

Durham Class News

BE LIKE JESUS. BE YOUR BEST. BE SAFE. BE CARING.

Advent (2)



We have had a fantastic and busy first half term in Year Two and we are so proud of how all of the children have settled into our class routine and expectations.

Hopefully, this newsletter will give you a better idea of what we'll be learning in the run up to Christmas.

Religious Education

'To Know You More Clearly'

On the week beginning Monday 4th November, we will be learning about another world religion: Judaism. All of the classes in school will be learning about an aspect of the Jewish faith during this half term. In Year 2, we will be learning about the signs, symbols and actions of Shabbat.

From Monday 11th November until the end of term, we will move on to Branch Two of the Religious Education Directory (RED), which is entitled 'Prophecy and Promise'. We will be learning what a 'prophet' is and look at the examples of Isaiah and John the Baptist as prophets. We will also be working on our retell skills by retelling the annunciation and birth of John the Baptist and the annunciation of Jesus. We will reflect on the 'Magnificat' and the meaning of some of the lines from Mary's song of praise. We will be learning about how we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and will even put our floristry skills to the test by making our own miniature Advent wreaths. We will complete the topic by retelling the story of Jesus' Nativity.

Prayer and worship remain an integral part of each day and the children are very welcome to bring in and share any prayers or books on our class prayer table.

English

In Read, Write Inc and Phonics, children will be assessed regularly and placed into groups to support their early reading, spelling and writing. During these Read, Write Inc lessons, we explicitly teach phonics, reading, spelling and grammar.

In our Talk 4 Writing lessons, we will be exploring poetry. Our model text is 'November Poem' by Danielle Sensier. We will be learning how to use repetition, powerful verbs and we'll make things come to life using personification. At the end of the unit, we will be writing our own poems using our poetry 'toolkit' (all the features we've spotted in our model text).

Following this, we will be learning how to write a good journey story. Our model text for this is 'The Polar Express'. Again, we will learn how to use the writer's tricks so that we can apply these in our own writing.

Mathematics

We continue to use Power Maths for the teaching of Mathematics. Our first unit this half term builds on the children's previous knowledge of addition and subtraction. We will continue to practise using the column method for addition and subtraction, including calculations with two 2-digit numbers. We will be practising adding three 1-digit numbers and apply our learning to solving word problems.

Our following unit is 'Money'. We will be learning how to count coins and notes, compare difference amounts of money, find different ways to make the same amount and find change. You can support this learning in very practical ways at home; you can play shops or even ask

your child to make an amount to pay when you visit the shops together.

Before Christmas, we will be learning about multiplication and division. We will start by embedding our understanding of equal groups before writing multiplication number sentences. We will use arrays to visually represent multiplication and continue to practise our 2, 5 and 10 times tables.



Example Array
 $3 \times 3 = 9$

Science

In Science we will be continuing with our topic 'Animals, Including Humans'. So far, we have learnt how different animals and humans change as they grow and what the different stages of human growth are. After half term, we will be learning about the three basic needs of all animals, investigating the effects of exercise on the human body, and explaining the importance of exercise and a balanced diet.

History

In History we will be continuing our 'Nurturing Nurses' topic. We have learnt about Florence Nightingale's work during the Crimean war and her impact on nursing and hospitals. We have also learnt about Mary Seacole and what makes her a significant individual too. After half term, we will be comparing the two nurses and contrasting nursing in the 19th century to nursing today. You can support your child to remember more by asking questions such as:

- What was Florence Nightingale's nickname?
- How did Florence Nightingale/Mary Seacole help soldiers?
- How did Florence Nightingale improve nursing and hospitals?
- How are Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole similar? How are they different?

Geography

In Geography, we will continue to learn about the capital cities of the UK, identifying physical and human features of these locations. You can support your child to remember more by:

- Identifying the seven continents on a world map.
- Identifying the countries that make up the United Kingdom and their capital cities.
- Talking to them about places in the UK they have visited and find them on a map.

Design Technology

In DT – just before Christmas - the children will be designing, making and evaluating puppets. We will be designing different types of puppets and developing our textiles and sewing skills by making our own hand puppets.

PE

This half term our PE days will continue to be on Mondays and Fridays. On Mondays we will have dance and on Fridays we will have handball.

Music

In Music this half term, the theme is 'Animals'. In this unit, the children will use instruments to represent animals, copy rhythms and create call and response rhythms. Children will use dynamics when creating sound, play in time with a group, experiment with different sounds on the same instrument and, finally, perform a short composition.

We will also be enhancing our music curriculum by spending time rehearsing the songs for our Nativity play.

Nativity

The children have now been sent home with a script to begin learning their lines for this year's Nativity Play: 'Fleece Force'. Please spend some time at home learning lines and becoming familiar with song lyrics. The children will need to bring their scripts to school with them every day after half term.

Reading at Home

Children are expected to read for 10 minutes every day and the more often they read the better! This includes reading to an adult. Children's reading should be recorded in their brand-new reading diary/planner. There are lots of other useful resources in here too so please take some time to have a good look through. Children will change their books on Wednesdays. They are encouraged to read the same book multiple times to develop fluency, expression and comprehension. Our Read, Write Inc Book-Bag Books contain lots of questions and activities to support reading at home. Of course, children should also be encouraged to read more widely too, reading books they have at home or from the library with an adult or independently.

Spellings

Spelling continues to be taught as part of our Read, Write Inc phonics lessons. The children practise spelling words with the day's focus and are encouraged to "pinch each sound on their Fred fingers" before writing the word. We are encouraging the children to make better choices as to which sounds are more likely to be seen in certain parts of words. You can support your child by practising the common exception words and red words listed in your child's reading diary/planner, and by revisiting words learnt in previous weeks!

Water Bottles

Children are asked to ensure they bring a water bottle to school each day. They are encouraged to drink water throughout the day to aid concentration. Water bottles should be taken home each night for washing.

P.E. Kit

The children will have two P.E. lessons each week – taught by external coaches. Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing their 'active uniform'/PE kit on Mondays and Fridays. Outdoor kit should include: plain black tracksuit bottoms, yellow polo shirt, yellow sweatshirt and outdoor trainers.

Uniform

After the October half term, all children must come to school in their winter uniform. Details of this can be found in our uniform policy, which can be accessed on the school website.

Please ensure that every item of clothing clearly contains your child's name so that we can return anything that goes missing to them.

If you have any quick questions please feel free to speak to us at the end of the school day once all of the children have been dismissed. If, at that point, you feel you require a longer appointment, we can arrange a meeting via the school office (01773822278).

We are really looking forward to an exciting half term and an arresting Nativity!

Mr T Ward, Mrs D Parry and the Year Two Team

Reminders	
Monday	PE (Come to school in 'active' uniform/PE kit) Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school.
Tuesday	Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school.
Wednesday	Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school. Reading books will be changed.
Thursday	Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school.
Friday	PE (Come to school in 'active' uniform/PE kit) Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school.

Dates For Your Diary		
W.C.28.10.24	HALF TERM	
04.11.24	All Day	Children Return to School We look forward to welcoming the children back to school today. Please return any complete luggage tags for our 'Empty Chair' devotion during the month of November.
28.11.24	All Day	Non-Uniform Day (Chocolate Donations for the SEA) Your child may wear non-uniform. We ask for a donation of an item of chocolate for our Christmas Fayre.
29.11.24	All Day	INSET Day - Saint Ralph Sherwin Feast Day School will be closed to pupils today. Staff will be joining colleagues from across the SRSCMAT to celebrate the Feast of Saint Ralph Sherwin and attend training.
06.12.24	All Day	Non-Uniform Day (Bottle Donations for the SEA) Your child may wear non-uniform. We ask for a donation of a bottle for our Christmas Fayre.
10.12.24	14:00 – 15:00	Nativity – Fleece Force! This will be the children's afternoon performance of our Nativity play – 'Fleece Force'. Information regarding tickets to follow.
11.12.24	18:00 – 19:30	Nativity – Fleece Force! This will be the children's evening performance of our Nativity play – 'Fleece Force'. Information regarding tickets to follow. The children should arrive at school for 18:00 ready for curtains up at 18:30.
13.12.24	Afternoon (Timings TBC)	SEA Christmas Fayre Please support our SEA to raise funds for school by visiting our Christmas Fayre.
19.12.24	10:00 – 11:00	Whole School Advent Mass You are invited to join us for the celebration of the Mass on the theme of Waiting in Joyful Hope.
20.12.24	14:00	Carols Around the Tree You are invited to join us for a celebration of carols around the tree in the school hall. The Children break up for the Christmas holidays.
W.C 23.12.24 & 28.12.24	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
06.01.25	Children return to school EPIPHANY	
13.02.24	15:00 – 15:30	Year 2 Class Assembly You are warmly invited to join us for our class assembly. During this time, we hope to share some of our learning with you.