



# ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter: Spring term (first half)



We are pleased to be able to share with you the content of the curriculum that your children will receive until half term. We will send another newsletter informing you about the curriculum for Spring 2 later in the term. Please get in touch if you have any questions!

### ENGLISH – reading

This half term, Year 4 will be reading the classic novel, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis, the first of his 'Chronicles of Narnia' series.



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.

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

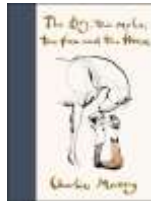
*Century continues to be our English homework and is a fantastic way of developing children's comprehension skills at their own level. Please contact school if you have lost your loan.*

## ENGLISH – writing

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

Narrative writing:

The children will be creating their own versions of the award winning 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy.



Non-chronological report:

The children will explore how writing can inform, creating shared texts linked to our Geography learning on America, before taking ownership and deciding themselves what they would like to inform others about in writing.

**GRAMMAR:**

### -Conjunctions

- Main and subordinate clauses

**SPELLINGS:**

## Creating nouns with the suffixes -tion, -ity and -ness

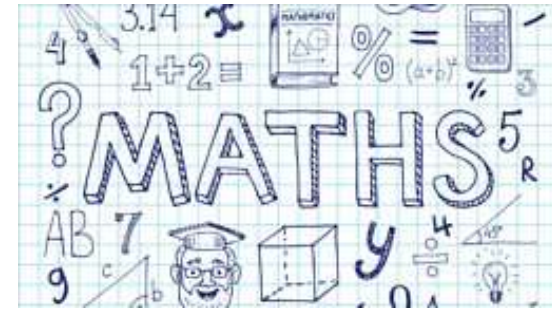
### Using the suffix '-ity'

Using the suffix '-ness'

Using the suffix 'tion'

The 'shun' suffixes, including the suffix '-sion'

The 'shun' suffixes, including the suffix '-ssion'



This half term we will cover the following topics:

- Multiplication
- Division
- Length and perimeter
- 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 link the skill to reasoning and problem solving questions.

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 fortnightly on Century. All children also have their TT Rock Stars logins to help them improve their times tables fluency.

## RE



Here are our topics for this half term:

### Galilee to Jerusalem

This topic will focus upon the son of God and the season of Christmas. In this branch, pupils will consider Jesus' question to Peter, 'Who do you say I am?'

They will also reflect on Jesus as the servant Messiah and how he announces the Kingdom of Heaven to those at the edge of society. It is essential that, alongside learning from Scripture, pupils understand the historical and cultural context in which Jesus' healings occur.



This term, we will be:

Studying LIVING THINGS AND THEIR HABITATS. We will study how animals are adapted to their different environments. We will also use keys to help us classify living organisms. We will think about threats to natural habitats, particularly considering how global warming poses a threat to all living things and identifying simple ways we can make a difference!

## PSHE

### CHANGING EMOTIONS:

In this topic we will be:

- Gaining a deeper understanding of the range and intensity of their feelings and that positive actions help emotional well-being

### MY CHANGING BODY:

In this topic we will be:

- Learning what the term puberty means and when children can expect it to take place
- Learning the correct names of genitalia
- Understanding the physical and emotional changes that will happen to boys and girls during puberty
- Learning how a baby grows and develops in its mother's womb including, scientifically, the uniqueness of the moment of conception
- Understanding how conception and life in the womb fits into the cycle of life

**Both of these units are taught in an age appropriate manner, using resources from the Catholic, diocesan approved scheme of work '10:10'.**

## COMPUTING

### 'Games Designer'

The children will learn about the video game designer and developer careers. They will play a retro video game and discuss different types of video games and their age rating. They will learn about creating safe and secure usernames and passwords. The children will then design and code their own hero-versus-villain-style video game. Finally, they will share their video game with the world.

## HISTORY

### 'Why should we thank the Ancient Greeks?'

Ancient Greek life has been highly influential in the development of Western civilisation. Our children will look at the golden age of Ancient Greece, studying the similarities and differences between the city states of Athens and Sparta, as well as discovering how modern global events such as the Olympic games were originally begun over 2,000 years ago!



## GEOGRAPHY

### 'Can you come on a great American road trip?'

We will be comparing what we have learnt over the past four years about the human and physical features of the UK with those of America! We will look at the city of New York, comparing it to Liverpool. We will find the similarities and differences between Snowdonia and the Rocky Mountains. Alongside this, we will virtually journey down Route 66, exploring the states that we travel through and the cultural significance of this famous road!



## SPANISH

In the first half of term, our specialist Spanish teacher will be teaching the children vocabulary relating to describing the weather. They will also learn how to use simple prepositions to link talking about the weather with the months of the year.

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

## PE

### 'Dance'

This unit will develop the children's existing dance skills, looking particularly at changing formations using canon and unison moves.

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

**Many thanks,**

**The Year 4 teaching team:**

**Mrs. Wickham, Miss Palmer, Mrs. Lewis and Miss Roberts**