



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Valehouse Lent I Newsletter

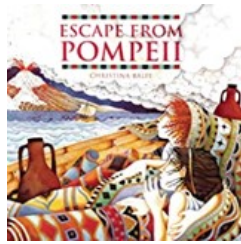
Happy New Year Valehouse! I'm looking forward to seeing you shine as we move into 2024, so let's see what we're learning about this half term.

English

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

Adventure Narratives

Valehouse will use this *Escape from Pompeii* to help us create a story set in a historical time. We will be looking at setting descriptions, action writing and dialogue to help build tension.



Calligrams and Concrete Poems

Using Word Whirls and other Shape Poems, Valehouse will create poetry about a volcano.



Information Texts

Building on our topic work of "What makes the earth angry?" The children will put their new-found knowledge to the test and create information pages about natural disasters such as volcanoes and tsunamis.

Geography

We're exploring the question "What makes the Earth Angry?" and the children will

- Know what causes an earthquake
- Label the different parts of a volcano
- Use maps and globes to locate the equator, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and the Greenwich Meridian

RE

Community

During this topic, we will be thinking on the question of "What makes community?" We will be looking at the role of the local church, and how lay people of all ages are called to undertake various roles called ministries by virtues of their Baptism and Confirmation and how they help to build up the local community of the parish.

Maths

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

Year Three

Multiplication and Division

- Multiples of 10
- Multiplying a 2-digit number by 1-digit with and without exchanges
- Dividing a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number with and without remainders
- Scaling

Length and Perimeter

- Measure in metres, centimetres and millimetres
- Equivalent lengths (m and cm, cm and mm)
- Comparing lengths
- Adding and subtracting lengths
- Measuring and calculating perimeter

Year Four

Multiplication and Division

- Factor pairs
- Multiply and divide by 10 and 100
- Multiply a 2-digit number by 1-digit
- Multiply a 3-digit number by 1-digit
- Divide a 2-digit number by 1-digit
- Divide a 3-digit number by 1-digit
- Correspondence and efficient multiplication

Length and Perimeter

- Measure in km and m, finding equivalent lengths
- Perimeters of a rectangle and rectilinear shapes
- Perimeters of polygons

Giving and Receiving

The second topic of this half term will be looking to answer the question of "What's more important - giving or receiving?" As we celebrate the Eucharist, Jesus gives himself to us in Word and Sacrament. We will learn how we are called to follow the example of Jesus by giving ourselves to others in the world, and sent out to continue Jesus' work during the Concluding Rite.



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Science

Valehouse will be exploring two questions in science this half; 'What do rocks tell us about the way the Earth was formed?' and 'How can we reduce, reuse and recycle to make a difference?'

Year Three - Rocks

During this topic, the children will

- Compare and group together different kinds of rocks based on their appearance and simple physical properties
- Know how fossils are formed
- Know soils are made from rocks and organic matter
- Know about and explain the difference between sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rock.

Year Four - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

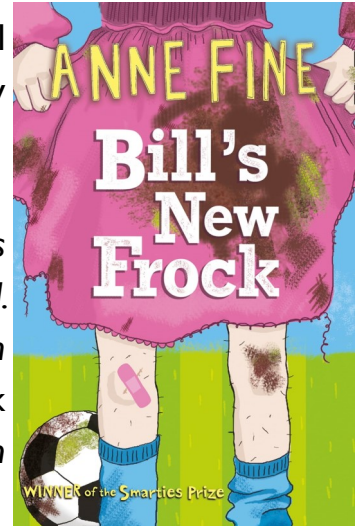
During this topic, the children will

- Examine the waste produced from a typical lunchbox.
- Plan and set up a simple comparative test for plant growth.
- Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant (Y3).
- Make recommendations to reduce our carbon footprint.
- Analyse rainfall data and use it to answer a scientific question.
- Use results from a comparative test to draw conclusions.
- Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things (Y4).
- Gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions.
- Ask relevant questions and use different types of scientific enquiries to answer them.

Guided Reading

This half term, we will be reading 'Bill's New Frock' by Anne Fine.

One morning, Bill wakes up to find he's a girl. And worse, his mum makes him wear a pink frock to school. Can the day get any worse?



Bill's about to discover that everything is very different for girls...

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.