



# ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Year 3 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. Art and DT are being taught after half term, so information about these will be included in the next newsletter. Please get in touch if you have any questions!

### ENGLISH – reading

Our novel for this half term in class is the classic, 'The Iron Man' by former Poet Laureate Ted Hughes.



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.*

*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:

We will create our own, slightly twisted version of a fairy tale, basing our ideas on 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs' by Jon Scieszka.



## Recount:

The children will base this on our novel, 'The Iron Man', rewriting a section of the novel from a character's perspective.

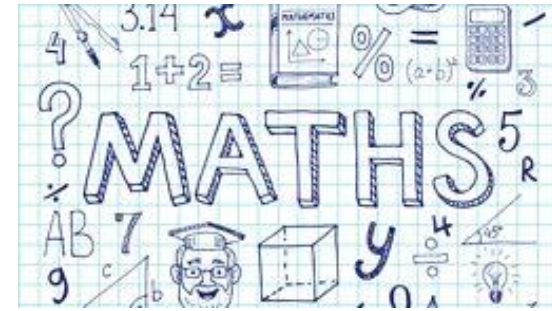
## GRAMMAR:

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

- Conjunctions of cause and effect(because & so)
- Coordinating and subordinating conjunctions(so far)
- Components of a sentence (subject and a verb)
- Main clauses

## SPELLINGS:

- Words with the digraph 'ai' & tetragraph 'aigh'
- Words with the digraph 'ei' and 'tetragraph' eigh'
- Words where the digraph 'ey' makes an /ai/ sound
  - Words with the suffix '-ly'
  - Words that are homophones



This half term we will cover the following topics:

- **Multiplication and Division**
- **Measures including length, perimeter, mass and capacity**
- **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 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:

### JOURNEYS:

In this topic, we explore how on Sundays, the parish family gathers together to celebrate God's love. The children will learn about different Sacraments and special events within the Church's life.

### 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.

## PSHE

Here is our topics for this half term:

### EXPRESSING AND MANAGING FEELINGS

In this topic we will be:

- Focusing on feelings and emotions, how these change over time and what helps people to feel good.
- Learning to describe and express feelings and the importance of doing so.
- Exploring different kinds of life changes, how these can affect people, and different responses someone might have to grief.
- Learning about ways of managing when feelings (especially strong feelings) influence our actions and behaviour, sometimes negatively.



This term, we will be:

Studying FORCES AND MAGNETS. We will compare how different objects move across a surface, before moving onto exploring magnetism.

## COMPUTING

### 'Programming with Robots'

Robots can be found almost everywhere. In this unit, the children explore the history of robots and then get to program a robot around a maze.

## HISTORY

### 'How did technology affect the lives of people in the Bronze and Iron Ages?'

Following on from last term's study of the Stone Age, the children will investigate how the discovery of metal revolutionised life in this country. They will think about how day to day life changed and the impact of metal on relationships between tribes. Overall, they will look at a range of evidence to decide whether life improved for British people during this period.

## GEOGRAPHY

### 'Do you like to be beside the seaside?'

We will explore the features of coastal regions, beginning with our own Mersey estuary, but also contrasting this with a Mediterranean seaside resort. The children will think about the different human uses of the coast and about the advantages and disadvantages of living in a coastal area.



## SPANISH

In the first half of term, our specialist Spanish teacher will be teaching the children how to say the names of days and months in Spanish. They will also learn how to talk about odd and even numbers in Spanish and how to say both their own and their friends' birthdays.

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

## PE

### 'Basic skills'

In this unit, children will practice their basic skills relating to ball games; throwing, catching, hitting, fielding and defending.

*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:*

*Mrs. Thomson, Mr. Doyle, Miss Hodgkinson and Mr. Flynn*