



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

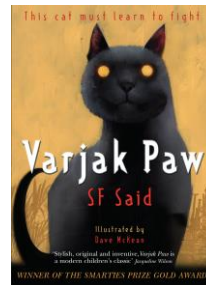
Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter: Spring term (second half)



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, all our learning is centred around social justice. 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.

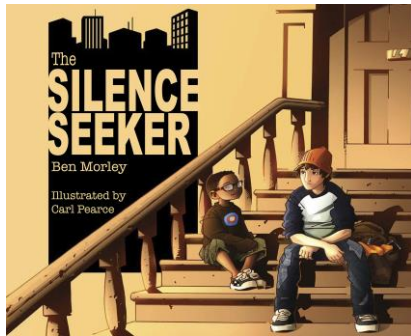
Read Theory continues to be our English homework and is a fantastic way of developing children's comprehension skills at their own level. Please contact school if you have lost your log in.

ENGLISH – writing

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

Narrative 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.

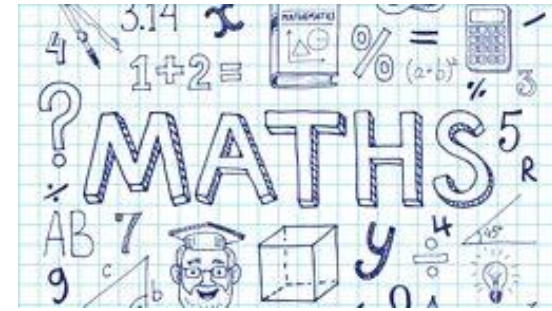


SPELLINGS:

Spelling lessons take place regularly in each class. Children learn about their focus spelling rule and complete activities based on it.

HANDWRITING:

The children are working through each letter and learning to join up using 'diagonal joins'. We are encouraging the children to apply their skills across their curriculum work.



This half term we will cover the following topics:

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

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

Maths homework is set weekly on Seesaw. 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:

LISTENING AND SHARING:

The children learn about the different parts of the Eucharist. Firstly, the Liturgy of the Word, where we learn from the Bible and from the homily. Secondly, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, where communion is shared.

GIVING ALL:

The children learn about the meaning of Lent, before moving on to explore how Jesus gave of himself during the days leading up to Easter.

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

BBC Ten Pieces – 'Finlandia'

This unit focuses on classical music, using the brilliant resources from BBC Ten Pieces. We will explore this piece of music and then compose our own themes, based upon our learning.

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.



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

'Athletics'

In this unit, pupils will develop basic running, jumping and throwing techniques. They are set challenges for distance and time that involve using different styles and combinations of running, jumping and throwing. As in all athletic activities, pupils think about how to achieve their greatest possible speed, 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:

Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Hodgekinson and Mr. Flynn

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.

