



CHILTON FOLIAT CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Early Years Curriculum Themes

## Autumn Term ~ Marvellous Me

### Autumn 1

#### **Me, my family and my Classroom**

During this theme, we'll be getting to know each other and our classroom, talking about our family and the things we enjoy doing at home and in school. We'll be exploring the book 'What I Like About Me' as we think about ourselves as unique and begin to create self-portraits.

#### **Where we Live**

We'll be exploring our school grounds, helping us to become familiar with our new environment. This will link to our RE on God's Creation. We'll think about what it's like to live in or near Chilton Foliat. What can you see on your journey to school? What are the houses like? What kinds of things can we do?

#### **Autumn Change**

In this theme, we'll begin to identify changes in the natural world. We'll be heading out into the school grounds to look for signs of autumn and of God's beautiful world, linked to our RE theme on creation. Our Christian value of 'thankfulness' will be developed as we think about God's gifts and celebrate Harvest. These seasonal changes also link to our science curriculum and promote enquiry skills as we begin to describe the changes that we can see and explore how these can be depicted in art.

### Autumn 2

#### **The Baby Project**

This theme is all about looking after a 'baby'. What do we need? How do we care for a baby? What happens if the baby is poorly? As we answer these questions, we'll think about how thankful we are for our families and for other people that help us. As part of our RE, we'll explore how and why we celebrate birthdays. We'll also consider how we have changed since we were babies. What can we do now that we couldn't do as a baby?

#### **Christmas**

In this theme, we'll be learning about the Christmas story and how some families celebrate Christmas. We'll be taking part in a Christmas performance in school and be acting out the story during our visit to St Mary's Church. We'll also be using our art skills to create cards and gifts with plenty of glitter.



## CHILTON FOLIAT CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Spring Term ~ I Wonder...

#### Spring 1

##### **Frozen Planet**

We'll be using the cold and frosty weather as a stimulus for our learning in our immediate environment. We'll become scientists and investigate freezing water and melting ice. We'll be going on a winter walk around the school grounds and using our senses to describe how the weather has changed. Linked to geography, we'll be finding out where the coldest places are on Earth and learning about some of the animals that live there.

##### **The Polar Bear Project**

Following on from the Frozen Planet theme, we'll be adopting our very own polar bear, then finding out about where and how they live. We'll be constructing Arctic scenes and using these as a basis for storytelling, adapting the story 'Bear's Winter House'.

##### **Chinese New Year**

In this theme, we'll learn about the stories relating to Chinese New Year. We'll find out about customs and traditions and compare these with the celebrations of Christmas and New Year. After watching some dragon dancing, we'll create our own versions of these with our friends.

#### Spring 2

##### **Me and My Body**

Keeping healthy and looking after ourselves is the key message in this theme. We'll learn how important exercise is and about eating healthily. We'll try some new fruits and even make a smoothie! Your child will also find out about how important it is to brush their teeth and what happens if they don't.

##### **Easter**

In this theme, we'll begin to identify changes that happen in spring. As the weather warms up, we'll be heading out into the school grounds again to look for signs of new life and growth. This will be continued in term 5.

We'll be looking at how families celebrate Easter and taking part in some traditions such as, eating hot cross buns and going on an egg hunt. We'll be sharing the Easter story and linking this to what we've found out about spring. At the end of this term, we'll be making an Easter Garden and taking part in our Easter service at church.



## CHILTON FOLIAT CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Summer Term ~ World Outside my Window

### Summer 1

#### What's in the garden?

This theme continues to build upon the signs of new life that we began to identify last term. We'll learn how to plant a seed and grow beans and tomatoes in our big dig area. We'll go on a bug hunt and think about why insects are important for our world. We'll learn about the artist Matisse and his famous snail picture that hangs in the Tate Modern.

As a scientist, your child will develop their understanding of growth through a butterfly project. We'll observe them transform from caterpillars to chrysalis and finally into butterflies, letting them go in our outdoor area. From this experience, they'll gain early scientific knowledge relating to life cycles. We'll also study the artist Alexander Calder and create our own representations of his butterfly work and moving sculptures (mobiles).

#### What can we Learn from Stories?

This RE unit of work looks at the story 'The Rainbow Fish' and the stories Jesus told. It asks our children to think about what they can learn about looking after each other and looking after God's world. We'll also compare these stories to the Muslim story 'Bilal and the Beautiful Butterfly'.

### Summer 2

#### Special Places

This theme begins by reflecting back to work on our homes and where we live. It considers how God's world is a special place and how we can help to look after it. We'll also be taking a closer look at the church as a special place for Christians and thinking about some of the features and celebrations that happen here.

#### Summer Fun

As we move into the final term of the year and the weather becomes warmer, we begin thinking about days at the beach. We'll think about what we need as well as how to stay safe in the sun. Our text for this term is 'The Sand Dragon' and we'll be making our own sand sculptures to help us adapt the story and create our own versions. As geographers, we'll begin to think about some of the things that are different at the coast to the area in which we live, and as historians, we'll be finding out about Mary Anning and the discoveries that she made at the beach.

The water area is a favourite in our provision and has lots of learning opportunities. As a scientist, your child will investigate floating and sinking, making predictions and testing their ideas. We'll also think back to our work on special places and how we can look after our beaches and oceans.

#### Moving on

In this theme, your child will be looking forward to moving to their next class/year group. They'll be thinking back to some of their happy memories in Roe Class and consider the things that they can do now that they couldn't do when they first started school. They'll consider what amazing learners they are as they prepare for the next step in their learning journey.