



Year One - Curriculum News
Spring 2026
Topic – ‘Carnival’



welcome back, I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas holiday and wish you a very Happy New Year!

This term Year One's topic will be ***Carnival***. We will also be completing a lot of work about Wales, the Welsh language and culture and making comparisons between our own traditions and that of other countries with regards to celebrations, festivals and Carnivals. The Carnival topic has an Expressive Arts focus and teaches children about carnival art from different cultures around the world. It is our aim to hold our very own mini-Carnival at the end of the topic to showcase our learning for you. This term your children will participate in a variety of learning styles that will include outdoor learning and learning through play.

In line with The New Curriculum for Wales, all six areas of learning and experience will be covered. These areas are:

- Maths and numeracy
- Languages, literacy and communication
- Health and well-being
- Humanities
- Science and technology
- Expressive arts

As a Church in Wales School, your child will also take part in class daily worship and weekly Religious Education sessions.

Health and Well-being

The children will further develop their ability to share with their peers and they will also develop their friendships whilst working in their learning environment. Circle time activities will have a big emphasis on the children's emotional development. The children will have the opportunity to be open to discuss issues that worry them in and out of school. We will be tackling subjects such as the school's Five Finger Rules, fair and unfair, being thankful and how we can look after ourselves, creatures and the world. During the term the children will be exploring different celebrations from their own culture as well as others. The children will be celebrating a number of festivals such as Chinese New Year, Easter, St. Valentine's Day, St. David's Day and Mothering Sunday.

The children will continue to discover how to look after themselves in terms of healthy eating and hygiene. We will be discussing how to care for toys and items within the classroom and each other and also develop independence further. Our role-play areas will also be a focus for social skills development and the children will be playing together interactively through a range of activities.

Your children will take part in dance during the term and how it affects their health. The children will be taking part in Samba and Welsh Folk dances. They will also be involved in Adventurous play activities outside as well as participating in games lessons, developing hand eye co-ordination using small equipment and gross motor skills. P.E days are Wednesday and outdoor P.E. sessions will be on a Thursday or Friday. Other physical development activities will be developed through topical play both indoors and out, threading, riding bikes, building models and dens and construction such as Lego etc.

Language, Literacy, and Communication

One of our main emphases will be to continue with the learning and reinforcing of letters and phonemes through daily Read Write Inc sessions and practical activities. During these sessions your children will be encouraged to take care with their presentation and handwriting (letter formation). Please read regularly with your child, this does not always have to be their reading book from school. Children love listening to adults read and you are never too old for a bedtime story!

The children will be developing the love of writing for different purposes. As your child's reading skills develop we will be looking to enhance their quality of reading and writing using a wider range of genres. This term we will have a strong focus on non-fictional texts as well as creative writing. The children are invited to use the writing table in our class through free choice and directed activities, this will have a range of resources and mark making tools on it so the children can experiment and develop their writing skills.

We will be encouraging your children to speak in front of an audience on a regular basis through topical activities.

Welsh

The children will be learning about the Culture of Wales and its language. They will be using incidental Welsh daily through counting, rhymes, songs and greetings and also learning a variety of topic related vocabulary. The children will take part in an Eisteddfod to enhance their understanding and experiences of Welsh Language and Culture.

The children will be learning how to ask a variety of questions in Welsh. They will be learning how to respond appropriately when asked questions and they will be encouraged to use Welsh constantly during their play.

Remember to look out for the school Phrase of the Week on the school website and on the weekly Newsletters to encourage your child to speak Welsh outside of school.

International Languages

We will be exploring Chinese (linked to Chinese New Year) and Portuguese (linked to learning about the Rio Carnival) this term, learning to use greetings and learning to count and name colours. Pupils will build on their knowledge and understanding of communication in the world around us.

How you can help: When reading books come home, listen to your child read daily. Read each book three times before you return them unless your child is on Blue or Grey Levels. Read to your child and encourage discussion about the characters, setting, and the meaning of different parts of the book. Encourage your child to practice spelling the red Read Write Inc. words sent home for his/her level. Please reinforce correct letter formation and extra practice would be helpful if your child continues to form the letters incorrectly.

Maths and Numeracy

Our main emphasis this term will be recognising and formulating numbers to 100 and above, depending on your child's stage of development. The children will be counting forwards and backwards, ordering and sequencing numbers and exploring addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They will explore money and be using it as part of their role play activities and solving real life problems within these situations. The children will be sorting and comparing objects of different sizes, shapes both 2D and 3D and colour. Through topical activities your children will also be learning about ordinal numbers, time and positional language.

Your child will receive weekly homework that will reinforce the concept that we have been learning in school that week.

How can you help: – Practise counting forwards to 100 and beyond daily. Practise counting backwards from 20 at first, then once this is mastered move on to counting back from 100. Practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, forwards and backwards. Use money in real life shopping situations to consolidate recognising, adding coins and also calculating change. Please reinforce correct number formation and extra practice would be helpful if your child continues to form the numbers incorrectly.

Religious Education

This term we will be continuing to teaching RE using a scheme called Understanding Christianity. As explained last term, Understanding Christianity looks at eight core concepts at the heart of mainstream Christian belief. It sets out some knowledge 'building blocks', to clarify what pupils know and understand about these concepts. The children will learn about each concept and their impact in the lives of Christians in the UK and the world today, making connections with the world of the pupils and their wider understanding.

This term the children will be looking at Hinduism, looking at artefacts, special foods, celebrations, books and places of worship.

Your children will be discovering the world of Christianity through daily worship (assemblies) and through play-based activities within their setting. We will also be learning about Jesus' childhood and the significant events that took place at this time. We will be learning about the life of St David and St Valentine and we will be considering the origins of Mothering Sunday. During the second half term we will be recounting the Easter story and learning about the events that led to Easter Sunday and leading a special church service at Ewenny Priory next half term.

Humanities

Your children will be continuing to learn about our locality, exploring the school grounds and local village, including trips to Church. Each day the children will discuss the day, date, month and season and will explore the weather and its changes.

They will also be learning about where we live in the world and locating other countries in the world and comparing our cultures, climates and languages. They will also be exploring how we can look after our world with regards to waste and recycling.

Expressive Arts

This term we will be singing and performing (using actions) a range of songs, dances and rhymes linked to our topics and Welsh culture. The children will be involved in lots of design and technology projects throughout the term including designing and making masks and their very own Samba drum during our Carnival topic.

We will also be exploring Welsh artist Rhiannon Roberts who worked with our school to produce the artwork in the hall. The children will complete water colour paintings inspired by her painting 'Hiraeth'.

We will be exploring colour mixing and pattern and using our topical knowledge when we make our focused pieces of work such as carnival headdresses. We will also be looking at the work of the Brazilian artist Romero Britto and producing a picture of a rainforest animal inspired by his work.

Every day the children will have the opportunity to take part in a creative activity, whether it is drawing, painting, making, colouring or singing. The children will explore a variety of tuned and un-tuned instruments in group activities.

Science and Technology

During our Carnival topic the children will learn important facts about light and sound. They will explore different light and sound sources, including the sun, and will understand that we can learn about light by observing how shadows change.

This term the children will be utilising our classroom computers as well as developing their ICT skills with our iPads. The children will become skilful in using different tools to control technology as well as developing their understanding of using a range of technology. The children will also be taught to take photographs, videos and record sounds, combining text with photographs, graphics and drawings and they will upload their independent learning Sialens Enfys (Rainbow Challenges) to their Seesaw online digital portfolio.

It is going to be another very busy and exciting term, one that we are very much looking forward to. Please remember that we have an open door policy in St Brides if you have any questions or concerns.











Best wishes,

Mrs Jones

Further ways to help your child:

- Please ensure that your children have school P.E. kit every Wednesday and outdoor kit on Thursday/Friday.
- Please return homework or upload to Seesaw every **Monday**, new homework will be set every **Thursday**.
- Encourage your children to reinforce phonics at home by using a range of games such as eye spy, collecting objects that begin with sounds and completing their homework and reading books etc.
- Please ensure your children have appropriate weatherproof clothing, which is clearly marked with their names, as they will be engaging with the outdoors every day.
- Please ensure that **all** of your child's belongings are clearly marked with his/her name. We are encouraging the children to be independent when changing for P.E.
- Please ensure your children have a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables for morning play time and also their refillable water bottle. Drink bottles and snack boxes should be clearly labelled.
- To enhance your children's learning at home please visit our website to keep yourself updated.

Here is a handy reminder for your fridge of what your child will need each day.

Things to bring to school:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Outdoor clothing i.e. Coat, hat, wellies, waterproofs					
P.E. kit in school				 outdoor kit	 outdoor kit
Homework				Homework will be set.	
Reading diary and home reading books				We will send new books home.	
Healthy snack and refillable water bottle	