



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter: Autumn Term 2024



We hope that your children are settling into their new routines in Year 4. 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 'Secrets of the Sun King' by Emma Carroll, which links into our history topic (the Ancient Egyptians). After half term, we will begin 'The Steamchasers: we made that!' by Dr. Doresa Jennings. This book helps us explore amazing inventions that have been created, particularly by people within the black community (linking into Black History Month).



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.

Your child will have received 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 study 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan, both the book and the Oscar winning film. The children will use their learning to rewrite the story from the perspective of the 'thing'.

Poetry:

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

Informal letters

The children will analyse informal letters, thinking about their purposes and their language features, before using a real life scenario to create their own.

Character Description

Using the short film 'The Black Hat' as a stimulus, the children will explore ways in which to convey ideas about different characters.

Recounts

The children will create enthralling diary entries, based upon their novel from the first half of the Autumn term, 'Secrets of a Sun King'.

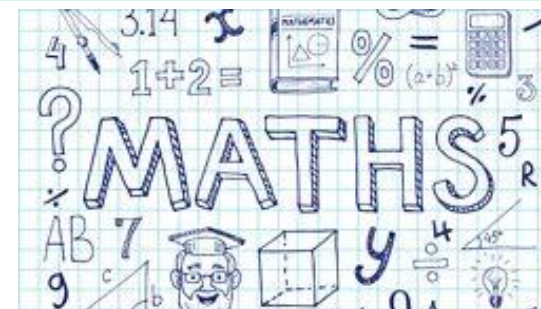
GRAMMAR:

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

- Word classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs.
- Revisiting different tenses (simple, progressive, perfect)
- Conjunctions (co-ordinating and subordinating)
- Main and subordinate clauses

SPELLINGS:

Spelling lessons take place regularly in each class. This term, we will be covering: homophones; the prefixes 'in', 'il', 'im', 'ir' and 'sub'; words ending in 'ation', words ending 'ly' and 'lly', words where 'ch' makes the 'sh' sound, words ending 'sion'.



This term we will cover the following topics:

- place value of 4 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



Here are our topics for this term:

PEOPLE:

Christians believe that the diversity of the world and its people is God's gift. Jesus, in his life and Gospel, challenges people to appreciate diversity. The children will explore these themes.

CALLED:

The Bible recounts God's invitations to people to share in his life and work. Children will investigate the call and Sacrament of Confirmation.

GIFT:

Advent is a time when we appreciate the love in our lives and we are prepared to celebrate love becoming a reality in the person of Jesus. In Year 4, we will celebrate the gift of Jesus given by God as a sign of his love.

The children will also explore the faith of JUDAISM. We will be looking at the Holy book of the Torah. We will look at the celebrations of Bar/Bat Mitzvah and the importance of these within Jewish life and worship.

Daily acts of worship also take place within each class.

PSHE

'Democracy in Action'

In this topic in Year 4, the children will think about what it means to be a member of a class 'team' and a school 'citizen'. They will consider their rights and responsibilities within school and how they can use their voice democratically (for example, electing a school councillor).

'Respecting and valuing our differences'

This unit celebrates the brilliant uniqueness of each person and how we can respect and actively value the diversity we see in others.

'Asking, giving and receiving consent'

This important unit focuses on boundaries, both physical and emotional. The children will consider situations in which it is right to say 'No' to people, and the importance of respecting others when they say this.



This term, we will be:

1. Learning about ELECTRICITY. The children will construct simple circuits using a variety of components, including switches. They will develop their knowledge of electrical conductors and insulators.
2. Learning about STATES OF MATTER. We will learn about the different properties of solids, liquids and gases and the impact that heat and cooling have on each of these. We will apply this knowledge to help us understand the water cycle.

HISTORY

'How much did the Ancient Egyptians achieve?'

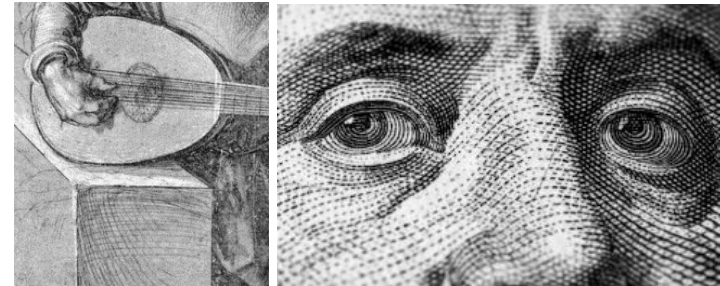
In this unit, the children will explore who the Ancient Egyptians were, what they did and discuss whether Ancient Egypt deserves its reputation as one of the most important early civilisations. They will look at archaeological artefacts and at the monuments left by the ancient Egyptians to help them gain a full understanding of day to day life during this period.

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.

ART

Self portraits

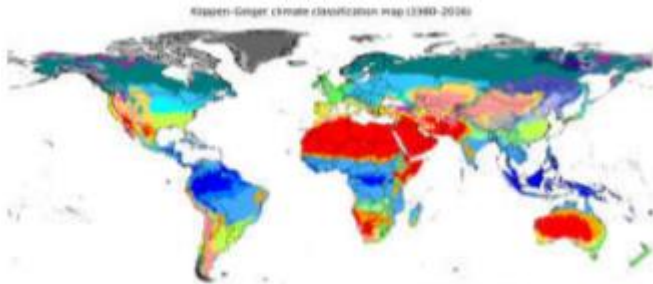
We will investigate the life of the artist Albrecht Durer, as well as exploring different drawing techniques for shading and adding tone, using these to produce self-portraits.



GEOGRAPHY

'Is climate cool?'

The question the children will investigate is 'Is Climate Cool?' In this unit, the children will learn to read weather and climate maps, and learn how weather and climate can be seen in specific world climate zones, such as the polar regions, rainforests and the tropics. They will explore the climate, flora, fauna and also the human activity in these zones.



DT

Electrical components - Light boxes

Using and applying our learning about Electricity in Science, along with our understanding of shell structures from Year 3, we will design and create our own light boxes.



SPANISH

Our specialist Spanish teacher will be teaching the children how to talk about themselves, their family and their friends. The children will also be taught to discuss school life.

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

MUSIC

‘What a wonderful world’

Based around the song famously performed by Louis Armstrong, this unit introduces the children to the world of jazz. We will explore the characteristics of this genre: the rhythms, notations, instruments, before composing and performing our own jazz creations.

COMPUTING

‘Real or Fake?’

Fake news has become commonplace in society and children are very much part of those who are reading fake news on a daily basis. This module will aim to make them aware of Fake News, give them the skills to consider each piece of news they read on its own merits and decide what is real or fake. The teaching of e-safety is of paramount importance within St. Paul’s and is an integral part of all our Computing lessons.

PE

Football

This unit will look at the skills involved in playing football, learning the rules of the game and will encourage the children to participate in healthy competition.

Gymnastics

In this unit pupils develop balancing, rolling, jumping and inverted movements and use these skills to create more complex sequences. Pupils are taught to demonstrate control in their behaviour to create a safe environment for themselves and others to work in. They work independently and in collaboration with others to create and develop sequences.

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 Twitter (@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 4 teaching team:

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