



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.

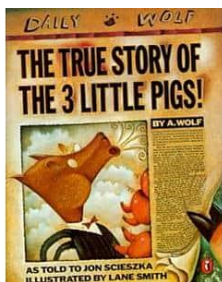
Read Theory continues to be our English homework and is a fantastic way of developing children's comprehension skills at their own level. Please contact school if you have lost your log in.

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.



Instructions:

The children will revisit instructional texts based on learning from last term, using ideas from 'The Iron Man' for inspiration.

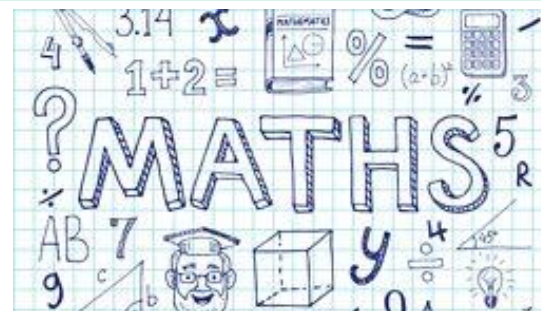
GRAMMAR:

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

- Inverted commas to punctuate speech
- Adverbs (to express time, place and cause)
- Prepositions

SPELLINGS:

Spelling lessons take place regularly in each class. Children learn about their focus spelling rule and complete activities based on it. Spellings can be found each Friday, on the school website and on Sessaw, for the following week's spelling focus.



This half term we will cover the following topics:

- 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

Maths homework is on a fortnightly cycle. One week will be a maths activity, set on Seesaw. On the other week, please encourage your child to build their tables skills by playing Times Tables Rock Stars. Ten minutes a day is perfect to build 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.

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 **Children's Mental Health Week** and **Rainbow Week**. Watch out for further details later this term!



This term, we will be:

Studying **ROCKS AND SOILS**. We will learn about the different properties of different types of rocks. We will explore the make up of soil and think about how fossils are formed.

MUSIC

'Glock 1'

Get ready for some fantastic percussion work from Year 3! We will be exploring melody, notation, rhythm and pulse on our glockenspiels.

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

'Gymnastics'

In our Gymnastics unit, the children will use the equipment in the hall to explore a range of balances, jumps and how to travel in different ways.

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:

Miss Palmer, Mr. Doyle, Mrs Thomson, Miss McFadden