



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter: Autumn Term 2026



A massive 'welcome' to all of our Year 3 parents and carers! We are delighted to share with you the content of the curriculum for this term. We hope that this gives you a window into your child's learning and enables you to have conversations with your child about what is going on in school.

ENGLISH – reading

We will be reading two novels in our classes this term. In the first half of term, we will read the fabulously hilarious 'You're a bad man, Mr. Gum!' by Andy Stanton. After half term, we will begin 'The Wild Way Home' by Sophie Kirtley, a brilliant historical adventure story about a boy who travels back in time to the Stone Age.



In our whole class reading sessions, the children will be reading a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts, based on a variety of subjects relating to the whole curriculum. Some children will also be receiving targeted phonics support to assist their reading skills, using our new Read Write Inc. programme.

Your child will be receiving a reading book to bring home. Please read with your child at least four times a week.

Further details about English homework will be sent out in a separate letter.

ENGLISH – writing

Narrative writing:

We will explore the techniques used in good story writing, basing our ideas on 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura.

Children will also create their own adventures based upon the short film 'Flight'.

Poetry:

The whole school will be exploring the anthology, 'Midnight Feasts', compiled by A.F. Harrold. Year 3 will explore the structure of quatrains, before creating their own!

Formal and informal letters

The children will discuss the differences between formal and informal letters, thinking about their purposes and their language features. They will then write a real life example of each.

Instructions

The children will learn the structural and linguistic features of instructions and will then create their own versions for their friends to follow.

GRAMMAR:

This term, we will be revising and consolidating the grammar learnt in KS1, looking specifically at:

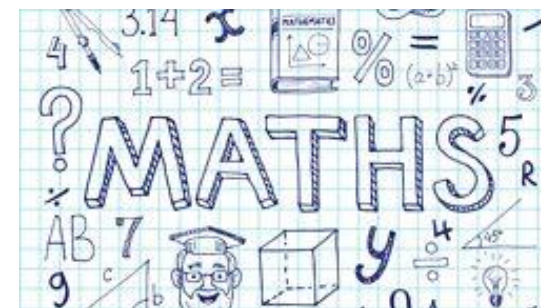
- Common and proper nouns, adjectives and verbs
- Expanded noun phrases
- Simple and progressive tenses
- Different types of sentence
- Co-ordinating and Subordinating conjunctions

SPELLINGS:

Spelling lessons take place regularly in each class. This term, we will consolidate the following: adding suffixes to words to create different tenses and change from singular to plural.

Handwriting:

Handwriting is a big focus in Year 3 as we endeavour to have all children correctly and confidently joining up by the time they reach Year 4.



This term we will cover the following topics:

- place value of 3 digit numbers.
- addition
- subtraction
- multiplication
- division
- fractions.

For each topic, we work through the following sequence, encouraging the mastery approach in Maths which helps the children to apply their knowledge:

1. We practise the skill.
2. We answer reasoning questions based on the skill.
3. We problem solve, applying the skill we have learnt.

You can view our calculation policy on the school website, which may help you to understand how we teach Maths in school.

<https://www.spcj.co.uk/letters/> We will also complete weekly basic skills sessions, which help the children to practise core mathematical skills

Details about Maths homework will be sent out in a separate letter.

RE



Year 3 are continuing their learning from the infant school in line with the new RE curriculum written in consultation with the Bishops of England-To Know You More Clearly. During this term Year 3 will cover the first two branches of the year covering the season of Creation and the season of Advent.

Branch One- Creation and Covenant

Our learning in this branch revisits the story of Creation from the book of Genesis. The children will also study a psalm praising creation and will link their learning to how the gift of Creation is praised at Mass. We will then learn about how it is our duty as Christians to care for Creation, as outlined in Laudato Si by Pope Francis. Each class will learn through storytelling, art, music and prayer, as well as experiencing the wonder of Creation for themselves.

Branch Two- Prophecy and Promise

Our learning in Branch two will be rooted in Saint Matthew's gospel. It will focus on the prophecies of the coming of the Messiah as well as the annunciation to Joseph. Children will link this learning to Mass and how we gather on Sunday because Jesus was resurrected on a Sunday but also because as we learned in the previous branch, Sunday is a holy day. We will learn through art and music, focusing on Advent hymns, as well as visiting church.

PSHE

Personal Goals

Self-identity and self-worth are important for all of our children. The children will explore their own personal goals, whilst also seeking to develop their empathy skills to help them see things from other people's perspectives.

How we live in love

Our pupils will think about the importance of friendships and family relationships in making us happy through the 'Journey in Love' content as recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. They will consider how conflicts can happen and also how these can be fixed. Anti-bullying forms a large part of this topic.

Online relationships

The children will consider healthy and unhealthy online behaviours, developing a range of strategies for safe and fun experiences online.

Promoting physical and mental wellbeing is central to our curriculum approach and forms part of our daily life within school. We also aim to support these further by celebrating **Rainbow Day, Firework Safety, 'Hello Yellow Day' for world mental health, Antibullying Week and Road Safety Week.** Watch out for further details later this term!

SCIENCE

Our topics this term will be:

LIGHT: We will explore the way we need light in order to see objects and how light is reflected off different surfaces. We will learn how shadows are created and investigate ways of making the size of shadows change.

FORCES AND MAGNETS. We will compare how different objects move across a surface, before moving onto exploring magnetism.

HISTORY

'What was new about the New Stone Age?'

The children will study the question, 'What was new about the New Stone Age?'. They will look at timelines, artefacts and archaeological sites such as Skara Brae in order to develop an understanding of how early man lived and of the changes that took place across the millions of years that make up the Stone Age.

Black History Month (October) is also a focus in our school and, in both assemblies and lessons, children will be researching and learning about figures from black history who have contributed to our world and who have much to teach us about resilience and respect.

GEOGRAPHY

'Where on Earth are we?'

The children will think about the Earth as a sphere and explore how this can be represented in a 2D map. They will learn about the imaginary lines used in mapping (latitude, longitude, Equator, Tropics and the International Date Line). On a more local level, they will carry out fieldwork relating to their locality and also begin to learn how to decode Ordnance Survey maps to find locations within the United Kingdom, looking specifically at West Derby.



ART

Self-portraits

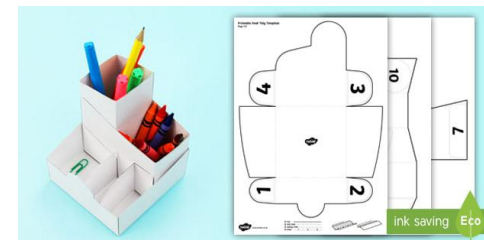
Using the work of artist Romero Britto as a focus (studying his work and techniques), the children will mark the start of their journey in the Juniors by creating self-portraits.



DT

Shell Structures

We will explore different types of shell structures, including packaging. We will then follow the design process to create our own shell structure create an effective desk tidy to organise all of our stationery!



SPANISH

In the first half of term, our specialist Spanish teacher will be teaching the children how to say their name, their age and where they live in Spanish.

They will then move onto learning the names of different body parts as well as the Spanish words for colours.

“Nos gusta aprender español en St Paul’s.”

On September 27th, the school will be celebrating **European Languages Day**, with the children taking part in activities promoting the richness and diversity of the languages spoken in our continent.

MUSIC

‘Reach for the Stars’

We will listen to and complete pulse and rhythm activities relating to this fun pop song, before learning and performing it. We will also have the opportunity to improvise and compose our own pieces of music based upon the skills they have learnt.

COMPUTING

‘Online Detectives’

This unit is designed to support children in mastering the art of advanced internet searching. They will learn new tricks to improve their searches while they try to solve puzzles and challenges. The teaching of e-safety is of paramount importance within St. Paul’s and is an integral part of all our Computing lessons.

PE

‘Basic Skills’ and ‘Gymnastics’

In **basic skills**, pupils will develop the fundamental skills of balancing, running, jumping, hopping and skipping. Pupils will develop their ability to change direction with balance and control. They will be given the opportunity to explore how the body moves at different speeds.

In **gymnastics**, children will focus on improving the quality of their gymnastic movements. They will develop the basic skills of rolling, jumping and balancing and use them individually and in combination.

We hope that you find this newsletter helpful. Further information on our curriculum and how we teach can be found on the school website. We will be adding further to this over the year.

Follow us on Instagram (@spcjliverpool) where we share the excellent learning that goes on at St. Paul’s.

If you have any questions about our curriculum, or any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,

The Year 3 teaching team:

Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Evans, Mrs. Sumner and Miss Cain