



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter: Summer term (second half)



We are going to have a brilliant final half term in Year 4! Our learning during this period is based on social justice, with all pupils taking part in a conservation project linked to the work of Chester Zoo in raising awareness about global sustainability issues.



Our Year 4 conservation project is based around the plight of the pangolins. These scaly creatures are often mistaken for reptiles, but are actually mammals. Sadly, they are now critically endangered, one of the most trafficked animals in the world. We will be considering the reasons for this as well as ways to raise awareness of the problems faced by global wildlife today.

ENGLISH - reading

This half term, we will complete the brilliant 'Children of the Benin Kingdom' by Dinah Orji.



In reading comprehension sessions, the children will also continue to 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.

Read Theory 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 log in!

ENGLISH - writing

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

Narrative:

We will be creating fantasy stories, using the film 'Dreamgiver' as a stimulus.

Persuasive Writing:

The children will be applying persuasive techniques to inform us about what we can do to help save the pangolin!

GRAMMAR:

We will continue to build on and expand upon the children's knowledge of grammar, looking especially this term at:

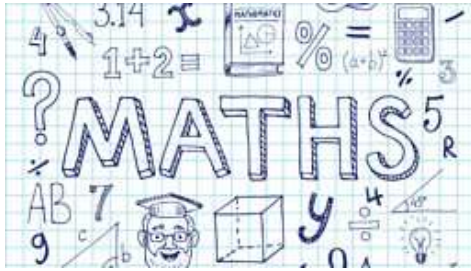
- Use of inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate direct speech.
- Standard English

As always, we revisit and revise grammar learnt across KS2 in our lessons as well.

SPELLINGS:

Spelling lessons take place regularly in each class. Our spelling rules for this term will be:

- Words with plural apostrophes
- Common exception words



This half term we will cover the following topics:

- **Decimals**
- **Money**
- **Time**
- **Geometry: properties of shapes, position and direction**
- **Statistics: data handling**

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 questions involving units of measure.
3. We complete missing box questions relating to the skill.
4. We answer reasoning questions based on the skill.
5. 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

RE



Here are our topics for this half term:

ISLAM:

The children will consider why the Qu'ran is important to Muslim believers and ways in which it is used and treated by Muslims.

GOD'S PEOPLE:

This topic allows the children to think about the worldwide church. We will look at the lives of saints from around the world who have done incredible things for God and for other people, looking particularly at Oscar Romero and other, lesser known saints.

PSHE

CYBER DETECTIVES:

The children will think about how we stay safe online, thinking particularly about the dangers involved in online fraud.

BALANCING WANTS, NEEDS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

This unit looks into the 'grey' areas around conservation. Sadly, conservation is not as simple as telling people to save animals. We will explore the reasons why this can be difficult for people, depending on their livelihoods or where they live.



This term, we will be:

studying **ANIMALS INCLUDING HUMANS**. We will explore the importance of the right nutrition for humans and animals before moving onto a study of the role of the skeleton and muscles in the human body.

ART

Sculpture using recycled materials

Based on the art of the sculptor Michelle Reader, the children will explore the technique of sculpting using recycled materials, representing a pangolin as their finished piece.



DT

'Textiles - a tote bag'

Building on the stitches learnt in KS1, the children will be turning pillow cases into charity tote bags, raising awareness of the plight of the pangolin! Children will be designing their own bags using CAD technology, as well as then stitching the seams and adding embellishments.

SPANISH

Our specialist Spanish teacher will be encouraging our pupils to use their conversational skills, teaching pupils about how to ask for cold drinks and ice creams in Spanish. The children will also learn how to read prices in Spanish.

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

COMPUTING

'Endangered species'

We will be exploring how to use different forms of presentation on Computing devices to help raise awareness of issues. This unit includes taking and editing photographs and producing posters and films.

PE

'Outdoor Adventurous Activities'

This brilliant unit is full of both individual and team challenges in areas such as journeying and orienteering.

Thursday 10th July is our Sports Day and Curriculum Exhibition from 1.30pm. Come and watch us participate in a range of sports on the field before visiting our classroom to see some of our wonderful learning from across the term.

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:

Miss Palmer, Mrs. Wickham, Miss Roberts and Mrs. Stewart

