



Spring Term 1st Half
02.01.2024-09.02.2024

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter

Teachers: Miss Harrison, Miss Robinson and Mrs Woods

TA: Mrs Cullen, 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 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 3rd January: school resumes for pupils

Friday 5th January: whole school Mass

Wednesday 10th January and Thursday 11th January: book looks

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

Friday 9th February: Dare To Be Different 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.: our days for PE this half term are Mondays and Wednesdays. Please make sure all PE kit is clearly labelled with your child's name.

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).

Pencil Case Equipment

Please ensure your child has a fully-equipped pencil case, including:

- Hand writing pen or fountain pen (including spare cartridges)
- Pencils / leads for mechanical pencils
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Protractor
- Rigid ruler, 30cm length
- Whiteboard pen
- Green fineliner (not biro) for editing

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.