



ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 2 Autumn Term Curriculum Newsletter

2017 - 2018

SATs

As of the time of writing, at the end of Year 2, all children will sit the National Curriculum Tests for Key Stage 1. This will consist of the following papers:

- English: two equally weighted papers involving comprehension.
- Maths Paper 1: arithmetic.
- Maths Paper 2: mathematical fluency - problem-solving and reasoning.
- SPAG Paper 1: a 20-word spelling test.
- SPAG Paper 2: a grammar, punctuation and vocabulary test. This will involve a mixture of selecting the right answers, for example through multiple choice, and writing short answers.

English

Over the course of Year 2, the children will be developing their knowledge of spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG). In particular, we will be looking at sentence types and word types in the Autumn term, as well as tense, commas, plurals, co-ordination (co-ordinating sentences with or, and, but) and subordination (subordinating sentences with when, if, that, because).

Using the SPaG knowledge taught in lessons, the children will explore the impact that creative use of punctuation can have on their creative writing, enabling them to experiment with different writing styles and the impact that SPaG choices can have on a piece of writing.

We will also be developing our comprehension skills, particularly in our guided reading. However, comprehension will also be vital, as

each piece of fiction writing the children compose will be based on a book that we will be reading and studying as a class.

Over this term, the children will be exposed to a variety of text types, covering fiction, non-fiction and poetry; on which our term will finish with Christmas poetry.

Maths

Our maths this term covers a range of topics, seeking to secure the children's understanding of those most basic mathematical concepts which underpin and support all future mathematical study. As the term progresses, we will be taking the concepts covered by the children last year to the next stage and extending the children's mathematical ability by developing their reasoning skills.

After focusing on place value, we will progress to number bonds for 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, before looking at how to apply these up to 100. We will then be studying doubles, 2D shapes and comparing numbers before half-term.

After half-term we will be returning to place value, using the decimal coin system to cement our understanding. We will then be adding and subtracting 10, 20 and 30 to any 2-digit number, before adding and subtracting 11, 21, 12 and 22 to any 2-digit number.

Our next topic will be vocabulary associated with position, direction and movement and measurement, before moving on to addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, subtracting 9, 10 and 11, number bonds, rehearsing complements to multiples of 10 and adding two 2-digit numbers by counting on.

R.E.

In addition to worship, both as a collective primary school and in class-time, the children will also be covering two topics this half-term and three in the following half-term.

Our first unit, 'Beginnings', comes as the children start a new beginning in Year 2 and prepares them for some of the concepts (such as creation) in subsequent topics this year. The children will be focusing on their own experience of new beginnings on which to build new knowledge and understanding.

In our second unit before half-term, we will be studying Judaism, specifically looking at prayer and the home in the faith, which links nicely to the prior RE topic of family within the domestic Catholic Church. Children are to focus specifically on how families gather for Shabbat.

To coincide with Remembrance Day, the children will reflect on what it means to remember, why we remember, what we are remembering and the part that prayer has in acts of remembrance. This will be followed by a study of signs and symbols, notably through reflection on the symbols familiar from baptism and an introduction to those of confirmation.

To round off the term, the children will learn about the scriptural basis of Christmas, uncovering the Christmas story and how those involved were prepared for the birth of Jesus. We will then reflect on why it is important to prepare for Christmas today; what traditions help us to achieve this; and why they are important.

Science

Our first unit will enable the children to learn about the range of materials in their world, the properties of these, and why certain materials are the best choice when making everyday objects. The children will get to perform simple tests, notably in lesson 4, where they will uncover the different ways in which the shape of an object can be changed. They will gather and record data to help answer questions, as

well as observe closely, using simple equipment.

Children will also be engaging in practical activities across the unit, developing their questioning technique (and ability to see how enquiry can lead to discovery). For example, when working in groups to group items based on their properties (an example of identifying and classifying), the children will need to reflect on knowledge gained through discussion. The children will question each other and themselves as they come to conclusions.

We will then be learning about the environment. This unit is a vital one in introducing the children to looking at the world from a new angle; as something that they are a part of and which they have a duty to care for and look after. This is achieved by enabling the children to understand what the environment is and what they can do to care for it for future generations.

Topic

Our first topic this term is the Great Fire of London. This unit enables children to engage with a key event in British history. Through this event, the children are able to engage with how things change over time as well as what life was like for people in the 17th century. This will also witness our trip to the National Archives, where the children will engage with actual documents from the time to uncover the mystery of the Great Fire. After half-term, we will be studying mapping.

Computing

Computing this term will prepare the children for computer programming by introducing them to the key vocabulary and practicalities of composing effective algorithms and, subsequently, programs. We will then transfer the basic skills of algorithm composition to write their own programs. This should open children's eyes to the world of programming and how such programs are behind most of our everyday encounters with computers and other digital technologies.

Art and D.T.

Our first topic will be a D.T. one and will lead up to half-term. Called 'Stuart Houses', this unit is linked to our History Topic of the Great Fire of London, in which the design of houses at the time led to the fire spreading rapidly. This will challenge children to consider the use of materials and will also introduce them to the idea of a design brief which they must work to negotiate: although they may feel other materials to be more appropriate, they must understand that they only have the materials of the time to work with, and so therefore understand the restrictions that some designers face, both in the past and the present. This further enables the children to evaluate their own work and the work of others.

This will be followed by the art topic of drawing landscapes and cityscapes after half-term.

Music

We will be developing our understanding of pulse and rhythm; being able to differentiate between the two and demonstrate both for songs and rhymes learned in class. We will also be developing our singing skills; learning songs that will help broaden our pitch range; match given pitches; and sing in tune with others. We will be singing in rounds and parts, accompanying with percussion instruments or body percussion to develop co-ordination.

P.E.

This term we will be studying technique in basketball and then football. Through this we will be focusing on the following aims:

- To improve the way we coordinate and control our bodies and a range of equipment.
- To remember, repeat and link combinations of skills.
- To choose, use and vary simple tactics.
- To recognise and describe what our bodies feel like during different types of activity.
- To recognise good quality in performance.
- To use information to improve our work.

French

In our French unit, we will revise language learned including how to introduce ourselves and describing animals. We will also cover French festivals such as Remembrance Day and Christmas in France.

Homework

Each week, the following homework will be set and expected to be completed. Each week, homework will be set on a Friday and will be handed in on Wednesday.

- Reading – children are encouraged to read at home every day. It is beneficial to concentrate on quality not quantity, and remember that time spent discussing the characters and story is very important to help increase enjoyment and understanding of the text. Please sign your child's reading record book every night to show you have read with them.
- Comprehension – the children will be given a small piece of writing with associated questions each week. These should be answered in their homework books.
- Maths – each week a maths game will be set on abacus. This will be monitored and should be completed by the deadline date.
- Spelling – each week spellings should be set. Activities will be provided which will help the children to practice these in their homework books.

Bug Club

This term, the children will be introduced properly to Bug Club, an online learning platform for reading and the equivalent to our Abacus for Maths. The children will be using Bug Club books during guided reading sessions and will also be allocated e-books to read at home. The children will be expected to read these books on Bug Club and answer the 'bugs' which are comprehension questions.

Birthdays

As you will know, as a school we have moved away from bringing in cakes and sweets to celebrate birthdays. If your child would like to celebrate their birthday with their peers in school, we very much welcome them to bring in something the whole class can enjoy. For example, one of their favourite stories from home that can be read to the class.

Class reps

As you will remember, each year, 2 or 3 parents are nominated from each class to become class reps. They are the link between the class teacher and the other parents of the class. They will be in charge of updating parents with regards to upcoming dates and events throughout the year and will pass on any messages if necessary. If you would be interested in taking on this role, please contact Mr Turner.

Class fund

As in previous years, we would like to ask you for a voluntary contribution of £10 per term or £30 for the year to support our work with the children. This enables us to be able to buy items to help our activities, as well as ingredients for cooking, plants for growing etc. Please send cash in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name.

Contacting by email

If you need to contact me, I am always a phone call or chat at the gates away. You can also send in a note in your child's book bag. Any emails please send to me via primary@srrcc.org.uk.

Important Dates

Friday 22nd September- School Photos

Monday 25th September- Friday 28th September- Poetry Week

Monday 25th September- Poet visit and book signing after school

Thursday 28th September- Poetry Exhibition

Wednesday 11th October- House Afternoon

Mid-October- Year 2 trip to the National Archives – more information to follow

Monday 16th October- Friday 20th October- School Closed

Monday 23rd October- Friday 27th October- Half-term

Tuesday 31st October- Parents Evening

Wednesday 1st November- All Saints Day. New build opening mass

Thursday 2nd November- Parents Evening

Monday 20th November- Flu vaccinations

Friday 1st December- School closed

Thursday 7th December- Infant Nativity

Wednesday 20th December- House Afternoon

Friday 22nd December- End of term