

## The World Around Us

(Science, Technology, Geography and History.)



The theme we are studying this term is **Twinkle, Twinkle**.

Within this topic we will investigate our world at night and our world during the day. Children will have opportunities to sort objects into items for day and night, to sequence daytime routines and to gain an understanding of the terms dawn, dusk and twilight. Children will be finding out about sources of light in the world around us. At home, encourage your child to identify things that create light and how these work.

Through Science investigations, we will explore translucent, opaque and transparent materials and discover how shadows are created. We will learn about reflective materials and insulation and the children will use their experiment findings to design a new nightgown for Wee Willie Winkie to keep him warm and safe over the cold winter months ahead!

Our topic will include a look at what happens in our world while we are sleeping. We will research and learn about the habits of nocturnal animals and explore the role of people who work at night.

This topic will naturally lead us on to a look at what is beyond the night sky. Through play based learning the children will explore the world of space. In our role play area we have our very own space rocket, we will have fun re-enacting the role of an astronaut and develop some knowledge of the planets, the sun and the moon. We will allow our imaginations to run wild as we make pretend journeys to outer space!

**Literacy:** The children will be listening to a range of topic related stories, e.g. 'Owl Babies', 'The Owl that was afraid of the Dark', 'Can't you sleep little Bear?', 'Peace at Last' and 'Molly and the Night Monster'.

We will be comparing and contrasting these fictional stories with factual books about nocturnal animals and space related texts. We will work on writing reports and fact sheets about a chosen nocturnal animal and create imaginary stories about journeys to the moon!

In Circle Time we will share our feelings about the dark - our likes/dislikes/fears about the dark and think about ways we could overcome fears we may have.

### What else is happening in the curriculum?

#### I.C.T

The children will use the computer and laptops to create a presentation on nocturnal animals, to which they will add images, sound and text.

We will be exploring a computer program called 'Scratch' to create interactive stories which we will share with each other.

#### What's going on in Primary 2?

- We will continue to run our daily mile as long as our playground is ice free!
- We will look forward to celebrating St. Brigid's Day with Mass in the church at 10 am on 1<sup>st</sup> February.
- In P.E the children have begun a series of gymnastics lessons and this is in addition to games lessons with Daniel on Wednesdays.

### NUMERACY

In numeracy the children will be focusing on developing a range of **mental strategies** such as counting forward and back in 2s, 5s and 10s and partitioning numbers within 10, to enable them to sharpen their application of number.

Children will be adding/subtracting numbers up to 10 within 10 and progressing to 20 later in the term. We are continuing to work on doubling numbers within 10 through game play and using number lines. The importance of the correct formation of numerals, especially 11 - 20, is something that we will continue to highlight through maths lessons.

#### Topic Maths

We will revisit shape this term also and will be asking for some recycled boxes and tubes to create some space rocket art with.

We will also be exploring pattern and symmetry in grids and shapes through our topic work.