



Spring Term 1st Half
03.01.2023-10.02.2023

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter

Teachers: Miss Harrison, Miss Walton and Mrs Woods

TA: Mrs Cullen, Mrs Flannery; **ISA:** Mrs Summersby

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 and Happy New Year! After the children's hard work during the Autumn Term, we are picking up the pace even more as we look towards spring.

This half term our main theme is 'Detecting and Solving' and we will be reading classic detective fiction (Sherlock Holmes). We will also be designing and building periscopes in Science, making use of our understanding of how light travels.

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 4th January: school resumes for pupils

Friday 6th January: whole school Mass

Wednesday 18th January and Thursday 19th January: book looks

Wednesday 8th February: World War II evacuee experience at the Museum of Kent Life

Thursday 9th February: Dare To Be Different day

Friday 10th February: INSET day

Religious Education

Our topic will be 'Jesus, the Bread of Life'. We will be reflecting on the story the Passover and developing a deeper understanding of the Penitential Rite, the Offertory, Consecration and Holy Communion. Our work on other faiths this half term will focus on Sikhism.

Relationships Education (RSE)

Our RSE lessons this term will focus on:

- emotional wellbeing – body image and emotional changes
- menstruation
- making babies



Literacy

Writing Focus: we will complete our work on 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes then our key theme is 'Detecting and Solving' and our work will include stories from the Sherlock Holmes novels of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Reading: weekly comprehension exercises and reading sessions will continue to develop comprehension skills.

Spellings: as part of the preparation of children for Key Stage 2 SATs there will continue to be regular spelling tests.

Handwriting: in order to be considered working at the expected standard at the end of Year 6, children must be writing cursively. We will continue to practise handwriting skills by following the Kingston Cursive Handwriting Programme; where necessary additional practice may be required at home.

Grammar: grammar is a key requirement for all primary age children and therefore is threaded throughout all lessons. We still have a number of children who are not using capital letters for proper nouns, or at the start of a sentence. As this was a Year 2 requirement, children who do not develop this skill will be assessed as working at pre-Key Stage 2 levels, even if they have mastered other Year 6 grammar requirements such as the subjunctive mood, passive voice and semi-colons. The importance of basic grammar cannot be stressed enough and we would appreciate it if you could reinforce this when you are checking their homework.

Homework: Literacy homework is set on Tuesday and should be submitted on Thursday.



Mathematics

Fractions, decimals and percentages: children will be ordering, simplifying and exploring the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Ratio, scale and algebra: children will be learning about scaling and the relationship between ratio, proportion and fractions; we will also cover an introduction to simple algebra.

Maths Homework: this set on Tuesday and should be submitted on Thursday.

Help at home: we would ask that you help your child practise their multiplication tables at home – this is not only up to 12 x 12 but includes multiples of 15 and 25, in line with the national curriculum.

Science – Light and Electricity

During our study of this topic children will be learning about light sources, how light travels and how light is reflected. We will also be investigating reasons for variations in components of a circuit.

Other Curriculum Areas

P.E.: St. Mary's PE kit (fully named) is vital and should be in school each day. If your child is chosen for a school team and borrows a school kit, please ensure your child returns the washed kit within two days.

Humanities: we will be looking at trade and economic links in Geography.

Design and Technology: this half term our topic is electrical systems.

Computing: our focus is a valuable life-skill – we will be using spreadsheets to investigate probability and to calculate the discount in a sale.

French: we are fortunate to have Madame Batten for our weekly lessons. This half-term's topic: *Le passé et the present* (past and present tenses of verbs).

Useful information

1. Behaviour rewards: every week we work towards one of our Core Values and children receive a certificate and recognition in our special assembly on a Friday. In Year 6 we still have in-class rewards, for example stickers for exceptional work.
2. Curriculum: all curriculum information can be found on our website, for example see the links below
 - a. [English curriculum at a glance \(whole school view\)](#)
 - b. [Maths curriculum at a glance \(whole school view\)](#)
3. Timetable – a copy of our usual timetable can be found below. Please bear in mind the timetable has to be flexible to account for everyday school events, for example: school trips, special celebration days, visitors, special group work. When there are any changes, the children are informed and in Year 6 we actively encourage this independence in preparation for Year 7 and beyond. However, this will give you a broad idea of how we structure our week:

Day	8.40 – 8.55	8.55 -10.10			10.35 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30		1.35 – 1.45 1.45 – 2.45	2.55 – 3.15	After School
Monday 8.25 staff briefing	Early work & register	Maths (arithmetic)		B	English – Comprehension	Humanities	L	(Early work) Design and Technology / Art	Assembly	Staff Meeting
Tuesday	Early work & register	8.50 – 9.10 Class Assembly (RE)	9.10 – 10.10 RE	R	English	Maths	U	(Early work) Science	Class novel	
Wednesday	Early work & register	KS2 HYMN PRACTICE & SOCIAL SKILLS	9.30- 10.10 RSE	E	English	Maths	N	PE (Focused TA interventions)	Class novel	
Thursday	Early work & register	Thursday Thought (RE)	9.30 – 10.10 Grammar and editing	A	English	Maths	C	Music / PE		
Friday	Early work & register	Maths		K	French / English		H	Computing	Assembly	

Homework out on Tuesday, returned Thursday

And finally

If your child has any secondary school visits or tests, or any music exams, please remember to notify the school beforehand.

We trust you find this information useful. Thank you from the Year 6 Team.