Our topic theme for this half term is ‘Into the Woods...’ and we have lots of exciting topic work to look forward to.

Religious Education

We will be continuing our topic about ‘Thanksgiving’. The children have already explored when, how and why we say thank you. We now move on to learn more about the Eucharist: when the parish family thanks God with Jesus. After ‘Thanksgiving’ comes our topic about ‘Opportunities’ with the children using the opportunity of Lent to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus’ new life, making preparations for Easter. They will learn about Lent as a time to practise giving – in readiness to understand Jesus’ self-giving.

Literacy:

We will be exploring different stories written by the same author - Anthony Browne, in order to establish the style of the author and enable text comparisons. In particular we will be studying his story called ‘The Tunnel’, where a brother a sister, who do not get along, find out how much they really do care about each other after their adventure through the tunnel and into a magical woodland. If the children have any books written by Anthony Browne they would be very welcome to bring them in to share.

We will also be developing speaking and listening, reading and writing skills through exploring a range of non-fiction texts about plants and animals, in particular non-chronological reports - making links with our science work. ‘Big Writing’ will continue on Fridays with ‘Talk Homework’ being set every Wednesday in preparation for their writing. (Remember talk homework requires no writing.)

Numeracy:

In Numeracy we will be continuing our work using our ‘Maths Makes Sense’ approach. Through our regular daily practise the children will develop their mental maths skills eg, finding compliments of numbers, practising the four operations, finding fractions of a whole, finding missing numbers, finding money totals etc. In arithmetic pupils will be taught how to analyse and work with word problems - finding the ‘Maths stories’ in ‘Real-Life stories’. They will work through a range of number puzzles and develop their understanding of number sequences - being able to explain number patterns. In geometry pupils will develop their understanding of symmetry, finding lines of symmetry in 2d shapes. They will also practise using the arc symbol for an angle and learn that a quarter turn is a right angle. Pupils will work with 3d shapes identifying the face shapes used to make 3d shapes. In data and measures we will be learning about the relationship between mm, cm, dm and m and will convert measurements. We will also be solving money problems finding change from £1. In reasoning pupils will be solving problems using ‘Real-Life stories’ involving addition, subtraction and particularly knowing when to apply multiplication and division to solve a problem.
Topics
In Science we will be using our theme of 'Into the Woods...' to explore the characteristics of common plants and animals in order to group and classify living things. We will be learning about the key features of different plants, how they reproduce and germinate. The children will find out what plants need to grow and how to set up a fair test to discover this - making careful observations and measurements. We will learn about plants as food and how plants and animals depend on each other for food using food chains/webs. In computing we will be recording our data about plant growth in different forms, we will be creating and using databases to help sort and classify living things. In History we will be finding out about our local hero - Robin Hood and considering whether he existed or not! As part of this focus, we will also be exploring castles and Medieval life in Nottingham. We will be using our History theme to provide a context for our art work this half term, by making model castle sculptures and designing our own knight’s shields.

General Reminders:
Reading, Spellings and Homework:
Guided Reading to the teacher will take place weekly, and there are regular opportunities to read to adults in school. We hope that children continue to read regularly at home, and in particular practise re-reading to improve their fluency and reading stamina - reading more substantial texts. Please note any reading (including any reading of their own books or library books) in their diaries - the children can do this themselves and is good practise ready for KS2.

Spellings and times tables for the half term are given in their spelling book; this ensures that each child has their spellings/tables even if they are absent. Spellings and times tables tests will be on Mondays. We are giving pupils 2 minutes to complete their times table test strips to try and build up fast recall of the facts, so at first they may get fewer correct as we try to speed up. These number strips are ability set and if your child is struggling to learn them please do not worry, learn the first 6 facts and make a note in their book - it is important to commit the facts to memory for fast recall, out of order, and for some children this takes longer, so we will revisit and revise all the time - in particular during our maths lessons during basic skills. We always praise effort and improvement in class.

Homework: We will continue with our homework projects, set in their talk homework books and on our class webpage. These projects aim to develop pupils’ independent learning/research skills, giving you the opportunity to enjoy learning with your child and help prepare children with good homework habits ready for KS2 - Mr Harrison visited our class to see the last projects - well done to those children who completed some super research about our capital cities.

PE Kit: Children require their own PE kit (clearly named) for our weekly sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. Pupils need red shorts, white t-shirt and plimsolls for indoor PE (dark tracksuit/jogging bottoms and outdoor trainers for outdoor PE). Long hair needs to be fully tied up and no earrings please.

Many thanks.

Web Site:
Remember to check our class page on the school web-site: www.priorycatholicschool.co.uk. We have links to games and clips about our new topic. Hope they help.

Date for your diary: Year 2 Class Assembly for Science Week Wednesday 12th March 14.45

Kind Regards: Mrs Kelly & Mrs Harrison