

Curriculum Overview

We use a topic theme from our Cornerstones Maestro which is story based. The children have a focused story each half term, which we use to develop children's vocabulary, reading and writing through Talk 4 Writing. This is supplemented each week by a different story book, which is related to the topic, and we can cover all the different areas of the EYFS curriculum. Enhanced Provision is then provided in the different areas of the classroom and we also follow the children's interests in Continuous Provision to support and develop their learning.

We want to give the children the opportunity to offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.

Autumn 1 Term	Rationale
RE – Creation and Covenant In this branch the children will learn that God is love. God made each one of us. God loves each one of us as a unique person. God made a wonderful world and what God creates is good. God loves us and we are part of a family.	The children know that they are part of God's wonderful world and begin to learn why we need to respect and look after the world around us. Children will understand why we care and love ourself, family, others, and God's world. God made each of us, so each one of us is very special. We must treat others in a caring way because God made them too.
Let's Explore! This topic will be enhanced by the story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' We will begin by taking the children on a bear hunt where we will explore long wavy grass, a deep cold river, thick oozy mud and a big dark forest where we will find a bear and one of his friends. Memorable experience – Children to go on a journey to explore the school and school grounds. Children will have the opportunity to visit all the classes, office and outdoor areas and familiarise themselves with their new school.	The children will be able to explore their local environment, using a well-known favourite story and understand the different localities The children become aware about the environments that they share with others, including their homes, school and places in the local community.

My Cat likes to hide in Boxes – the children explore rhyming words in the story. They then Look at the different boxes in which the cat likes to hide. The children will be provided with a selection of large boxes and encouraged to work together to make dens using the boxes. Support the children to communicate their ideas, share the resources and cooperate with each other as they create. When the dens are complete, take pictures of the children inside.

In Every House on Every Street – Using this story the children will explore what happens in each room and make connections with their own homes.

We will then take a short walk around the local community and look at different types of houses. When we are back in school we will look at google maps and revisit the route we took.

Mr Gumpy's Outing – Children can talk about the places they have visited. They will be encouraged to describe the location, what the weather was like and how they travelled. We will look at a globe and a world map. We will focus on locating the UK on the map and places the children have visited.

Exploring Autumn

This project teaches children about the natural changes that happen during the season of autumn, including how the weather changes, why trees lose their leaves and how wild animals prepare for winter.

The children have the opportunity to create collaboratively, share ideas and use a variety of resources to make products inspired by existing products, stories or their own ideas, interests or experiences.

The children learn that we are part of a community and this is a group of people who live together or share a space.

The children will complete simple fieldwork going on walks and visits to collect information about the environment and use maps and plans to represent areas and show their features, including roads.

The children will be able to explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps.

The children can explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.

Autumn 2 Term	Rationale
RE – Prophecy and promise The children will focus on the scripture The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-31, 38). The Nativity (Lk 2: 4-7). The Shepherds visit the manger (Lk 2:8-20) They will learn how Mary was chosen by God to give birth to his Son. Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger and the shepherds were told by angels to visit him	The children are aware that God made all the people in the world to be part of his family and that we are part of it too and that God's greatest gift to us was to send us his only son Jesus and respond to that gift. The children are aware of the church's social teaching including what scripture says, the church says and the Pope. They will develop empathy for the wider world and how our actions make a difference.
Once Upon a Time This project supports children to develop a love of stories and reading. It encourages children to learn, retell and act out familiar and traditional tales including <i>Cinderella</i>, <i>Goldilocks</i>, <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i>, <i>The Three Little Pigs</i> and <i>The Three Billy Goats Gruff</i>. Memorable experience – The children will begin this topic with a puppet show from 'History Alive' Cinderella – We will look at kings and queens and relate this to our King (and our queen who has recently died). We will also look at castles and the different structures and then make our own castle for a king! Goldilocks and the 3 Bears – The children will enjoy this story and we will look at the setting in comparison to Cinderella. The children will make porridge and learn how porridge is a healthy breakfast choice.	The children will listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. The children will understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered by storyretelling. The children will know some kings and queens are real people and some are characters in stories. The children will be able to select appropriate materials when constructing and making. The children will understand why it is important to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Little Red Riding Hood – We will set up a woodland scene in a Tuff Tub using small logs, branches, pebbles and woodland creatures. Add boxes or blocks to represent cottages and small world characters from fairy tales set in the woods. The children can draw maps of journeys through the woods for the fairy tale characters.

The children will look at clothing from a long time ago when the stories *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *Little Red Riding Hood* were written. Invite the children to describe the clothing and compare how they are different from the clothes they wear today.

Build it up!

The children will be introduced to our role play 'Builder's Yard'. Children will have the opportunity to use real wood, pallets, wheelbarrows and building materials in play.

Three Billy Goats Gruff – Children will look at the structure of bridges. They will then work together to make a bridge that they (outside with large scale apparatus), or a toy (small wooden blocks and lollipop sticks in the construction area) can test.

The Three Little Pigs – We will talk about the materials the pigs used to build their houses and whether they made good choices. Ask the children what materials they think were used to make their houses. The children will be provided with a range of building materials, including stone, slate, brick, glass, wood, rubber, plastic and metal to handle and describe how they feel. Questions to prompt the children's scientific thinking will be asked and children will discuss with a partner.

The children will demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.

The children will know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.

This project teaches children about structures and materials and gives them the opportunity to work in groups to create collaborative structures.

The children can test and adapt their designs as they make the bridges.

They will create collaboratively, share ideas and use a variety of resources to make products inspired by existing products, stories or their own ideas, interests or experiences

The children will share their observations and help each other to sort the materials according to criteria they suggest.

Spring 1 Term	Rationale
RE – Galilee to Jerusalem The children will look at the scripture The visit of the Magi (Matt 2:1-12). Jesus blesses the little children (Mk 10:13-16). Feeding of 5000 (Jn 6:1-14).	The children will understand you need food, water, a house, your school, a good doctor, and a job for the grown-up who takes care of you. So does everybody else on the whole Earth, but many people do not have these things. Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people.
Starry Night This topic will be taught through the story 'Whatever Next!' and the children will look at the difference between day and night. The children will explore what happens when they fall asleep and learn about different nocturnal animals. Peace at Last – the children will explore who works at night including any of our own family members. We will also look at the importance of getting ready for bed and cleaning teeth, as well as looking at our dreams. Owl Babies – the children will look into more detail at animals that come out at night. We will explore the woods around us as well as looking at light and dark and moonlight shadows. How to catch a star – the children will take part in space journeys, learn about the planets, stars and moon and learn why it is dark at night. The Snowman and Gruffalo's Child will support us looking at the change in season and how we are now in 'Wonderful Winter'. The main aspects covered will be freezing, winter facts and countries where it is cold.	This topic explores the differences in the world at night compared to during the day. It teaches children about the importance of a good night's sleep, and helps them to discover what is happening in the world while they are sleeping, including finding out about nocturnal animals. The children can manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices. Children can explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. Children are encouraged to ask wondering questions including who why, what, when, where and how. Children can explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.

Spring 2 Term	
RE – Desert to garden The children will look at a simplified version of key events of Holy Week especially Good Friday and Easter Sunday	The children will understand that Easter is a celebration that Jesus is with us still. They will recognise simple signs of Lent and Easter and their significance.
Dangerous Dinosaurs We will start this topic with a visit from Bolton Library Service with the exciting workshop 'Dinosaur Discovery'. The children will learn new vocabulary about dinosaurs and will be encouraged to share what they would like to learn in this topic. The topic will be taught through the following books: Dear Dinosaur – the children will look at dinosaur eggs and be given the opportunity to make their own dinosaur eggs and dig for different fossils. They will make their own dinosaur islands and create maps. Dinosaur Information Book – the children will learn the difference between fact and fiction and be challenged to think of questions to find out more interesting facts. The children will be introduced to the meaning of carnivore and herbivore and be able to sort animals into the 2 headings. Cave Baby – the children will map out the journey that Cave Baby made (role play and pictorially). They will look at modern-day animals and compare their similarities and differences with their prehistoric relatives. Finally the children will create their own Ammonite Art using a variety of techniques and tools.	This topic teaches children about the different animals that roamed Earth millions of years ago and how they are related to animals that live on Earth today. Children make and use simple maps in their play to represent places and journeys, real and imagined The children will be able listen to and talk about selected non-fiction books to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary. Children will be introduced to representing scientific observations. Children share their creations with others, explaining their intentions and the techniques and tools they used.

Tyrannosaurus Drip – the children will be invited to talk about how the different dinosaurs behaved in the story and discuss how we are all different. Ask the question 'If a dinosaur came to visit, what would it need to know so that it could follow our class rules?' Invite the children to share their answers.	Children understand how to treat each other with kindness and respect.
Summer 1 Term	Rationale
RE – To the Ends of the Earth The children will learn Jesus went back to his Father. He sent a special friend, the Holy Spirit, to look after us and a simple story of Pentecost.	The children will understand Pentecost is a special celebration in the Church and Sunday is a special day for the Church to celebrate
Creep, Crawl and Wriggle This topic will be taught through the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and the children will carry out a minibeast safari looking for minibeasts in their natural habitat, which is their home. The children will be encouraged to search for minibeasts that wriggle, crawl, slide or fly. Animal Safari We will start our topic with a trip to Blackpool Zoo! This topic will be taught through the story 'Handa's Surprise' and the children will be able to describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps and compare with Africa. First Book of Animals – Children will learn that carnivores are animals that eat other animals and herbivores are animals that eat plants. The children will be introduced to the	To understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter. This topic teaches children about the animals that live around the world and in particular, Africa. The children will learn how Africa is a continent made up of lots of countries. We will use this story to follow talk4writing and follow the 3 steps of Imitation, Innovation and Invention. Children will explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants

vocabulary 'reptile', 'mammal' and 'bird' and be able to sort into groups There's a rang-a-tan in my room – Children will learn that endangered animals are at risk of dying out. Children will be encouraged to ask questions and compare the rainforest habitat with where they live. Children will learn that rainforests are forest habitats in hot, rainy (tropical) places. They will look on a world map or globe to see the location of rainforests, such as the Amazon Rainforest Children will be provided with time to ask questions and compare the rainforest habitat with where they live.	Children understand a habitat is the natural home for plants and animals and endangered animals are at risk of dying out. Rainforests are forests in tropical areas with heavy daily rainfall.
Summer 2 Term	Rationale
RE – Dialogue and Encounter The children will learn about Judaism because Jesus was born and lived his earthly life as a part of the Jewish community and Hebrew scriptures are an integral part of Christian beliefs	In the same way that children learn respect for Christianity, through respectful sitting during prayer and liturgy, careful handling of religious artefacts, and thoughtful learning, they should foster attitudes of respect for other people's spiritual and cultural traditions.
On the Beach We will start this topic by having a workshop delivered about seaside now and in the past. We will then use the story 'Lucy and Tom go to the Seaside' to compare seaside in the past and present Who's hiding at the Seaside - Children will be introduced to different seashore habitats, including the beach, cliffs, rock pools and the sea. They will investigate who lives in a rock pool, look closely at crabs, starfish, clams and complete lots of artwork to showcase their learning. Someone Swallowed Stanley – we will use this book to learn about the importance of keeping our seas, oceans and beaches	Children will be able to talk about stories and make connections with events in their own lives or other familiar stories. The children will be able to describe how the weather, plants and animals of one place is different to another using simple geographical terms and identify common features for different groups of animals, including wild and domestic animals. They will do this by Creating art in different ways on a theme, to express their ideas and feelings.

clean and free of litter. The children will look at the different seas and oceans around the world using a globe and google maps and compare hot and cold climates.

Come away from the water, Shirley –

The children will be introduced the world of pirates and sailing and the vocabulary surrounding this book. They will receive a message in a bottle and create story maps. The children will also learn about water safety and the people who help at sea.

Say Goodbye....Say Hello – Using this story the children will explore that every time we say goodbye to someone or something, we say hello to something new, whether this is friends, places or new experiences. The children will reflect on their time in Reception and think of all the things they will look forward to saying 'hello' to when they move into Year 1.

The children will begin to notice and talk about the different places around the world, including oceans and seas.

They will describe how the weather, plants and animals of one place is different to another using simple geographical terms.

The children will be able to express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses. They will be able to talk about the different occupations that familiar adults and members of their community have.

The children will use the story to make connections to celebrate celebrate the children's successes throughout their Reception year. It explores how they have grown and changed and supports them with the changes to come as they move into Year 1.