



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Valehouse Advent 2 Newsletter

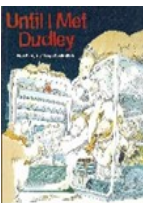
Welcome back, I hope you have had a restful half term break! Here's an overview of what we will be learning about in Valehouse this half term.

### English

During this half term, we will be exploring the following genres and texts

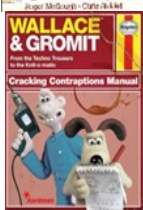
#### **The Iron Man**

Valehouse will be looking at this text through our guided reading, and using it to inspire descriptive writing and poetry



#### **Explanation texts**

Have you ever wondered how a toaster works? Or a fridge-freezer, or a washing-up machine? In this fun-filled book of how things work, Dudley, the techno-wizard dog, provides the answers. The children will then explore together how to create a 'Teacher Pleaser' machine before creating their own explanation texts.



#### **Whole School Writing Week**

##### **The Day the Decorations Quit**

After listening to the story of 'The Day the Crayons Quit', the Christmas Tree decorations are inspired to revolt and demand better conditions to live and work. They're tired of being moved around, having tinsel round their ears and being batted off the tree by the cat. How can we convince them to come back?



### Maths

Using White Rose Maths, we will be covering the following areas of learning:

#### **Year Three**

Addition and Subtraction

- adding and subtracting across a 10 and 100
- Adding and subtracting 2 and 3-digit numbers
- Complements to 100
- Estimating
- Inverse operations

Multiplication and Division

- Equal groups and arrays
- Sharing and grouping
- Multiply and divide by 3
- Multiply and divide by 4
- Multiply and divide by 8

#### **Year Four**

Area

- What is area/counting squares
- Making shapes
- Comparing areas

Multiplication and Division

- Multiples of 3
- Multiply and divide by 6, 9, 7, 11 and 12
- Multiply by 1 and 0
- Dividing a number by 1 and itself
- Multiplying three numbers

### RE

#### **Judaism**

During our Judaism topic, we will be looking at the importance of books, and how scripture is important to both the Jewish faith and our own. We will also explore the Torah and the Synagogue as a community centre.

#### **Gift**

During this topic, we will be exploring the big question of 'What's so special about gifts?' Advent is a time when we appreciate the love in our lives and prepare to celebrate love becoming a reality in the person of Jesus. Christians at Christmas celebrate the gift of Jesus, given by God as a sign and expression of God's love. Giving and receiving reflects the truth that all life is given by God and life is given meaning through the gift of Jesus.



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### Science

Valehouse will be exploring two questions in science this half; Magnets - what's the attraction? and Electricity - how would you cope without electricity for a day?

#### **Year Three - Forces and Magnets**

During this topic, the children will

- Compare how things move on different surfaces
- Know that forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance
- Know that magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others
- Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials
- Know that magnets have two poles
- Predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing

#### **Year Four - Electricity**

During this topic, the children will

- Identify common appliances that run on electricity
- Construct a simple series electrical circuit.
- Identify and name the components in a series circuit, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers
- Predict and test whether a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery.
- Know that a switch opens and closes a circuit, associated with whether a lamp lights in a simple circuit.
- Name some common conductors and insulators, recognising that metals are good conductors.
- Know the difference between conductors and insulators.

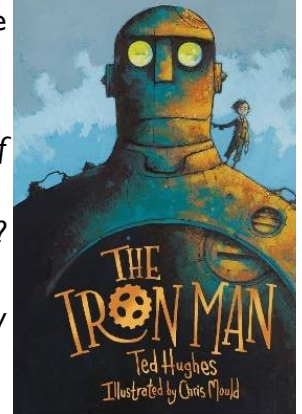
### Guided Reading

This half term, we will be exploring *The Iron Man*.

*The Iron Man came to the top of the cliff.*

*Where had he come from? Nobody knows.*

*How was he made? Nobody knows.*



Mankind must put a stop to the dreadful destruction by the Iron Man and set a trap for him, but he cannot be kept down. Then, when a terrible monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save the world.

### How can you help?

This half term, the children in Valehouse will have Tameside Active on **Mondays**, so will need to be wearing their full PE kit, and we will continue to have swimming lessons on **Fridays**.

Reading Diaries and reading books need to be brought into school every day, and we ask that care is taken that they are kept in a good, clean condition ready for another pupil to use. Please read with your child daily and sign their diary.

Homework is set on a Monday and is due the following Monday. Please ensure work is completed neatly and stuck in.

Spellings are tested on a Friday, and a new list is given out on Fridays. Spellings can be accessed on Spelling Shed and the children's logins are in their reading diary.

Spelling Shed/Maths Shed - please ensure your child is accessing these regularly at home. It will help to embed their spellings and improve fluency particularly with times tables.