

# Semi Formal Curriculum Report



## Autumn 2024

Our Semi-Formal curriculum pathway have had a very busy return to school since September. Pupils have all settled back into school life, baseline assessments have been completed for those that are new to school and pupils are demonstrating their holistic progress across the curriculum. Teachers have worked incredibly hard to plan some amazing area theme days to celebrate a range of activities such as: Roald Dahl's Birthday, the Paralympic Games, World Mental Health Day and a celebration of Harvest.

### Roald Dahl's Birthday: 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September

Each class chose a famous story by Roald Dahl and themed lots of activities during the week around the chosen story. At the end of the week, the children had a get together to explore the stories written by Roald Dahl. Each class came with lots of props and work they had completed to share with their friends, enabling them to guess their book. Classes demonstrated a range of ways to share their story: one class created a video demonstrating their magic Matilda skills, whilst another created an enormous crocodile to wear. Ellie class made sensory peppermint sweets using paper plates from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Laura's class explored their inquisitive Science side and made lots of potions from George's Marvellous Medicine.



### Paralympic Sports Week: 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September



Classes took part in a range of paralympic activities and really immersed themselves during the week. There were a range of activities offered such as relays, ribbon twirling, skittles and Boccia. Pupils were awarded for their participation efforts and presented with a certificate and medal during a min closing ceremony in each class.



## World Mental Health Day: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October #HelloYellow



Pupils took part in activities for World Mental Health Day on 10<sup>th</sup> October to raise awareness around the importance of wellbeing. Semi Formal explored a day full of sessions that aim to support mental and physical wellbeing in young people. Pupils participated in physical exercise, mindfulness, yoga, happy breathing as well as reflecting on what helps them to regulate.



## Harvest Celebration: 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October



Semi Formal organised a collection across school for food donations for Harvest Festival. Adi's Legacy was our chosen foodbank as they are a local bank and have supported our families previously. Students took a minibus to the pre-loved shop and the ladies were overwhelmed with the donations and



the families that they would be able to support. The week was completed with a scarecrow hunt around the semi formal classrooms were classes decorated a class scarecrow.



## Term 1 Learning Question

Our learning question this term has been 'How are we unique?'. Classes have focused on PSHE and explored friendships, feeling in self and others as well as beginning to identify their own character strengths through the My HappyMind programme. Some students have also explored how they view themselves as well and how others perceive them. Students have been reflective during the sessions and have been taught a range of strategies to build resilience and self-esteem to challenging situations.



## Semi Formal Class Overviews

### **SSM**



This term both pupils new to the school and pupils from different classes around school have joined SSM. The pupils started the term by doing activities that supported their social skills and enabled them to develop friendships. They completed activities in which they considered what qualities they would like their friends to have, they found many were similar!

Over the term the pupils have worked really hard on solving problems with their peers. They have explored different ways of building a marble run so the marble would make a section light up, worked together to build a track to test which cars were the fastest, and built structures together. Completing these activities have also supported the pupils' communication and social skills.



Pupils have been encouraged to be as independent as possible. They have developed their independence by putting their own things away in the morning, doing 'jobs' such as taking the trolley back after lunch and helping peers.

This term the pupils have been exploring the local community. They visited the local park where they practised climbing, balancing and turn taking. They have also had an opportunity to visit the local library.



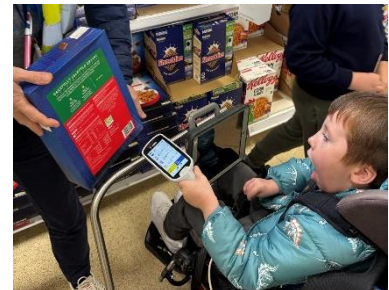
In my communication the pupils have been learning how to use symbols to support their communication. They have been practising using grids to support telling the adult how they are feeling in the mornings and to make requests. The pupils are learning how to combine symbols to make short sentences. They enjoy creating sentences about their news.

## SCS



SCS have had a wonderful start to the academic year, we have had both new staff and children, but we have come together to create a great team and do lots of fun things! We began the year by celebrating Roald Dahl Day and created our very own 'The Enormous Crocodile', we learnt about where crocodiles live, what colour they are and how the children overcome the crocodiles tricks! We went on a scavenger hunt as the characters had escaped from the book! It allowed us to work on our number work, writing numbers and try and remember what happened in the book.

We have also been working on money during our Thinking and Problem-Solving sessions and decided that we could use our knowledge to raise some money for a MacMillian Morning. We linked it to our independence and took a trip to Tesco to source the ingredients for the tasty treats that we had researched and decided upon. We voted on which shop to go to, it was a close call between big Tesco and Asda but when we google mapped it big Tesco was closer. We then discussed whether to walk or get the bus, we used google maps again and figured out it would be quicker to get the bus to big Tesco then walk. We split into groups and followed a list to find ingredients, we used the scales, scanners and helped pack the bags! At our coffee morning we managed to raise £175 and made some very tasty treats alongside donated goods from the rest of school!



Alongside all this we have been working hard on our Independence through creating routines for the class to take more responsibility when playing or having their snacks. We have been working on making our own drinks there have been a few spills but they are working really well on listening to instructions to pour either a 'little bit' or 'a lot'.

Lastly, we celebrated Halloween with our spooky day and did lots of different activities such as potion making which worked on our motor skills and measurements. We also carried out some letter finding in goo where we worked on making words and phonics sounds. Some students loved pumpkin carving where we worked on shapes and motor skills and safety with knives (only butter ones!).



We can't wait to see what the next adventures will be this year!!

## SLM



In SLM we have had a fantastic start to the new school term. We have been joined by some new pupils starting with us from other schools and have created some lovely friendships and relationships with both peers and adults. In class pupils have enjoyed a lot of focused work on our number and addition skills to 10 and 20 as well as counting on and matching objects to quantity.

They have created some beautiful sentences with colourful semantics and also using clicker. We had a wonderful afternoon session at the library where we shared stories and crafts with our local community and some pupils from upper school. Pupils were very polite and well-mannered and loved exploring all the books and activities there.



Animal care has been a huge hit so far allowing us time and experiences with animals, learning how to handle and care for them as well as reading some interesting facts and enjoying lots of furry cuddles.

This term as a new class we have been focusing a lot on friendships, sharing and helping. We have embedded this into different sessions as well as free time to help them build new relationships. We have focused a lot on speaking and listening during comprehension activities and confidence is growing in this area. The class have also been enjoying music sessions which have included music and movement activities as well as call and response drumming. They have enjoyed a variety of games to help with understanding time, on the interactive whiteboard and physical using clocks.



## SGM



What a fantastic first term it has been in SGM! We've spent the time getting to know each other, discovering our unique likes and dislikes, and creating a warm and welcoming classroom community.

One of the main areas of learning was our exploration of the beautiful Brazilian tale, *How Night Came from the Sea*. We dived into the story's rich cultural themes, learning about different animals and the sounds they make. The children had a blast experimenting with light and dark, shadows, and creating their own stunning sunset paintings. They then added their own artistic twist by carefully selecting silhouettes to attach to their sunsets, bringing the story to life in a new and exciting way!

We didn't stop there - our creative journey continued as we used a variety of writing techniques to craft our own short stories inspired by *How Night Came from the Sea*. The students' imaginations really soared, and it was wonderful to see their individual interpretations of the tale.

In the spirit of nurturing empathy and responsibility, we also introduced the children to the joys of small animal care. Through hands-on experiences, the children have built confidence in holding, feeding, and cleaning out the cages of our class pets. It's been heartwarming to watch them take such responsibility, developing both their skills and their sense of care for living creatures.



Of course, no term would be complete without a little celebration! We kicked off our Halloween fun with an atmosphere of excitement. The classroom was transformed with spooky decorations, and we hosted a fabulous family coffee morning where parents and caregivers joined us for some festive fun. The highlight of the day was our Halloween party—full of laughter, games, and plenty of costumes! We even had a thrilling scarecrow hunt around the school.

In maths, we have been busy strengthening our understanding of key concepts, from numbers and money to telling the time. They've been working hard, building confidence in these essential skills and having fun with hands-on activities.

It's been a term full of learning, laughter, and creativity, and we can't wait to see what the next term has in store!

## SES



This term the class have been settling back into the routine of school after a long summer holiday. There have been a few new pupils, so the class as a whole have had to adjust to the changes and learn to respect and understand other peers' needs and behaviours. We have been building on our independent skills, in our cooking sessions, how to safely make ourselves some toast with different spreads and now moving onto sandwiches, followed by tidying up after ourselves.



Most recently, we changed our timetable and are now focusing on learning in a more immersive way, focusing on core skills, developing our communication techniques, as well as cooking, physical education and my world. In our core skills session, the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed looking at opposites, for example light and dark, and inside and outside. We are using a carousel approach to take it in turns to carry out different activities to develop our understanding of the language as well as incorporating counting, number recognition and sentence building.

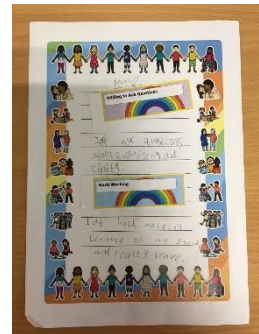
## SCM



This term we have been looking at stories from other cultures. We have been working on retelling stories, writing captions and our sentence structure. We have also progressed to evaluating and editing our own work! We have also started practising different writing styles including letters, postcards and diary entries.

In Maths sessions we have been working on column multiplication, adding the prices of different items together and creating values of money using British coins. We have then been learning to tell the time to the nearest quarter hour.

In My World sessions we have been learning about different character strengths. We have considered how we view ourselves, how we view others, how our peers view us, how adults view us and how we want others to view us.



## SCN

Class have been super busy since they returned in September and have welcomed some new faces to the St Francis family. In My communication, we have been looking at the use of Clicker to support our writing and we are becoming more independent with this. We love using it, especially the word banks to support our spellings! We have retold the story of Pandora's box as well as writing character descriptions for Pandora and Prometheus. We have now moved on to the Australian story, 'How the Kangaroos got their Tails'.

In My World we have been exploring the Human Body and the different systems within our bodies and their functions. We really enjoyed learning about the digestive system, specifically the practical session where we went on an immersive journey of how our bodies produce faeces.



On a Wednesday afternoon, we have been really engaged with our Enterprise project and, as a class, have decided to make and sell fudge for Christmas time. We have researched and designed everything ourselves, as well as advertise this around school. We are now working on recipes and gaining feedback on our sample fudge before taking orders in preparation for Christmas.

