



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter: Autumn Term 2024



To all our parents and carers,

We are delighted to share with you the content of the Year 6 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

Our novel for the Autumn term in Year 6 is the deeply moving and Blue Peter book award winning 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo. Set in World War I, a young man relates his experiences of life on the Front, capturing his memories as he looks back over his life.



In our reading comprehension sessions, the children also experience both fiction and non-fiction texts, based on a range of subjects relating to the whole curriculum. Phonics interventions will be taking place for children who require them.

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

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

Narrative writing

Based upon Neil Gaiman's dark retelling of 'Hansel and Gretel', the children will create their own story around what might happen when you are lost in the woods.....

Poetry

The whole school will be exploring the anthology 'Midnight Feasts', compiled by A.F. Harrold. Year 6 will explore free verse, before creating their own poems

Balanced argument

Learning to debate is an important skill. Our pupils will link their arguments to our History topic, all relating to a local soldier from WW1.

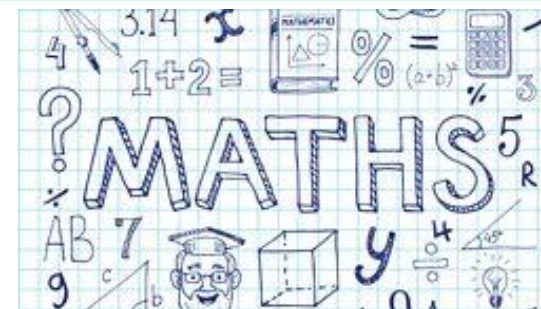
GRAMMAR:

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

- Revision of word classes
- Revision of tenses
- Parenthesis
- Colons and semi colons
- Complex sentences (including a range of conjunctions)
- Relative pronouns and relative clauses
- Active and passive voice
- Synonyms and antonyms

SPELLINGS:

Spelling lessons take place regularly in each class. This term, we will cover: words with the short vowel sound /i/ spelled 'y', words with the long vowel sound /igh/ spelled 'y', adding the prefix 'over-', words with the suffix '-ful', words that can be nouns and verbs, words with an /oa/ sound spelled 'ou' or 'ow', words with a -soft c' spelled 'ce', words with the prefixes 'dis-', 'un-', 'over-', and 'im-'.



This term we will cover the following topics:

- place value of 6 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:

Loving:

The children will think about how it is in the love of a family that Christians first experience the reality of Church. Everyone begins life in a home and family or community of some kind. They will consider how important it is that we love and care for people, whilst also looking at Scriptural passages that show us the everlasting and unconditional love of God.

Vocation and Commitment:

The children will consider how, through Baptism and Confirmation, all Christians are called to share the mission of Jesus. There are many different ways of carrying out that mission. For some people their mission or vocation is as a priest or member of a religious order. The children will explore different vocations that people may experience.

Expectations:

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, given by God as a sign and expression of God's love. Giving and receiving reflects the truth that all life is given by God and life is given meaning through the birth of Jesus. The children will reflect on how Advent is a time of joyful expectation, as we prepare to receive Jesus into our lives and to share this gift with others at Christmas and throughout the year.

The children will also explore the faith of **JUDAISM**. We will be looking at the feast of Rosh Hashanah, finding out why and how Jewish people celebrate this festival.

Daily acts of worship also take place within each class.

PSHE

Local and global communities

In this topic, the children will explore the Universal Rights of the Child and what it means to be a 'global citizen'. They will consider how important it is for people to feel welcome and valued in any society or community. They will discuss democracy and the importance of sharing our voices.

Respecting diverse identity

The children will think about the different perceptions that there are of the word 'normal'. They will consider how being 'different' affects people. They will also consider what leads people to use bullying behaviours.

The wonder of creating new life

We will explore how being made in the image and likeness of God informs decisions and actions when building relationships with others. We will also discuss how a human life is conceived.



This term, we will be:

1. Learning about **EVOLUTION AND INHERITANCE**. Building on their learning about adaptation from previous years, the children will explore the concepts of evolution and also how species inherit characteristics from their parents.
2. Learning about **LIGHT**. Building on our prior work in this area in Year 3, we will explore how light travels from light sources to our eyes. We will think about how the eye works to make us see. We will also further our understanding of the formation of shadows, relating this to the way in which light travels.

HISTORY

'How was West Derby shaped by WWI?'

This is a local history unit, in which the children will study the life of Lewis Mogridge, a real young man from West Derby who lived during the First World War. His name can be found on the war memorial in West Derby village, by St. Mary's Church. Children will explore his experiences through primary and secondary sources to gain a better understanding of life in World War I.

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

'What will the world be like in the future?'

In this unit, the children will consider the past, present and future of their local area. This unit help them see change as positive and to feel optimistic about the changes that lie ahead. The children will create their own plan for the future of the local area, considering the needs of the wider community and thinking about housing, public services and industries whilst also contemplating the issue of sustainability.

ART

'World War I soldier'

This term, the children will analyse the drawings and techniques of Paul Nash, a war artist. They will use their learning to help them create their own drawings of a World War I soldier.



DT

Food Technology

All children will be participating in classes with our expert teacher from School Improvement Liverpool. They will continue their learning around the importance of a balanced diet, following recipes to make easily adaptable meals, such as chilli or bolognaise.



SPANISH

Our specialist Spanish teacher Estrella will be teaching the children how to talk about their families and the names of jobs. The children will also engage in discussions relating to real life situations.

“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

‘Rock and roll music’

This unit builds on the children’s learning of other musical genres across the school. They will consider the features of rock and roll music, as well as learning about different bands and artists. They will then apply this knowledge, along with their musical theory knowledge, to compose their own music.

COMPUTING

‘Crossy Roads’

The class will explore Virtual Reality (VR) and how it can be used in the classroom. The children will also build their own VR world.

PE

Netball

Pupils will develop their understanding of the attacking and defending principles of invasion games. In all games activities, pupils have to think about how they use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition. In netball pupils do this by maintaining possession and moving the ball towards goal to score.

Gymnastics

In this unit, pupils use their knowledge of compositional principles e.g. how to use variations in level, direction and pathway, how to combine and link actions, how to relate to a partner and apparatus, when developing 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 6 teaching team:

Mr. Fox-Ford, Mr. O’Callaghan, Mr. Connolly and Mrs. Clay