



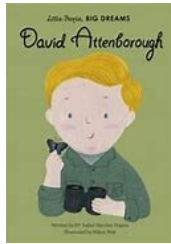
Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Derwent 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 Derwent this half term.

English

In 1974, French aerialist Philippe Petit threw a tightrope between the two towers of the World Trade Center and spent an hour walking, dancing, and performing high-wire tricks a quarter mile in the sky. Children will be exploring the story of 'The Man who walked between the Towers' by Mordicai Gerstein. They will use real-life footage, interviews and fictionalised film of the walk to write letters from Philippe's loved ones, a monologue from Philippe about the experience and a biography in the style of 'Little People, Big Dreams.'



Key Stage 2 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 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

Year Five

Multiplication and Division

- Multiples/ Common multiples
- Factors/ Common factors
- Prime numbers
- Square numbers
- Cube numbers
- Multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000

Fractions

- Find fractions equivalent to a unit/ non unit fraction
- Recognise equivalent fractions
- Convert between improper fractions and mixed number
- Compare and order fractions less than 1/ greater than 1
- Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator
- Add fractions within 1/ with a total greater than 1
- Add two mixed numbers
- Subtract fractions/ from a mixed number

RE

Judaism

During our Judaism topic, we will be looking at the story of the Exodus. We will be exploring the celebration of Passover, looking at the significance of the Seder plate. We will also be learning about special prayers, such as the Shema.

Hope

During this topic, we will be exploring the big question of 'What does it mean to live in hope?' We will discuss Advent as a time of waiting, using scripture from Isaiah and Jeremiah. We will explore a psalm about waiting in hope for the Lord, and make links to the first two Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary: The Annunciation and The Visitation. We will learn about Jesus as a light in the darkness bringing hope. We will celebrate the Nativity story and how we wait in hope for Christ to come again.



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Valehouse Advent 2 Newsletter

Science

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.

Year 5– Forces

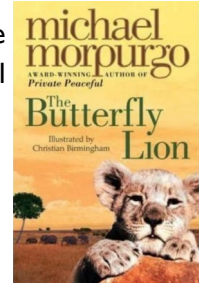
During this topic, the children will

- Identify forces acting on objects.
- Explore the effect gravity has on objects and how gravity was discovered.
- Measure the force of gravity pulling on objects.
- Investigate the effects of air resistance.
- Explore the effects of water resistance.
- Identify the effects of friction by investigating brakes.
- recognise that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect by exploring and designing a simple mechanism.

Guided Reading

This half term, we will be sharing the story of 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo.

"All my life I'll think of you, I promise I will. I won't ever forget you."



Bertie rescues an orphaned white lion cub from the African veld. They are inseparable until Bertie is sent to boarding school far away in England and the lion is sold to a circus. Bertie swears that one day they will see one another again, but it is the butterfly lion which ensures that their friendship will never be forgotten.

How can you help?

This half term, the children in Derwent will have Forest School on **Thursdays**. Year 5 children will have P.E. on **Fridays** and Year 4 children continue to have swimming lessons on **Fridays**.

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

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.