St Michael & All Angels C.E. (Foundation) Primary & Pre-School

6th November 2026

Respect . Resilience . Responsibility . Confidence . Co-operation . Compassion

Turing - 144	Curie - 102	Hawking - 120	Johnson - 117

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break and found time to relax and spend time with family and friends. It has been wonderful to welcome our children back into school and see their enthusiasm and excitement for learning once again.

As we begin the second half of the autumn term, there is much too look forward to as we embrace our half term value of 'Compassion'.

The weeks ahead will be busy and productive, with a range of exciting learning opportunities, curriculum activities and a number of special events taking place, including individual school photographs, Remembrance activities, educational visits, performances culminating in 'Christmas Week' which is always a joy!

Please keep an eye on forthcoming communications and diary dates to ensure you don't miss any of the exciting events ahead.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and partnership. This was clearly reflected in our recent OFSTED report and is a testament to the strength of our school community. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our amazing staff, children, parents and carers. I feel incredibly fortunate and proud to work alongside such a dedicated and supportive team.

Mrs Berry – Headteacher

Talk around the Table

With Children in Need approaching, this week why try these talk around the table ideas:



What challenge could our family take on to help someone else?

What is one challenge you could set yourself?

If Pudsey Bear visited our school, what challenge should we ask him to complete?

Upcoming dates for your diary!

Wednesday 11th November – **Individual Photographs** – Braiswick Photography
Monday 16th November – **Interfaith Exhibition** – Parents/Carers are invited to come and view between 09:00 – 09:30am
Week commencing Monday 25th November – **Book Fair Week** - more information to follow

A Look Ahead: Learning This Half Term!

Pre-School

This half term, pre-school will be exploring the exciting theme of Birds while continuing to develop both fine and gross motor skills. Through a range of hands-on experiences, the children will enjoy creative activities such as making bird-themed artwork, exploring feathers through sensory play, and spotting different birds in our nature garden.

Children will also take part in regular rhyme time sessions, helping children develop their listening skills as they identify and respond to different sounds. Alongside this, children will continue to build early mathematical understanding through lots of counting activities and opportunities to recognize and create simple patterns.







Reception

Reception have a wonderful half term ahead, filled with exciting opportunities to explore, discover and learn through play.

This half term, children will be learning about Diwali, finding out how and why it is celebrated and exploring the different ways people mark special occasions. They will also begin a topic on transport, investigating different types of transport, where they will travel and how they help us move from one place to another.

In Mathematics, pupils will develop their understanding of numbers to 5 and learn about a range of 2D shapes through practical activities, games and hands on exploration. In Phonics, children will continue learning the remaining Phase 2 sounds, practicing their tricky words and building confidence in recognizing sounds, blending and reading simple words and phrases.

As Christmas approaches, reception will lean about the Christmas story and begin preparing for their much-anticipated nativity performance. Children will enjoy practicing songs, actions and speaking parts as they work together to put on a special show for their families.

The class will also be sharing the much-loved story The Jolly Christmas Postman, using it as inspiration to create their own Christmas cards before delivering them to others, bringing the magic of the festive season to life.









Year 1

Year 1 have a busy and exciting half term ahead as they continue to develop their knowledge and skills across the curriculum.

In science, the children will become animal experts, learning about the different groups of animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, bords and mammals. They will also identify animals as carnivores, herbivores or omnivores and apply their learning by creating informative fact files.

In English, children will enjoy exploring the stories Hugless Douglas and Zog, using these texts to develop their vocabulary, reading comprehension and writing skills. Hey will continue to focus on handwriting, correct letter formation, capital letters and full stops, whilst also being introduced to non-fiction writing.

As the festive season approaches, pupils will showcase their creativity in Design and Technology by designing and making moving Christmas cards. They will also begin preparations for one of the highlights of the term, their Nativity performance, which promises to be a wonderful opportunity for children to build their confidence and share their talents with family and friends!






Year 2

The children have an exciting and busy half term ahead as we head towards Christmas! In English, the children will be exploring Toby and the Great Fire of London, using their learning to write diary entries as though they were living through this famous historical event. This will link closely with their History lessons, where they will be finding out more about the Great Fire of London and it's impact.

They will continue to develop their grammar skills by building on their learning from Autumn 1 and using adjectives to make their noun phrases more descriptive and engaging. In reading, they will be expanding their comprehension skills by welcoming Inference Iggy alongside Retrieval Rex and Prediction Pip, helping them to think more deeply about the texts they read,

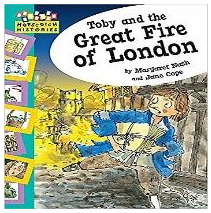
In Maths, they will continue developing their understanding of place value, alongside addition, subtraction and shape.

In Religion, they will be preparing for the Christmas season by exploring the question: "What do Christians believe God is like?"

Their Design & Technology learning will focus on textiles, and they are also hoping to take part in an exciting Enterprise event in the lead up to Christmas (subject to confirmation!)







Year 3

Get ready for an exciting half term in Year 3! In English children will be stepping back in time with Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura, using the text to inspire diary writing and deepen their understanding of life in the Stone Age. They will also create their own imaginative narratives inspired by The Man on the Moon. In Art, children will investigate natural textured and materials before producing their own charcoal cave paintings, drawing on themes from their historical learning.

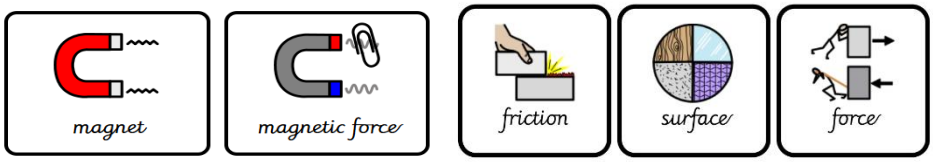
In Science, pupils will undertake a range of practical investigations as they explore forces and magnets, comparing surfaces and materials and discovering how magnetic forces work. Their History topic will focus on Ancient Greece, where children will learn about Greek mythology, influential figures such as Alexander The Great and Socrates, and the lasting impact of Ancient Greek civilization on modern society.

They will also be exploring the question "What do Christians learn from the Creation story?" in RE, while in PSHE they will focus on building positive relationships, understanding friendships, staying safe and showing respect for ourselves and others.

It's set to be a half term full of discovery, creativity and hands on learning!







Year 4

Year 4 have an exciting and varied half term ahead, with lots of opportunities to develop their knowledge, creativity and skills across the curriculum.

In English, pupils will explore the adventures of Wallace and Gromit, using these much-loved characters as inspiration for a range of reading, writing, speaking and listening activities, In Geography, children will journey to Australia, learning about its location, physical features, landmarks and what makes it such a unique and fascinating country.

In Art, pupils will build their understanding of colour through creating tints and shades, developing their painting techniques and experimenting with different effects. Meanwhile, in Computing they will learn how to capture and edit audio, gaining valuable experience in recording, refining and presenting digital content.

We look forward to a half term filled with creativity, exploration and engaging learning experiences!









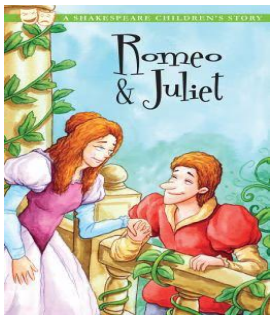
Year 5

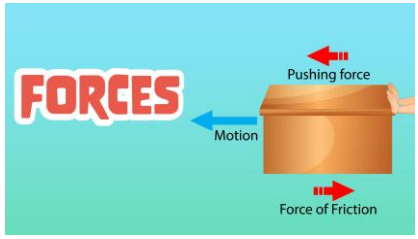
Year 5 have an exciting half term ahead, packed with lots of engaging learning across the curriculum.

In English, the children will be reading and exploring Romeo & Juliet, developing their understanding of this famous Shakespearean story while continuing to strengthen their reading and writing skills.

In Science, they will be investigating different types of forces and discovering how they effect the world around us through a range of practical and thought-provoking activities.

Their French lessons will focus on learning the names of different parts of the body, as well as developing their conversational skills by learning how to describe how they are feeling and explain what might be wrong with them.







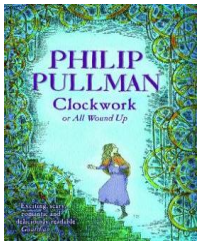
Year 6

Year 6 have an exciting and challenging half term ahead as they continue to build on their knowledge and prepare for the next stage of their learning journey.

In English pupils will study Clockwork by Philip Pullman, using this captivating text as inspiration for developing their persuasive writing skills. In Mathematics, children will focus on fractions and ratio, applying their understanding to a range of problem-solving and reasoning activities.

Their Science lessons will explore living things and their habitats, where pupils will investigate classification and the characteristics of different organisms. In History they will travel back to the time of Vikings, learning about their lives, achievements and impact on Britain.

In Computing, pupils will develop their digital literacy skills by learning how to design and create web pages. Meanwhile, in Art, they will explore the work of renowned sculptor Alberto Giacometti, creating their own sculptures inspired by his distinctive style. In French, children will learn how to describe their appearance and personality, developing their confidence in speaking and writing in another language!









Year 5's trip to Newby Wiske

What an incredible trip Year 5 had at Newby Wiske! Miss Stewart & Mrs Bedford were immensely proud of how the children represented our school throughout their action-packed three-day adventure.

The children demonstrated all of our school values during their time away. They showed compassion towards friends who found being away from home for the first time challenging, responsibility in taking care of their belongings, and resilience, co-operation and confidence whilst participating in a range of exciting activities. They also showed the utmost respect to the PGL staff throughout the trip.

Many of the PGL team commented on what a pleasure our children were to work with, with some even requesting to spend extra time with them because they enjoyed their company so much. We hope the children enjoyed this memorable experience and made lifelong memories. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them!







Join us in prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the rest and refreshment of the half term break. As we begin this new halt term together, we thank you for our school community and for each child, family and member of staff.

Help us embrace the opportunities and challenges that le ahead with positivity, determination and kindness. Give our children confidence to learn, courage to try new things, and resilience when things seem difficult. Help them to grown not only in knowledge, but also in compassion, respect and friendship.

Bless our teachers and support staff as they guide and encourage our pupils each day. Give them wisdom, patience and joy in their work. Support our families as they continue to nurture and care for their children.

As we look forward to the busy weeks ahead, help us to work together, celebrate our achievements and support one another. May our school be a place where everyone feels valued, safe and loved,

We pray this half term will be filled with learning, laughter, friendship and success.

Amen.