



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

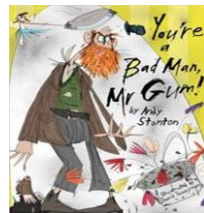
Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter: Autumn Term 2023



A massive 'welcome' to all of our Year 3 parents and carers! 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 the fabulously hilarious 'You're a bad man, Mr. Gum!' by Andy Stanton. After half term, we will begin 'The Wild Way Home' by Sophie Kirtley, a brilliant historical adventure story about a boy who travels back in time to the Stone Age.



In our whole class reading sessions, the children will be reading a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts, based on a variety of subjects relating to the whole curriculum. Some children will also be receiving targeted phonics support to assist their reading skills, using our new Read Write Inc. programme.

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.

Instructions:

The children will learn about writing instructions, composing their own versions based on the book 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' by Michelle Robinson.

Narrative writing:

We will explore the techniques used in good story writing, basing our ideas on 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura.

Persuasive writing

The children will study techniques used in writing to persuade. Our work will be based on the concept of writing a holiday brochure to persuade people to visit the Stone Age site of 'Skara Brae'.

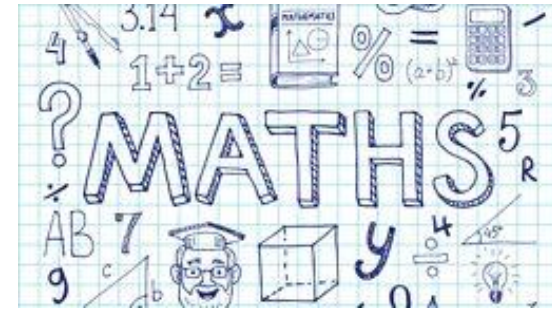
GRAMMAR:

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

- Different types of sentences
- Common, proper and collective nouns
- Adjectives
- Commas in lists
- Expanded noun phrases
- Apostrophes for contraction

SPELLINGS:

Spelling lessons take place regularly in each class. This term, we will consolidate the following: where 'ou' makes an 'ow' sound and an 'u' sound, the prefixes 're', 'dis' and 'mis' as well as what happens to multisyllabic words when we add 'ing', 'ed' and 'en'.



This term we will cover the following topics:

- place value of 3 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 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.

Details about Maths homework will be sent out in a separate letter.

RE



Here are our topics for this term:

HOMES:

In this topic we explore how God is present in every home. This is expressed in the love that binds the family together within the home through good times and bad times.

PROMISES:

The promises made at Baptism are the call to a new way of life. The children will explore the meaning of the promises made at Baptism.

VISITORS:

The children will think about Advent, a time of waiting for the coming of Jesus, visiting our world as a baby.

Year 3 will lead our school in the Harvest celebrations this term. We will be collecting donations for our local foodbank: look out for a letter in the next few weeks!

PSHE

Personal Goals

Self-identity and self-worth are important for all of our children. The children will explore their own personal goals, whilst also seeking to develop their empathy skills to help them see things from other people's perspectives.

How we live in love

Our pupils will think about the importance of friendships and family relationships in making us happy. They will consider how conflicts can happen and also how these can be fixed. Anti-bullying forms a large part of this topic.

Online relationships

The children will consider healthy and unhealthy online behaviours, developing a range of strategies for safe and fun experiences online.

Promoting physical and mental wellbeing is central to our curriculum approach and forms part of our daily life within school. We also aim to support these further by celebrating **Rainbow Day, Firework Safety, 'Hello Yellow Day' for world mental health, Antibullying Week and Road Safety Week.** Watch out for further details later this term!



This term, we will be:

Learning about **LIGHT**. We will explore the way we need light in order to see objects and how light is reflected off different surfaces. We will learn how shadows are created and investigate ways of making the size of shadows change.

HISTORY

'What was new about the New Stone Age?'

The children will study the question, 'What was new about the New Stone Age?'. They will look at timelines, artefacts and archaeological sites such as Skara Brae in order to develop an understanding of how early man lived and of the changes that took place across the millions of years that make up the Stone Age.

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

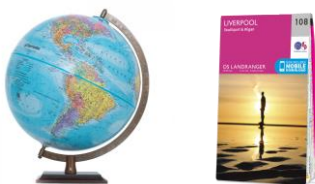
Using the work of artist Romero Britto as a focus (studying his work and techniques), the children will mark the start of their journey in the Juniors by creating self-portraits.



GEOGRAPHY

'Where on Earth are we?'

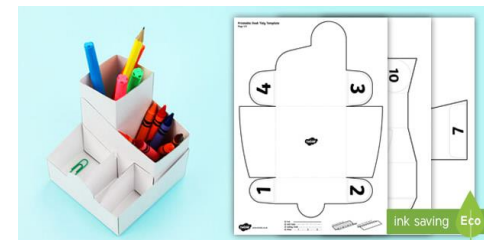
The children will think about the Earth as a sphere and explore how this can be represented in a 2D map. They will learn about the imaginary lines used in mapping (latitude, longitude, Equator, Tropics and the International Date Line). On a more local level, they will carry out fieldwork relating to their locality and also begin to learn how to decode Ordnance Survey maps to find locations within the United Kingdom, looking specifically at West Derby.



DT

Shell Structures

We will explore different types of shell structures, including packaging. We will then follow the design process to create our own shell structure create an effective desk tidy to organise all of our stationery!



SPANISH

In the first half of term, our specialist Spanish teacher will be teaching the children how to say their name, their age and where they live in Spanish.

They will then move onto learning the names of different body parts as well as the Spanish words for colours.

“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

‘Reach for the Stars’

We will listen to and complete pulse and rhythm activities relating to this fun pop song, before learning and performing it. We will also have the opportunity to improvise and compose our own pieces of music based upon the skills they have learnt.

COMPUTING

‘Online Detectives’

This unit is designed to support children in mastering the art of advanced internet searching. They will learn new tricks to improve their searches while they try to solve puzzles and challenges. The teaching of e-safety is of paramount importance within St. Paul’s and is an integral part of all our Computing lessons.

PE

‘Dance’ and ‘Gymnastics’

In **dance**, pupils will create dances in relation to an idea including historical and scientific stimuli. Pupils work individually, with a partner and in small groups, sharing their ideas.

In **gymnastics**, children will focus on improving the quality of their gymnastic movements. They will develop the basic skills of rolling, jumping and balancing and use them individually and in combination.

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 3 teaching team:

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