



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

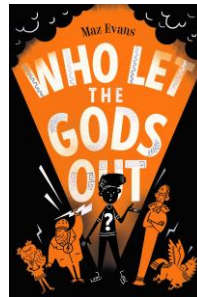
Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter: Spring term (first half)



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 hilarious 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Evans. This links into our history work on Ancient Greece!



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.

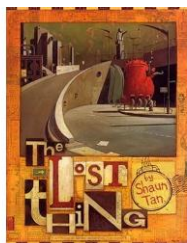
Read Theory continues to be our English homework and is a fantastic way of developing children's comprehension skills at their own level. Please contact school if you have lost your log in!

ENGLISH – writing

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

Narrative writing:

We are currently writing a story based on the Oscar winning short film by Shaun Tan, 'The Lost Thing'.



GRAMMAR:

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

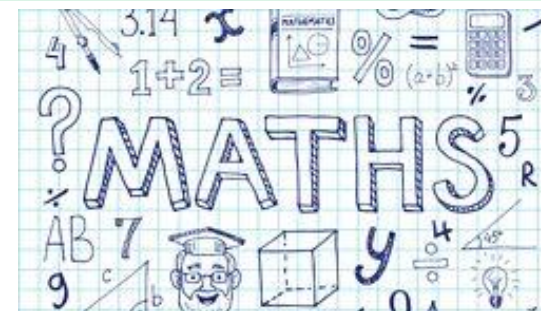
- Inverted commas
- Adverbs
- Fronted adverbials

SPELLINGS:

This half term, we will continue to consolidate the Year 3 and 4 spelling curriculum. We will be looking specifically at:

- Words with the 'sh' sound spelt 'ch' (derived from French)
- Words ending with 'g' sound spelt 'gue'
- Words with a 'k' sound spelt 'kue'

Spellings will continue to be on the school website on a Friday. The children have a week to learn the spellings and will be tested the following Friday. In school, the children will be regularly be taught spelling rules to help them learn these spellings.



This half term we will cover the following topics:

- Division (mental division and 'bus stop' of 2 and 3 digit numbers divided by 1 digit)
- 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:

COMMUNITY:

Within this topic, the children will think about what it means to be part of a community. They will link this to the parish community, exploring the roles of different people within the local church.

GIVING AND RECEIVING:

In our giving and receiving topic, the children will explore how the Eucharist helps us to deepen our relationship with God and with each other.

PSHE

KEEPING SAFE:

- Staying safe online
- Being safe in our bodies (what acceptable boundaries are and what to do if we feel those boundaries have been crossed)
- An age appropriate consideration of facts about drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- First Aid Heroes – what to do in an emergency (importance of quick reactions and staying calm).

In Year 4, all PSHE resources for this unit are delivered from the TenTen resource, a PSHE support specifically for Catholic primary schools.

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 LIVING THINGS AND THEIR HABITATS. We will study how animals are adapted to their different environments. We will also use keys to help us classify living organisms. We will think about threats to natural habitats, particularly considering how global warming poses a threat to all living things and identifying simple ways we can make a difference!

MUSIC

'Blackbird'

Our learning this half term is all based around the classic Beatles song about civil rights, 'Blackbird'. Not only will the children learn to sing the song, they will also develop their skills of listening, appraisal, pulse, rhythm and notation.

HISTORY

'Why should we thank the Ancient Greeks?'

Ancient Greek life has been highly influential in the development of Western civilisation. Our children will look at the golden age of Ancient Greece, studying the similarities and differences between the city states of Athens and Sparta, as well as discovering how modern global events such as the Olympic games were originally begun over 2,000 years ago!



GEOGRAPHY

'Can you come on a great American road trip?'

We will be comparing what we have learnt over the past four years about the human and physical features of the UK with those of America! We will look at the city of New York, comparing it to Liverpool. We will find the similarities and differences between Snowdonia and the Rocky Mountains. Alongside this, we will virtually journey down Route 66, exploring the states that we travel through and the cultural significance of this famous road!

SPANISH

In the first half of term, our specialist Spanish teacher will be teaching the children vocabulary relating to describing the weather. They will also learn how to use simple prepositions to link talking about the weather with the months of the year.

"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 4 teaching team:

Miss Heritage, Miss Evans, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Tinkler and Mrs. Clay