

St Francis' Catholic Primary School



Curriculum Newsletter

2J

Year Group and Staff

2K

Teachers: Mrs Jeganathan & Mr Kiernan

Support Staff: Ms Nicholls, Mrs Zariat, Ms Dai, Ms Patel, Ms Mostowa

English

In Year 2, the children will begin by reading 'The Dark' by Lemony Snicket. This book is all about a boy, Laszlo, who is afraid of the dark. This story supports children to develop understanding and empathy through in depth exploration of character viewpoint. It offers young readers a good stimulus for their own descriptive writing as well as some challenging non-fiction text types. After half term children will then read Anna Hibiscus by Atinuke, which is all about Anna who lives in Africa with her large family. This story will help children explore differences and complexities of cultural and personal identities. This story will also inspire children to write poetry and write in role.



Maths

In Year 2, children will build on what they have mastered in Year 1. Children will use place value to order numbers and compare them. Children will continue to develop their mental maths skills, using number facts they already know to add and subtract with larger numbers. Children will also classify 2D shapes using different sorting diagrams as well as develop their vocabulary around position and movement. Children will learn how to measure in centimetre and metres and compare lengths. The Year 2 children will also have the fantastic opportunity to learn how to play **chess** as part of their weekly maths lessons. Learning to play chess will help the children develop their reasoning and problem solving skills. Year 2 is also when children begin to focus more on learning their times tables by heart, starting with x 2, x5 and x10.



Science



To start off the new academic year in Science, pupils will learn about materials. Children start by classifying objects by the materials they are made from, learning about their different properties such as whether they are elastic, waterproof, transparent or opaque. They will then explore how these properties make them suitable for specific purposes. They will go on to explore how the shapes of objects can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching. In doing this they raise questions, perform simple tests, and gather and record data.

RE

Children in Year 2 will have 2 main RE topics (branches) to explore this Autumn term.

Branch 1- Creation and Covenant *Noah and Sacrament of Baptism*

Children will explore the story of Noah in the Old Testament, focussing on how God made a new start for creation and make a covenant (promise) using the sign of the rainbow. Children will link this story to the sacrament of Baptism, how it is a sign of a new start of our lives as part of the church family.

Branch 2- Prophecy and Promise *Nativity – Visitation, Magnificat, Advent*

In this branch, pupils will explore the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfillment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ.

The 4th of October is the Feast of St Francis. We will celebrate our school's patron saint on this day.



Reading

Regular reading is vital for all children, it develops their comprehension and confidence. Children will come home with two reading books every week. They should read them at home with an adult. Parents should also discuss the plot, characters or information in the book with their child to deepen their understanding. Parents are also encouraged to make comments in their children's reading records. Children should bring their reading books in everyday and read them at home every evening.

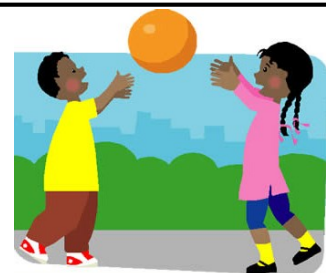


PE

PE is **every Wednesday**

Please make sure your child has the correct PE kit ready for Monday .

In the Autumn term, children will learn about different games and fitness, with a particular focus on ball skills. They will also learn various dance steps and routines after the half term.



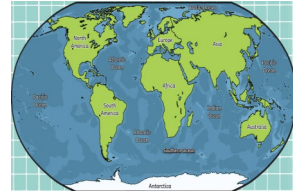
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History & Geography

In October, children will start their Black History topic. Our overall topic for 2024 will be 'Journeys.' This year, the pupils in 2K and 2J will explore the extraordinary life and journey of **Mary Seacole**. Mary Seacole started her life in Kingston Jamaica before moving to central America and then coming to the UK. She wanted to help British soldiers during the Crimean War (1853-56) and travelled to the Crimea (then part of the Russian Empire, now in Ukraine) where she established the 'British Hotel.' She used her own resources and became a celebrated figure among the soldiers. After the half term break children will start their first Geography topic of Year 2. They will learn about the world's **Oceans and Seas**. Through a series of lively and interesting activities the children will build their knowledge of oceans and seas around the world. They will begin to understand the different environments these represent and how they affect life on land as well as at sea. They will develop their geographical skills and build up their knowledge of food chains, exploration, and evolution.



Computing

Our first unit of work is called 'IT Around Us.' Children will then investigate how IT improves our world, and they will learn about the importance of using ICT responsibly.

Then the next unit is: 'Digital Photography' 2J & 2K will learn to recognise that different devices can be used to capture photographs and will gain experience capturing, editing, and improving photos. Finally, they will use this knowledge to recognise that images they see may not be real.



Our **Music** first topic is 'Hands, Feet, Heart!' This unit uses South African music and Freedom Songs. Through this music children will learn a little about Nelson Mandela as a famous and influential person in our lifetimes. Children will also explore the historical context of different musical styles. The second unit is called 'Ho, ho, ho' and will help the children get into the Christmas Spirit. Children will also begin to rehearse for their Nativity production.

PSHE Children will begin Autumn reminding themselves about the 'Zones of Regulation.' Learning about these zones will help children think about how they feel and how they can help calm themselves down when upset or over excited. This term we will also focus on Anti-Bullying, ensure our school continues to be a safe place for all.

Homework

Homework is set on Google Classroom. Children should log on to Google Classroom at home using the same log in details they used last year in Year 1. They do not need to enter a new class code. Every week there will be one piece of English and one piece of Maths homework. The weekly spellings will also be posted. Homework is **set on Friday** and is due to be **returned by Tuesday**. Remember to click the 'turn in' button so the homework can be marked. Spelling tests will be **on Fridays**, giving children a whole week to practise them.



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS Children in Year 2 now have a Times Tables Rock Stars account. This website is a fun and competitive way for children to practise their times tables. Children, as part of their homework should regularly log on to Times Table Rock Stars. Regular use will boost the children's fluency in multiplication and division.

French

The Year 2 children will start learning the names of animals and revising the names of family members in the first half of the term.

le mouton



le cochon



la vache



Handwriting

Year 2 will begin to learn how to join letters, recognising how some letters are formed in similar ways and learning the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join some letters together. If children practise their handwriting and develop a neat style, they may be granted a pen license before the end of the academic year.

ch
an

une chemise



une jupe



une robe



Then children will move on to identifying the names of clothes in French. They will then be able to use the colours they learnt in Year 1 to describe the clothes.