



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Derwent Lent I Newsletter

Happy New Year to all of Derwent's families! I hope we are well rested and ready for another great few weeks in school.

### English

This term in our English lessons, we will be exploring the thrilling book "The Explorer" by Katherine Rundell. This adventurous tale will not only engage the children but also inspire their creativity and critical thinking.



As part of our activities, children will be crafting their own setting descriptions of a rainforest, allowing them to immerse themselves in the vibrant imagery and unique features of this fascinating ecosystem. Additionally, they will work on creating a jungle survival guide, encouraging them to think practically and imaginatively about what it takes to navigate the challenges of the wild.

### Computing

Our computing lessons will focus on the importance of databases. Your children will explore how data is stored, sorted, and grouped, which are essential skills in today's digital world.

Classroom discussions about the role of databases in everyday life can greatly enhance their understanding. You might also consider introducing them to simple database tools or apps to further spark their interest.

### Maths

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

#### **Multiplication and division**

Efficient multiplication

Divide 2-digit by 1-digit (2)

Written methods

Divide 3-digit by 1-digit

Multiply 2-digits by 1-digit

Divide 4-digit by 1-digit

Multiply 3-digit by 1-digit

Divide with remainders

Multiply 4-digit by 1-digit

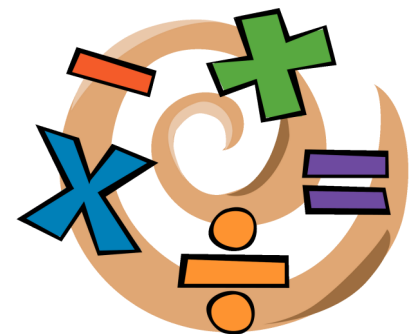
Correspondence problems

Multiply 2-digit by 2-digit

Multiply 3-digit by 2-digits

Multiply 3-digit by 2-digits

Multiply 4-digit by 2-digit



### RE

The Big Question this half term in RE – How does Jesus being 'The Messiah' lead us to live our lives?



In Derwent, we are looking at bible stories such as Jesus walking on water, Jesus curing the blind and other miracles in the gospel. These stories teach us of the miracles and gifts that Jesus performed, and how was known to be The Messiah. Derwent will continue to take part and lead class 'Celebrations of the Word'.

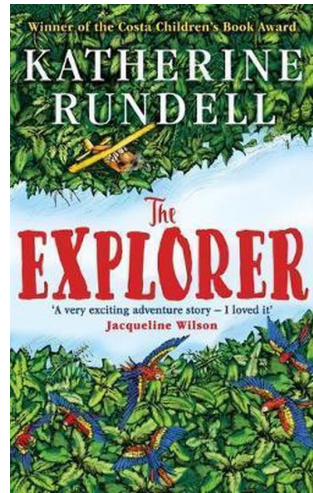


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### Guided Reading

In a faraway jungle, a group of curious children find themselves on an unexpected adventure. When their plane crashes in the Amazon rainforest, the brave and clever Fred, must lead his friends: the timid Lila, the athletic and resourceful Max, and strong-willed Con, as they navigate through the wild. As they strive to survive and find their way home, they learn important lessons about friendship, courage, and resilience. With each step, Fred and his friends uncover the secrets of the jungle and within themselves. Will they find safety? Will the jungle keep them forever? Are they not alone?



### Geography

Derwent's geography lessons this term will focus on the fascinating topic of rainforests. As we explore this vibrant ecosystem, your children will learn about where rainforests are located around the world and the incredible wildlife that inhabits these lush environments.

We will also discuss the important issue of deforestation and its impact on the planet. This topic not only highlights the wonders of nature but also encourages our students to think critically about environmental conservation.

Our rainforest lessons will link well with our English and guided reading lessons, as our new class book focuses on a jungle adventure.

In science, we will be focusing on living things and their habitat, with special focus on wildlife that can be found in rainforests. This will link to our geography topic.



### Music

As part of Wider Music Opportunities, Derwent class will be having samba drumming lessons on Wednesdays each week. Don't worry we won't be sending drums home to practise!



### Design & Technology

Our upcoming Design and Technology lessons will focus on structure building. The children will be learning essential skills in planning, designing, and constructing a variety of structures. The unit will culminate in an engaging project where each child will create their very own marble run!

### How can you help?

This half term, the children in Derwent will continue to have their PE sessions on **Mondays**, so will need to be wearing their full PE kit.

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 Monday, and a new list is given out each week. Spellings can be practised on Spelling Shed and logins can be found in Home/school diaries. Please ensure your child is accessing these regularly at home. It will help to embed their spellings in a fun interactive way.

Maths Shed games will help improve fluency particularly with times tables. This will be especially helpful for our Year 4's, who will have their national test in June.