



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Ladybower Advent I Newsletter

Welcome to Ladybower! Here's an overview of what we will be learning about this half term.

### English

#### The Golden Horsemen of Baghdad



*Set in Baghdad, around AD 900, the story follows a young boy - Jabir - as he fights for his family's survival and to follow his own dreams and passions. He forms a friendship with Yasmina that helps unlock potential and together they solve problems, survive disaster and learn more about themselves.*

We will explore this book in-depth looking at the different characters and their roles in the story. We will also research the history of Baghdad and what it would have been like to live there during this time to gain an insight into the time period of when this story was set.

The children will write their own portal story, imagining as if they found themselves in the middle of Baghdad in AD 900 describing what their life would be like. They will then produce a non-chronological report on Baghdad, using everything they have learnt in this topic to illustrate the extraordinary place Baghdad was at this time in history.

### Maths

#### Place Value

- Roman numerals
- Numbers to 100,000
- Numbers to 1,000,000
- Numbers to 10,000,000
- Powers of 10
- Partition numbers to 10,000,000
- Compare and order integers
- Round within 100,000
- Count through zero
- Compare and order negative numbers

#### Addition and subtraction

- Mental strategies
- Add and subtract integers
- Inverse operations and missing numbers
- Reason from known facts

#### Multiplication and division

- Multiples and common multiples
- Factors and common factors
- Rules of divisibility
- Prime numbers
- Square and cube numbers
- Multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000



### RE

#### Creation and Covenant



*How does virtue teaching, the Ten Commandments and Jesus' teaching of the new commandment help people act 'with great love' and love of neighbour?*

- Explain the significance of Moses in the Old Testament and for Christians today
- Describe what a covenant is, recognising that God made several covenants throughout history e.g. with Noah, Abraham and Moses.
- Show how the Ten Commandments help human beings live good and happy lives, making links with Jesus' teaching.
- Explain how virtue teaching, the Ten Commandments and Jesus' teaching help people live a good life.



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### Science

#### Living Things and Their Habitats



During this topic, the children will:

- Give reasons for classifying animals based on their similarities and differences
- Describe how living things are classified into groups.
- Identify the characteristics of different types of animals.
- Classify a creature based on its characteristics
- Describe and investigate helpful and harmful microorganisms.
- Identify the characteristics of different types of microorganisms.
- Classify organisms found in my local habitat
- Explain the classification of organisms found in my local habitat

### History

#### The Early Islamic Civilisation

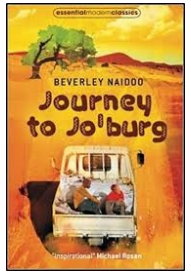
During this topic, the children will:



- Find out about Baghdad's role in the early Islamic Civilisation
- Find out about the House of Wisdom and how it became a centre for learning
- Explain some of the significant discoveries and studies which were led by early Islamic scholars and evaluate the impact they made to the wider world
- Describe who Muhammad is, how the first caliphate came to be formed and explain the roles and responsibilities of a caliph
- Identify and talk about different forms of Islamic art and create my own geometric pattern based on traditional techniques
- Identify why the early Islamic Civilisation became a major power, know about the Silk Road trade route and describe the methods used by early Islamic chemists.

### Guided Reading

In our Guided Reading sessions we will be reading the book, 'Journey to Jo'burg'.



*Mma lives and works in Johannesburg, far from the village thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother, Tiro, call home. When their baby sister suddenly becomes very sick, Naledi and Tiro know, deep down, that only one person can save her. Bravely, alone, they set off on a journey to find Mma and bring her back.*

We will be using the Reading Vipers techniques of vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve and summarise to engage and understand the text in depth.

### How can you help?

This half term, the children in Ladybower will have **PE on a Monday** and a **Thursday** so your child needs to come to school in their **full PE kit**.

Your child should be reading every night, please ensure that they are doing this and to write in their reading diary when they have done so.

A piece of Maths and English homework will be given out on a **Monday** to be returned the following **Monday**.

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.



**"You are braver than you believe,  
stronger than you seem,  
and smarter than you think."**

- A.A. Milne, "Winnie the Pooh"