Starlings Class Year 2 Half-Term Overview: Autumn 2

RE

In RE his half term in Prophecy and Promise, children will explore how God's promises were revealed through the prophets and fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. They will learn about Isaiah and John the Baptist as prophets who shared God's message, and retell key events from St Luke's Gospel, including the Annunciation, the birth of John the Baptist, and the birth of Jesus. Children will develop their understanding of Mary as the Mother of God, who prays for and with Christians, and learn about St Luke as the author of a Gospel and the *Acts of the Apostles*. They will also discover how Christians prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth during Advent, exploring the meaning of the Advent wreath and other Advent traditions.

PSHE

In Emotional Well-Being, children will learn to recognise, understand and talk about their feelings, as well as explore ways to support their own wellbeing. With the help of Buddy, the NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe mascot, and through NSPCC workshops, children will learn about their right to be safe, who they can talk to if they are worried, and how to seek help when needed.

Science

In our topic of Everyday Materials, children will learn to identify and name a variety of materials and the objects they are used to make. They will explore the properties of different materials, such as whether they are hard, soft, waterproof or transparent, and begin to understand why certain materials are chosen for particular purposes. Through practical investigations, children will sort and group objects, test materials to discover their properties, make predictions, observe closely and use their findings to answer questions. They will also begin to understand what makes an investigation a fair test.

English

In English, children will explore the enchanting story The Night Gardener by the Fan Brothers. Using the text as inspiration, they will develop their use of descriptive language to write a setting narrative, incorporating expanded noun phrases, adverbs, conjunctions and the suffixes -ful and -less. They will also write a diary entry from a character's perspective. Alongside this, children will continue to secure important foundational writing skills, including correct pencil grip, good sitting posture and accurate letter formation, helping them to become confident and fluent writers.

Computing

In Computing, children will be introduced to the basics of programming by giving and following simple instructions and creating algorithms. They will learn how to use and predict commands for a floor robot, developing their understanding of how programs work. Through practical activities, children will build problem-solving skills as they plan, test and improve simple programs.

General information

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting half term. Please continue to support your child by bringing their reading book and reading record to school each day. As the weather turns colder, please ensure coats and uniform are clearly named. We are also excited to begin preparing for our KS1 Nativity on 9th December and can't wait to share it with you. Thank you for your continued support.

Geography

In our topic 'Where Am I?', children will develop their understanding of the world around them by learning about the United Kingdom and its four countries. They will explore their local environment, identifying features within the school grounds and using directional language to describe locations and routes. Children will investigate aerial photographs and simple maps, learning how symbols represent real-life features and creating their own map symbols. Through these activities, they will build their mapping skills while reflecting on how different places in their school environment make them feel.

DT

In Stable Structures, children will explore what makes structures strong and stable. They will investigate how different designs affect stability before designing and making their own structure. Along the way, they will develop skills in sketching, cutting, joining materials and evaluating their finished product.

PE

On Thursdays and Fridays, children will develop their jumping, landing and seated balance skills through a range of fun activities, challenges and games. They will practise moving with control and confidence, work cooperatively with others, and learn the importance of encouraging, praising and supporting their classmates as they develop their fundamental movement skills.

Maths

In Maths, children will further secure their understanding of place value within 100 to support their learning in addition and subtraction. They will work with tens and ones, count, compare and represent two-digit numbers, and use number lines to deepen their number sense. Using their place value knowledge, children will practise adding and subtracting multiples of ten, add and subtract two-digit numbers, bridge through 10, find differences and solve a range of mathematical problems with increasing confidence. They will also explore doubles and near doubles, as well as investigate what happens when odd and even numbers are added together, helping them to spot patterns and develop efficient calculation strategies.