Machines) will be the same as the whole school, in line with the development of the new school curriculum. Initially we will explore machines in space, aliens and the solar system and then develop this in line with particular interests the children may show.





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Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Prime Areas

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

The children now use the classroom and its resources independently and are showing more independence around the school. The Christmas Nativity performance with Years 1 & 2 (KS1) and their continued support from their buddies in Year 4 have helped considerably with this. This will continue into this term as they explore their new topic alongside KS1 and spend time with their buddies. Now they are largely confident around the class environment we will focus on attitudes to learning and in particular thinking skills, including thinking things through before acting and developing empathy. Listening attentively to others, planning, responding to, and asking relevant questions will be our main language and communication focus. Each child now has a new 'Talk Partner' to help them continue to develop confidence to do this and the adults in the room will model and support children as appropriate using photos, pictures and other approaches to help children build and extend these skills.

Throughout the theme the children will be encouraged to ask both children and adults 'how' and 'why' questions and offer ideas and answers to questions asked of them. When using the resources we will encourage children to think and plan ahead as appropriate. This may include thinking about what you want to say, build or write before engaging in the activity. Children will be encouraged to design or draw their ideas.

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.

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

- Continue to encourage children to be independent when getting dressed/undressed and being responsible for their own belongings.
- Talk to them about stories, books and other things and support them in their thinking about these things encouraging them to ask their own questions and ask for explanations.
- Play games in your garden or in the park, particularly running, chasing and ball skills.

Early Years Foundation Stage (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 their 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. Children will be encouraged to write for a variety of purposes—using their phonic knowledge to sound out words and we will encourage the children to think about what they might want to write ahead of the task.

In mathematics we will continue to recognise and use numbers 1-20. Children will be encouraged estimate and calculate in practical situations. They will be adding and subtracting and will be encouraged to 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' and finding 'one more' or 'one less' We will also revisit positional language (backwards, forwards, above, below etc.) and begin to learn the name and properties of a few 3D shapes.

Throughout the topic Marvellous Machines the children will be given a chance to find out new information and facts as well as building and creating. They will be encouraged to use non-fiction





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books and the internet as well as other forms of technology such as digital cameras and other computer applications.

The topic should give children ample opportunity to continue to develop their imaginative skills through music making, singing, role play and painting and model making. It is through many of these activities that we will be encouraging children's thinking and planning skills so they become more successful in their learning.

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

- Helping them with letter sounds at home – saying, reading and writing
- Reading stories, looking at non-fiction books, visiting the library and using the internet to find information.
- Modelling writing and drawing children's attention to this which will help them recognise the importance of learning to write.
- Helping children use technology safely at home.
- Looking at the clear night sky at the stars and trying to identify some of the constellations.
- Talking and finding out about space travel and astronauts.

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. Our module during this theme is called 'Moving Patterns'. We will be learning about musical structures and sequences through a variety of songs and percussion activities. We will also be learning songs as part of our topic on space.

PE

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.

Assessment

The children will have a phonics assessment now that the sounds in set 1 of RWI have been covered and this will be used to inform future groupings of children.

All other assessments throughout Foundation Stage 2 will be done by written observation or captioned photographs.

Please continue to share with us any 'wow' moments from home including activities outside of school, including new skills they have learned and anything they may have found out about our theme this half term.

