



Spring Term – 1<sup>st</sup> Half

06.01.2025-14.02.2025

# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter

**Teachers:** Mrs Roberts and Mrs Woods

**TAs:** Mrs Cullen and Mrs Flannery

### Our Mission Statement

We would like to be recognised by the quality and depth of respect and love, which we show towards each other. Mutual respect and tolerance are central to our way of life at St. Mary's as we meet Jesus Christ in each other.

Welcome to our Curriculum Newsletter which will outline the main areas of learning for your children over the next part of the term.

We've enjoyed a great start to Year 5 last term, with our focus on The Victorians and finishing our work on Elizabeth Laird's *Oranges In No Man's Land*. We have been especially impressed with how engaged the children have been and they have all produced some superb pieces of creative work since starting Year 5 in September.

### Dates for the diary:

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January: INSET day – children not at school.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January: school opens for pupils

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January: Whole school Mass

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January: Sikhism Week

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January: Young Shakespeare Company

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February: Young Voices

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February: Year 5 walk to 10am Mass at St Edmund's

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February: INSET day – children not at school.



## English

**Writing focus:** this half term we will be using *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo to inspire poetry and writing tasks.

**Reading:** regular comprehension exercises will continue to develop children's reading fluency and their understanding and appreciation of what they read. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of children reading at home from a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction. Children who read widely have many more ideas and much more varied vocabulary to use in their writing.

**Spellings:** to help the children in their writing, there will be weekly spelling tests. Spellings will be given out on Friday to be tested the following Friday.

**Handwriting:** children will continue to develop their handwriting skills by following the Kingston Cursive Handwriting Programme.

**Grammar:** grammar will be embedded throughout all lessons across the range of subjects within our curriculum. If, as part of our weekly teaching, a specific area of grammar or punctuation needs to be focused upon as a class then this may be addressed in an individual session, if appropriate.

Literacy homework will be issued every week. Please check your child's work and sign the diary at the back of the book.



## Religious Education

Our R.E. topic for this half-term is *Inspirational People*. The children will be studying how so many individuals can inspire others and how we can be followers of Jesus. We will be learning about the lives of St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Edith Stein and other saints and examining the lessons we can learn from them and from the Beatitudes.

This year we will also be looking closer to home for those local and national heroes who have inspired us all.

## RSE

We will be starting our new topics this half term looking at lifecycles and growing up. We will explore how a baby grows in the womb, building and developing the teaching at Lower Key Stage Two. We will also be learning about the nature and role of menstruation in the fertility cycle, and that fertility is involved in the start of life.



## Mathematics

During our maths lessons, we will continue to reinforce children's understanding of the number system and the skills of written and mental calculations.

**Number:** Children will continue to further their understanding of the number system including place value to 1,000,000 and to 3 decimal places. We will be continuing to develop formal written calculations using a range of different strategies. Following on from our work on long multiplication using grid and column method, we will be dividing using the bus stop method along with other long division methods.

**Fractions:** Our main focus for the first half of term will be multiplying fractions and calculating fractions of amounts.

**Additive, multiplicative and geometric reasoning:** Children will continue to develop their skills of selecting the appropriate mathematical skill and knowledge to solve every day, multi-step word problems and this discipline threads through all areas of the curriculum.

It is clear that children are still not secure in their multiplication knowledge and it's vitally important considering all the work we are completing during this half term requires application of this knowledge.

Please ensure your children are continuing to practise their multiplication facts up to 12x12 and related division facts.



## Science

Our science topic for this half-term is ***Earth and Space***. We will be investigating the relationship between the Earth, Sun and Moon and the causes of night and day and the seasons.

During this unit of work, children will:

- describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the sun in the solar system
- describe the movement of the moon relative to the Earth
- describe the sun, Earth and moon as approximately spherical bodies
- use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky

## Other Curriculum Areas

**PE:** Children will be learning about the comparisons between netball and basketball.

**Humanities:** We will be studying the development of Crystal Palace as a local area. During this unit of work, we will be learning about the reason for the building of the Palace and how it was moved to Upper Sydenham, the impact it had on our locality (developing comparative skills with a variety of maps) and the events which led to its destruction in 1936. In Geography, we will be aligning with our work on *The Crystal Palace* by looking at our map skills, using ordinance survey maps to describe locations and creating maps to represent differing environments.

**Art and Design:** We will begin to study of The Great Wave of Kanaguwa by Hokusai.

**French:** This half-term's topic: *Les Planètes* – linking with Science. We will learn the names of the planets in French and how to describe their appearance and location in the solar system.

**Computing:** Continuing becoming used to the introduction of Purple Mash to our Primary Computing Curriculum. This half term we will be coding; specifically understanding how functions work in code.

**Finally...**

**Uniform and Equipment:** please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled. We would appreciate it if children could return to school with a glue stick that is clearly labelled.

The full St. Mary's PE kit, including socks, is vital and should be in school each day – as we enter the coldest part of the year plain black or navy track suits are also required.

We trust that you have found this information useful and as always welcome your feedback.

The Year 5 Team.