

Religious Education

Baptism:

Children will know that Baptism is a ceremony where babies are named and that water is used in Baptism. Children will also learn that through Baptism they become members of God's family.

God's Family:

Children will be able to give thanks for someone who cares for them. They will also learn that Sunday is an important day.

Lent:

Children will know that God is the Father of Jesus and that the sign of the cross is about God and Jesus. Children also start to understand when they need to say sorry and to recognise times when they can be helpful.

Holy Week:

Children will be able to discuss what makes them happy and unhappy. They will also learn that the cross reminds us of how Jesus died.

Children will also continue to learn their daily prayers and the Sign of the Cross.

Literacy

Listening, Understanding and Reading

Children will be encouraged to listen to stories, joining in with repeated refrains, anticipating key events and what will happen next. They will be encouraged to talk about main characters within books and become aware of how stories are structured. All children are encouraged to recognise their own name by using the self-registration board when they arrive. From the beginning of January we will begin to introduce Set 1 of the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics programme. Each week there will be a 'Sound of the Week' where we will explore what that sound looks and sounds like. We will look at how to form it correctly in writing and to listen for the sound at the beginning of a word (initial sounds).

Read and spell VC (e.g. in) and CVC (e.g. cot) words. Reading two syllable words.
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Set 1: s, a, t, p

Set 2: i, n, m, d

Set 3: g, o, c, k

Set 4: ck, e, u, r

Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

Writing:

Children will be encouraged to hold a pencil correctly, to give meaning to the marks that they make and to start to form letters. We will be doing "Write Dance" and "Dough Disco" sessions along with a wide range of fine motor provision to encourage pre-writing skills, as well as gross motor movement. All children will be encouraged to learn to write their own name correctly with their own name card.

Mathematics

Number:

Children will be developing their number skills through rhymes, songs, and adult led activities. Children will be encouraged to start to identify numbers and match them to the correct number of objects, along with representing numbers. We will be exploring groups of objects and their total number. Children will also be encouraged to realise that not only objects, but anything can be counted, including steps, claps or jumps.

Shape, Space and Measure:

Children will start to develop an understanding of shape, space and measure by playing with puzzles and looking at shapes in the environment, games and songs. Children will have the opportunity to develop and use positional language with the use of objects as well as talking about it. Children will also be encouraged to identify and talk about shapes through sustained construction activities. The children will also have the opportunity to go on a "shape hunt" around school.

Communication and Language

Children will be encouraged to listen carefully whilst sitting on the carpet in the quiet room and to follow routines and instructions as well as maintaining concentration. Children will begin to use more complex sentences to link thoughts whilst speaking. Children will be encouraged to show a good level of understanding during their play with complex questioning from adults e.g. how, why, where etc... questions. Children will continue to be given the opportunity to speak in front of a group and recall a past event when they share their weekend news on a Monday.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Children will learn to share with their friends and to play cooperatively, as well as playing in a group to extend and elaborate on play ideas. Children will be encouraged to demonstrate friendly behaviour at all times by sharing, helping each other and communicating with other children and adults. Children will learn that some actions or words could hurt someone's feelings and we need to be kind when speaking or playing. We will have a 'Child of the Week' each Monday and they will be given small tasks and responsibilities to boost self-confidence and self-awareness.
Physical Development	Children will begin to draw lines and circles using gross motor movements as well as using one-handed tools and equipment such as scissors, pencils and paintbrushes. Children will be encouraged to hold their pencil between their thumb and two fingers, no longer using a whole-hand grasp. We will also begin to look at forming some letters correctly. Every Monday will now be 'Movement Monday' where we explore different ways of moving, balancing and looking after our bodies. Children will persist with developing independence in health and self-care by putting on their own coats, going to the toilet and washing their hands.
Understanding the World	Children will have the opportunity to play with a variety of small world models such as farms, garages, houses, hospitals and train tracks. They will be encouraged to show skill in making toys work by pressing parts or lifting flaps to achieve effects such as sound, movements or new images. Children will also have access to IPADS in order to develop their ICT skills. Children will be encouraged to talk, describe and recall special events that may have happened to them, family or friends. Children will also have the opportunity to talk about some of the things that they may have observed at Nursery such as plants, animals, natural and found objects. As well as starting to develop an understanding of growth in plants and animals. We will be planting and watching some seeds grow. We will also be participating in the Chick Hatching Project whereby the children will follow the life cycle of an egg.
Expressive Arts and Design	Children will be encouraged to join in when singing their favourite songs. During "Movement Monday" children will be given opportunities to move rhythmically to music. Children will have the opportunity to use musical instruments alongside music to begin to develop an understanding of beats and rhythm. Children will continue to have access to the role play area which, for this term, will be a food shop. There will be access daily to a wide range of craft materials and activities including paints, play dough, crayons, chalks, collage materials and junk modelling. Children will also be exploring colour and what happens when we mix colours together.
Other Activities / Visits	Spring walk in the school grounds Easter Craft Morning – Details to follow Chinese New Year activities

Homework Arrangements:

Every **Friday** children will be given a 'Weekend News' sheet. Children will be encouraged to talk to the adults and children in the Nursery about what they did at the weekend / over the holidays. They can draw a picture and / or attach a photograph.

Children will also be bringing home a 'Wow Petal'. This is an opportunity for you to tell us about anything fantastic your child has been doing at home. This can be anything ranging from 'putting their shoes on independently,' 'sleeping in their own bed all night,' or 'being kind to their brother or sister.'

Every **Friday** your child will continue to bring home a reading book. This is a general book from our Nursery library which the children will choose themselves. We encourage all parents/carers to explore and read the book with their child and return it to Nursery the following Friday.

Useful Information:

Please ensure all clothing is labelled.

We would appreciate it if all children could have a spare set of clothes (including pumps/spare shoes) on their peg as well as any wet wipes if needed.

Mondays will continue to be '**Movement Mondays**'. Could you please ensure that you send your child to school in plain black or plain grey jogging bottoms, school P.E pumps and their normal Holy Name polo shirt and jumper.

Thank you.