

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

Curriculum Update

Autumn Term 1 - Y2N and Y2C

Dear Parents,

This letter informs you about what your child will be learning at school in their first half term of Year 2. We hope that you will be able to help your child explore and discuss these areas at home through some of the following ideas:

- researching areas at the local library and helping your child develop their library skills
- searching with them on the internet for child friendly material and relevant websites
- watching relevant television programmes that may support their work, or visiting a museum
- **and, most importantly**, talking to your child about what they have done at school! Listen to what they have learned and praise their achievements!

Subject	Our Learning
Religious Education	We will begin the term by exploring the meaning behind the Lord's Prayer. We will look in depth at the story of The Creation and discuss what it tells us about God, creation and the wider world. We will look at how Christians look after God's world and the things he has created. We will be finding out about the life and work of St Francis and making links with how we live our own lives.
Science	This term we will use the local environment to observe how different plants grow. We will be introduced to the lifecycle stages of a plant, including germination, growth and survival, in addition to the processes of reproduction and growth. We will work scientifically by observing the growth of a variety of plants as they develop from a seed or bulb and record our findings.
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)	We will be creating our own classroom rules and thinking about the importance of rules to make the classroom a safe and happy place to be in. Through discussion, we will think about the responsibilities we have for others, both at home and in school. We will learn about the hazards associated with touching certain chemicals and liquids and how we can keep ourselves safe. As part of our work we will write rules for keeping safe in different situations. We will learn that, as we grow and change, we become more independent and identify opportunities for responsibility that independence brings.

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Topic	Our Learning
<p data-bbox="165 192 320 331">The Scented Garden</p> 	<p data-bbox="387 152 1485 367">During the first seven days of this term each class will focus on a non-European country. We will explore maps and learn the names of the countries which make up the UK. We will identify their capital cities and the seas which surround the UK. We will compare human and physical features of towns within our chosen country and familiar towns within the UK.</p> <p data-bbox="387 409 1485 517">Our topic for the rest of the half term is called The Scented Garden and we will be working in the school garden to create a garden which will attract a range of minibeasts.</p> <p data-bbox="387 555 1485 808">Computing We will learn what an algorithm is and how it is used to program a device. We will create a computer program using new vocabulary related to coding, such as command, repeat, input and output. As we create programs, we will debug them and make changes. We will learn about what the internet is and what we use it for as children and how adults use it. We will discuss appropriate and inappropriate use of the internet.</p> <p data-bbox="387 846 1485 1021">Art We will create floral collages based on the work of famous artists using papers and fabrics. We will explore how to represent colours and textures effectively. As we explore different plants, we will create detailed observational sketches and drawings using line, shade and texture to add detail.</p> <p data-bbox="387 1059 1485 1167">Design and Technology We will use a range of tools and materials to design and model a fantasy garden for a given purpose. We will plan, assemble and evaluate our own realistic models.</p> <p data-bbox="387 1205 1485 1496">Geography We will use a range of texts, including the internet, to find out about plants and flowers which grow in the Brazilian rainforest. We will note how climate affects what grows in a given environment. We will begin to understand geographical similarities and differences by studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the UK, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country. We will continue to develop our mapping skills in order to create plans with simple keys.</p> <p data-bbox="387 1534 1485 1709">Music Our topic within music is Hands, Feet and Heart. Within this unit we will listen to, appraise and explore South African musical styles. We will improvise by playing instruments to accompany different songs and tunes. This term we will begin to learn to play the recorder. We will find out how to hold the recorder and play some notes and tunes.</p> <p data-bbox="387 1747 1485 1895">Physical Education. We will learn how to safely and correctly perform forward rolls and cartwheels, with the support of an adult. Our theme for dance will be Rainforest. We will create and perform short dance sequences using travel, turn, jump, gesture and different levels.</p>