

Year 6 Newsletter Autumn Term 1 2022

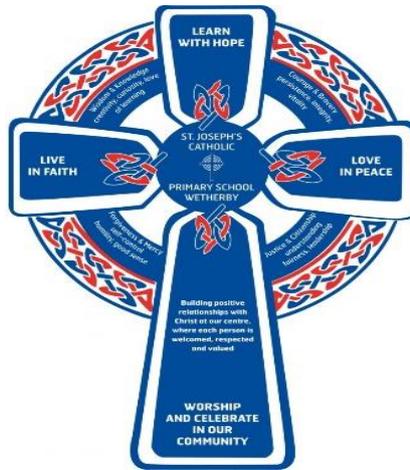
'Journeys - Survive & Explore'

Year 6 Staff

Teacher: Mrs Ward
 Teacher covering Mrs Ward's management time: Ms Crolla
 Teaching Assistant: Mrs Holmes

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or progress, please do not hesitate to see me.

Also, if you have any questions about the curriculum, school trips, homework, etc. please speak directly to me so that I can clarify any points for you.



Other information

- **Tuesday & Friday PE days - children to change into PE kits for the full day. NO branded items please. Draw string bag needed.**
- **Friday - Homework due, spelling tests & homework diaries signed by parents.**
- **Uniform - Please ensure all uniform, including coats, pumps and shoes are labelled with your child's name.**
- **Bags - school book bags only please** as the cloakroom becomes very congested and dangerous with large bags.
- **Dress up Day - Children to dress as a Highwayman on 19th September. Dark clothes only needed. I will provide the mask.**

RE

The children will be introduced to the concept of the Kingdom of God and being called to serve. They will explore the concept of the Kingdom of God through some of the parables and miracles of Jesus, and ways in which people respond to Jesus' invitation to belong to his Kingdom. We will consider our own faith journey as we work and strengthen our relationship with God through prayer and putting our faith into action. We are very creative in RE so lots of learning will take place through art, drama, poetry, discussion and group work. You are invited to join us in Y6 class worship on **Thursday 6th October at 9am or Wednesday 19th October**. Worship lasts approximately 10 minutes.



English

The year will start with a fantastic classic narrative poem called The Highwayman who goes on a secretive journey at night to meet his love, Bess. This will be a great stimulus to learn new vocabulary and write in role as characters. We will have a **dress up day on 19th September** where Y6 can dress up as a Highwayman. Nothing special is needed as I will provide masks, so all they need to do is wear dark clothes to look in disguise. If they have a black cape, they are welcome to wear this too. We will recap on the key features of letter and diaries and push our descriptive language skills within these. We will learn to use more challenging similes to add ambitious detail to writing. We will work on key core skills of accurate use of commas and all the basic punctuation which may be rusty after a summer break! We will also look at organisation of paragraphs and cohesion in and between paragraphs. Our topic, Journeys - Survive and Explore, will also be used as a stimulus giving the children plenty of opportunities to use their writing skills in other subjects, for example, the children will write a poem of the journey of a river using metaphors to demonstrate their understanding of the different features of a river. Spellings will be issued by the end of the first week and tests will be on Fridays. Later in the half term, we will move onto using Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet as a stimulus for writing, starting with an exciting visit and interactive theatre production from Young Shakespeare's Theatre Company.



Mathematics

The children will practise reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to 10,000,000. They will round any number to a given degree of accuracy and use negative numbers in context. They will revise efficiently using all 4 operations and identifying common factors, multiples, primes numbers, square and cube numbers (plus roots). They will learn about the order of operations (BODMAS) and learn mental strategies to calculate and estimate. Problem solving and reasoning will be embedded throughout each area of maths. The children will have KIRF targets and tables will be spontaneously tested. Please remember that the National Curriculum expects that all children **by the end of Y4** are expected to know to 12x12 so your child really should know their tables without fail; this includes related division facts. This takes effort and commitment at home as well as school. **Please help your child!** These are essentials and we really must equip our children with these skills for life. **Maths is significantly easier and your child will have an advantage if they know these.** If you would like me to show you any of the methods that we teach for any of the above, please just see me - I'm happy to show you how we do it in school.



Science

In science the children will find out how scientific ideas about food and diet were tested in the past and how this has contributed to our knowledge of a balanced diet. They will learn about different food groups and find out why a variety of foods is important for a healthy diet. They will find out how nutrients and water are transported in the human body. They will investigate what happens to the heart when we exercise and why. They will learn how muscles move the skeleton and how muscle activity requires increased blood flow. They will also learn about the effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.



Computing

Children will start with revision of internet safety. They will then plan and make an eBook. They will look at non-fiction books in class including layout, organisational devices, use of images, audience and purpose. They will plan and make their own non-chronological book around our topic using the app Book Creator, including enhanced features to engage the reader in the journey through the book whilst being inclusive to varying needs of the reader.



MFL

Year 6 will be revisiting and progressing our skills with numbers and counting. They will apply their maths skills to French by solving calculations in French and counting in multiples of 10 up to 100. Children will be expected to read, say and spell the words in French and translate to English where needed. The children will learn classroom commands so they can respond according.



Music

Year 6 will have weekly music lessons with Miss Crawley who taught them last year. We will be following on from learning how to identify the basic note values and start to learn how to notate pitch by challenges and composing activities. We will learn how to identify the note names by singing songs and composing our own rhymes. The topic we will focus on is rivers/journeys and we will compose our own relaxation music using notation and different suitable sounds. Y6 will learn to identify and name a wide range of instruments. They will learn to put instruments into the correct section of the orchestra.



PE

This half-term year 6 will be working to improve their power in invasion games including slam ball, dodge ball, rugby and hockey. They will improve their peer mentoring skills focusing on organisation and managing team members in slam ball, suggesting formations/tactics in dodge ball and work with team mates to solve problems in competitive situations. They will work to improve their throwing, catching, dribbling, passing, dodging, swerving and sidesteps skills. They will also learn to referee a small sided game of uni hoc. They will enjoy learning orienteering skills too!

PSHE

We will revisit our understanding about the importance of democracy and respect. We will write classroom rules together to ensure we have a clear vision. Children will vote for a school council representative. Later in the term we will be discussing risks associated with alcohol, medicines, drugs and tobacco. Children will learn about possible effects and risks of different drugs and tobacco. We will revisit growth mindset and ways to look after our mental health.



Geography and History

The topic is called 'Journey - Survive and Explore'. The children will learn about the journey of a river from source to sea and the different features of a river along that journey. We will learn about the processes that take place on that journey to change rivers over time. We will revisit the water cycle looking at how water is cleaned and delivered fresh to our taps today and compare this to the 19th century, and learn about significant individuals from that era called Joseph Bazalgette and John Snow. We will use atlases to locate cities in the United Kingdom and countries around the world and improve our knowledge of oceans and continents. We will also help Bear Grylls to navigate himself around different locations by completing some activities using compasses and grid references. Y6 will also take inspiration from Helen Skelton (rowed 2000 miles of Amazon River) and Sir Roger Talbot Walters (British Architect known for post war projects including the river Thames Barrier).



Homework

In response to parent feedback, some homework will be paper based as well as online:

- Mathletics (or paper based maths)
- Spelling Shed tasks weekly in line with their spelling test words
- Reading Eggs
- Daily reading the school reading books 5 times per week for 15 minutes minimum, but longer reading time is preferable to build reading stamina. Children will have both a fiction and non-fiction book and are responsible for changing these books themselves when they are ready to do so.
- Occasional paper based research projects

Homework policy is available on the school website. **A letter will follow shortly with more details about homework.**

Ways to Help Your Child

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we consider that strong school-parent links are an essential part of ensuring our pupils achieve their potential. We really appreciate the support you give your children at home in order to help them with their learning.

Please ensure that you **listen to your child reading their school reading book** and write each time you listen in their homework diaries; listening to your child will improve their reading ability compared to leaving them to read alone. In addition, your child will have an advantage in English if **you read a book to them regularly for pleasure**. **I have included a comprehension mat attached to the email with really useful activities which you can complete at home to support your child with reading comprehension and skills. More support material will also follow soon.**

The children's KIRF targets are the following: count from 0 in multiples of 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 25, 50, 100 and 1000; count forward and back through 0 using negative numbers in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s; count forward and back through 0 using negative numbers in any given multiple. We will work on these every day in class but practise at home will really help too so get counting!