

# Pre-formal and Informal Curriculum Report



## November 2024

Our pre-formal and informal classes have had a busy but enjoyable first few weeks back. We have had 14 new pupils across our area and all are settling well into life at St Francis. Our two curriculum pathways both enjoyed a collaborative Halloween themed day. Pre-formal came together to enjoy a sensory Halloween party in which they explored different spooky textures and experienced lights and music with a spooky feel.



Our informal classes also planned a theme day in which they moved round sessions prepared by each of our informal teachers. They took part in spooky Science experiments, engaged in herbology and potions lessons and explored different Halloween tastes and textures.

## PBH

This term PBH have introduced six new pupils aged three and four years into class. They have all done amazingly, as have their families. They all have their own individual personalities and we have loved getting to know what encourages them to engage. The three pupils we had in class from last year have coped so well with such a big change to their peer group. We feel it is so important to build positive and trusting relationships with the families and this is a key part of our role. What helped so well this time was the SENSE



group 'Mini Explorers' which was led by Nicky a SENSE practitioner. These gave the parents the opportunity to come into school and meet us all before the pupils started. These groups will start again in January for pupils with multisensory needs that are not yet in school.



All the pupils in class have a love of music and singing so a lot of our sessions have been based on these. We go on an 'Adventure to Nursery Rhyme Land' where we encourage a variety of skills from all the areas of the curriculum through songs. Humpty Dumpty has been a favourite and we have some pupils that will now intonate the tune when they see the puppet. Others have begun to build with the bricks and some respond when Humpty falls off his wall! We have started a PE trip to the North Pole using the MATP principles where we are developing kicking, striking and fine motor skills alongside some upbeat tunes. This group of pupils appear to enjoy exploring together on our big table and this has given opportunity for some creative active learning.

## PKG

The pupils have all settled in well to the routines and new class. We have recently been looking at Autumn through a variety of sessions including core skills, explore and discover and story time, where we have explored leaves, sticks and the colours associated with this season.

We have been practicing our ball skills and have been looking at rolling, pushing and throwing and are now progressing to aiming for a target such as a basketball hoop.

We had a lovely lady called Sophia come in to do a music session with us. She brought in her guitar and drum and we all responded well to her.

Our rebound sessions are always a hit with all the children taking an active part. The use of lights and other sensory equipment make it even more special.



## PAM

This term class PAM have been exploring the weather in our sensory story 'we're going on a weather hunt'. We have persevered at exploring the different learning opportunities in the story, such as the thunder makers and ice rollers. Over the weeks pupils have built great anticipation for key events in the story and showed amazing realization when the story reached their favourite part.



All of the pupils in class have been working towards their individually set communication targets in core skills. Some of the pupils have been doing some switch work, to improve their timing when using their communication aids in other lessons and throughout the school day. Whilst other pupils have been exploring widget symbols, which they are now starting to use more consistently throughout their day. For example, we have been pushing a big emphasis in class on communicating 'more' and/or 'finished' through GRID, widget symbols, verbalisation, or signing.

PAM have also been working exceptionally hard on their physical skills in our MATP sessions. Pupils have demonstrated their resilience at pushing and throwing different sized balls down ramps and at targets, as well as putting their tracking and gazing skills to the test.

## PTC

PTC have a really busy start to the new school year. The class have been working on the Motor Activities Training Programme (MATP) in class. We are working on our striking and kicking skills. This can be hard for us, and we are celebrating every achievement together.

We are making the most of having two drivers in class and are trying to get out and about in the community as much as possible. We have been out to Doddington Hall and met the Community and Education Worker there who explained that they are working hard at promoting access to nature who those young people who find it more difficult. She is keen to work with us and we hope to visit her again soon.



Our most recent class trip was to the LPAC at Lincoln University to watch 'The Bar at the Edge of Time'. This was an amazing sensory show which was made perfectly accessible for our learners. We absolutely loved it and hope to see future performances by The Frozen Light Theatre Company.

'Holding the Space', is also a new technique we are trying out with our nonverbal learners. We pause before lunch, sound the chime three times and then allow time and space for the young people to use their sounds and voices. This has been very empowering especially for some of our younger pupils. They know the session has ended when the three chimes sound again.

### ILP

We've had a fantastic start to the new academic year in ILP. We had six new pupils join us in September and we are very proud of how well they have all settled into class. Many of our pupils are now showing recognition of our class routines and they have already shown great progress in their learning too.

In Floor Focus our pupils have done really well with learning to follow the expectations of the sessions. The glitter fireworks and shooting rockets Stage Two activities captured their attention wonderfully this week!

We've had a focused story each week linked to our wider themes. One of ILP's favourite stories so far has been 'Whatever Next', which we explored during our space themed week. Pupils showed excellent engagement with objects linked to the story and they all particularly enjoyed taking turns at being Baby Bear going to space in a cardboard box!



As part of our Active Learning during our Harvest Festival themed week, ILP showed excellent engagement with exploring the ingredients and putting them together to make bread dough. We then definitely enjoyed tasting the bread rolls we'd made the next day at snack time too!

Another highlight of the term was the Informal area's Spooky Day. As well as engaging really well with my Herbology themed activity, ILP were very excited to explore exploding pumpkins with Vicky and fizzy cauldrons with Danny. We also loved coming together with other Informal pupils in Vicky's outdoor area for a spooky scavenger hunt. This was a lovely opportunity for all pupils to socialise and have fun with others in our area of school.

## IVC

In IVC this term we have all been settling in as we have welcomed some new pupils to school. We have been getting to know each other and our motivators to ensure we are all engaged in our active learning sessions. Floor focus sessions have been a big hit and we



have all participated in these daily, showing lots of anticipation for what may be happening next. We have been going out on community trips weekly. We recently went to the Lawns, co-op, Whitton's park and Doddington Hall to pick some pumpkins, and we all had a fabulous time. We are continuing to develop our independence and communication through daily tasks and targets, and everyone has started to show clear understanding of the timetable

which is great. We start our day with a sensory circuit lesson, and this will continue daily to prepare us all for learning and to encourage our self-regulation skills in class.

## IDR

In IDR we have been brilliant returning to school and class with some big changes. We have had an awesome time decorating and changing our new classroom with each of us having the chance to personalise an area and make it feel as friendly and welcoming as possible. Some of our new favourite bits of equipment are our tickle tunnel, calm corner and the crawly caterpillar wall board. We have also been loving being able to get out into our new outdoor area enjoying the last of the sun and warmth before it will be time for muddy puddle exploration.

In class we have had lots of fun taking part in a wide range of different autumnal themed experiments and activities. We have so far had fun creating pumpkin cloud dough, cinnamon and cloves smelly fabric bags, a muddy farm chocolate cornflour play zone and lots of sensory story stations.

IDR have once again loved being able to get out as much as possible for our community outings making them as purposeful as possible. We have so far loved going to the shops to collect pumpkins for Halloween active learning, multiple parks to collect 'signs of autumn' for our explore and discover and Tesco café to work on our social skills.



IDR have so far done spectacularly and we're all beginning to start getting excited for Christmas as we head into winter.



Becky Small (Assistant Headteacher)