

Year 2 Overview Autumn 2024

	In class your child will...	At home you could...
Science		
Materials	This unit will allow children to explore a variety of common materials. Children will investigate the properties of different materials and understand how they can classify them. They will develop their investigation skills through completing simple experiments.	<i>Complete a material hunt around the house, asking your child to find a variety of materials. Discuss why objects in the home are made from particular materials. Play 'Guess the material' by asking your child to think of a material and you having to guess it by asking questions such as 'Can you see through it?'</i>
Computing		
Programming Skills	In class, we will be exploring what algorithms are, how they are implemented as programs on digital devices, and that programs execute by following precise instructions. We will provide opportunity to create and debug simple programs using a programme called Scratch Jr.	<i>Talk to your child about how they can stay safe online. Give your child a set of simple instructions to follow. Can they do 3, 4 or 5 in a row?</i>
Religious Education		
Who are Muslims and how do they live?	Children will begin to identify some key Muslim beliefs about God. They will find out about the Shahadah and explore its importance for Muslims. This is the first half of a double unit on Islam, which we will return to in the spring term.	<i>Encourage your child to ask questions about their learning in RE. Talk about what they might like to find out next.</i>
Why does Christmas matter to Christians?	In this unit, children will explore the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important for Christians. They will think about what Christmas means to people who are Christians and people who are not. Children will also consider what they are personally thankful for.	<i>Take a look at some Christmas cards in the shops and talk about which ones reflect the Christian story of Jesus' birth.</i>
History		
Guy Fawkes	Children will explore the vocabulary used to describe the passing of time. They will learn about the story of the Gunpowder Plot and the different characters within the story. After considering the facts, children will explain whether they think Guy Fawkes was a hero or a villain.	<i>Share with your child family photographs and talk about the 'story' behind the photos. Once we have begun our topic, ask your child/ren to tell you what they have learned about Guy Fawkes. (Please don't tell them yet as we hope to slowly reveal and explore information.)</i>
Geography		
Why does it matter where our food comes from?	Children investigate a farm with the aim of establishing the key fact that everything they eat comes either from a plant or animal. Children then look more closely at our county of Devon and enquire as to why there are so many dairy farms to be found here compared with the rest of the United Kingdom. A global perspective to the investigation is then explored through the study of banana growing, harvesting, packing and export in Costa Rica.	<i>Carry out some simple supported research into the top 10 favourite meals most commonly made at home by people in the UK. Try to find out the ingredients of each meal and then work out whether these ingredients are produced on British farms or whether they have to be imported from farmers in other countries of the world. Why not have a go at cooking one of these meals too?!</i>

Art		
Collage	Children will develop their cutting, tearing and fixing techniques to create a collage of a landscape.	<i>Draw what you see when you look out of one of your windows at home.</i>
Design and Technology		
Christmas Decorations (Sewing)	Children will be exploring the use and purpose of decorations for celebrations. Children will design and make a decoration by sewing two pieces of fabric together. Children will look at the running stitch and the over stitch. Children will look at how we can attach embellishments to their decorations to make them more eye-catching.	<i>Have you got any decorations in your home? What are these made from? Can you use some of our vocabulary learnt in our Science 'Materials' unit to describe these? Make your own decoration out of natural materials you find outside or around your home.</i>
Music		
Pulse, Rhythm and Pitch	Children will learn that music has a pulse, a steady beat. Music is also made up of long and short and high and low sounds, called 'rhythm' and 'pitch'. These elements combine when we sing and play. As they listen to, sing, play and dance to the music in this unit, they will explore these elements of music and how they work together.	<i>Listen to a variety of appropriate music at home and move your bodies to the pulse. Is it a fast song or a slow song? See if you can copy some of the rhythms that you hear in the songs by clapping them back.</i>
Inventing a Musical Story	Children will learn that music is used for many reasons and can help us to tell a story and express our feelings. Music can be loud or soft, fast or slow, smooth and connected, or short and detached. We can also use instruments with different sounds to help communicate a story and different emotions. We will explore the music in this unit and try to connect our feelings with what we hear.	<i>What are your favourite songs? Do they tell a story? Can you turn one of your story books into a song?</i>
Personal, Social and Health Education		
Being Me	Children learn to recognise their rights and responsibilities as a member of their class. They discuss their hopes and fears for the year and learn how to listen to other people's contributions. They will understand how choices they make may have consequences and follow a class charter to be able to work cooperatively with their peers.	<i>Talk to your child about who they could talk to if they had any worries. Help children learn how to keep themselves safe in different situations.</i>
Celebrating Difference	Children will understand that sometimes people make assumptions about boys and girls (stereotypes). They will explore the meaning of bullying and how to stand up for themselves and others. They will talk about being individuals and understand that it is good to be different from other people and to be friends with them. They will celebrate the differences within their class.	<i>Can you give an example of a stereotype to your parents? What is different about each member of your family?</i>

Physical Education

Target Games

Children will be practising throwing and catching using bean bags and a variety of balls. They will have opportunities to apply their throwing and catching skills to games situations. Children will continue developing their awareness of how the body functions during exercise.

Gymnastics

The children will access a broad range of opportunities to extend their knowledge and understanding of gymnastics. They will build on their motor competence exploring shapes in balances, rolls and jumps. The children will combine actions to make a sequence that can be performed leading and following a partner.

To develop their skills, you could:

- *practise throwing and catching a ball with your child*
- *visit a park and see if they can travel along the whole of the monkey bars.*

To inspire your child, you could:

- *Watch clips of gymnastics at Paris 2024 here*
<https://olympics.com/en/paris-2024/sports/artistic-gymnastics>