



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter: Spring term (second half)



We are pleased to be able to share with you the content of the curriculum that your children will receive until half term.

This half term, our learning is centred around social justice, linking to Catholic Social Teaching. The children will be learning about the experiences of refugees and thinking, in an age appropriate manner, about the issues surrounding the refugee question.

ENGLISH

Our novel this term is the fabulous, award winning 'Varjak Paw', by S.F. Said, a mystery and an adventure that will keep us all guessing!



In our reading comprehension sessions, the children also experience a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, based on a range of subjects relating to the whole curriculum and to special events. Some of our children will also continue to receive 'Read, Write, Inc' phonics interventions to improve reading fluency.

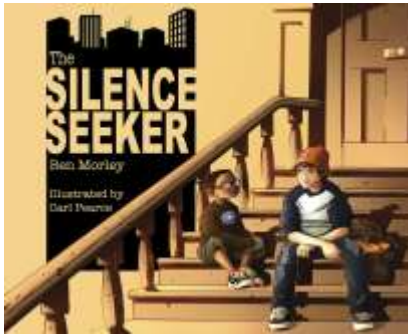
Please continue to read the book sent home from school with your child at least four times a week.

ENGLISH – writing

We base the teaching of our writing on the language and structure found in quality texts.

Narrative writing:

Our writing this term is linked to our refugee topic. The children will be reading 'The Silence Seeker' by Ben Morley, a book about a child who finds himself living next door to an asylum seeker. The children will be producing a range of creative writing in response to this story.

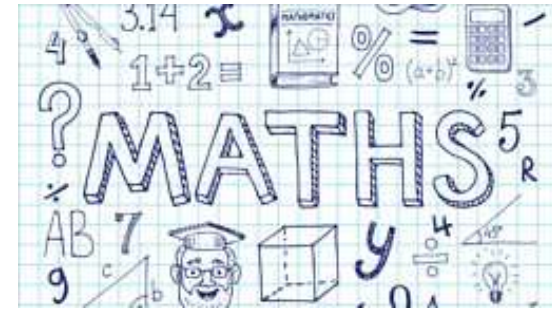


POETRY:

We will study the poetic form of a Kenning, with the children writing poems about the refugee crisis using this structure.

PERSUASIVE WRITING:

The children will learn about the language structures used in persuasive writing, before applying these skills to a leaflet linked to the work of Asylum Link Merseyside.



This half term we will cover the following topics:

- **Mass and Capacity**
- **Fractions**
- **Money**

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

Maths homework is set weekly on Century. Pupils are also encouraged to practice their times tables on TT Rock Stars.

RE



Here are our topics for this half term:

Branch 4 – Desert to Garden

Pupils will cover the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper and will link their learning to the practices of Catholics at Mass. As well as learning about Mass factually, this branch offers the opportunity to think about the prayers that are said and sung at Mass and the way people are invited to participate in responses. Pupils also touch on the belief that after receiving Holy Communion, a transformation occurs as a person is part of the body of Christ. It may offer pupils a simple way to think about how communion leads Catholics into a deeper relationship with Jesus

PSHE

Here are our topics for this half term:

BALANCED LIFESTYLES:

In this topic we will be:

- Learning what makes a healthy diet and why this is important
- Understanding influences and how to make healthy choices when deciding what to eat or drink
- Learning how to plan and prepare a healthy meal
- Understanding why regular, physical activity is important
- Recognising strategies to maintain a healthy lifestyle

SAFETY RULES AND RISKS:

In this topic we will be:

- Identifying the safe use of medicines and household products
- Learning that caffeine, cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vaping and alcohol can affect people's health



This term, we will be:

Studying ROCKS. We will compare different rocks based on their properties before moving on to explore how fossils are created. We will also consider the different components of soil.

MUSIC

Adrift theme - Journey

BBC TEN PIECES 'Finlandia' by Sibelius

As well as exploring layers of sound in an orchestral piece, pupils will revisit their learning from the Autumn topic about dynamics and rhythm and will apply their knowledge to a group performance.

Art

Sculpture: Shoes, based on the work of Gyula Pauer

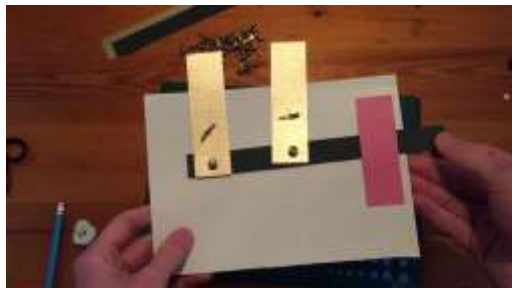
As part of our refugee learning, the children will explore the sculptures of Gyula Pauer, thinking about the messages he was trying to convey in his work. The children will then explore different ways to sculpt using paper, before creating their own paper sculpture of a shoe, representing the journey of a refugee. All of our pieces will be combined to create our very own art installation.



Design and Technology

Mechanisms: Levers and Linkages

We will explore the way levers are used to create moving parts in children's books. Following on from this, the children will apply their learning by designing, creating and evaluating their own moving picture, a page for a children's book linking to our learning on the refugee issue.



SPANISH

In the first half of term, our specialist Spanish teacher will be teaching the children how to say the names of animals in Spanish. They will also be learning how to talk about their home environment using Spanish vocabulary.

"Nos gusta aprender español en St Paul's."



PE

'Basic skills – throwing and catching'

In this unit, pupils will develop basic throwing and catching techniques. They are set challenges that involve using different styles and combinations of catching and throwing. Pupils will think about how to achieve their greatest possible distance or accuracy and learn how to persevere to achieve their personal best. Pupils are also given opportunities to measure, time and record scores.

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:

Mrs Thomson, Mr. Doyle, Miss Cain, Miss Evans, Mr. Clay and Mr. Garrity