



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Valehouse Lent I Newsletter

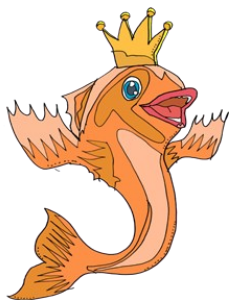
Welcome back, I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Let's see what the first half term of 2025 has in store for us.

English

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

Wishing Tales

The story we are going to look at first is 'The King of the Fishes'. This traditional story has been passed around the world by many people which means that there are many different versions of the story out there. We will use the Pie Corbett version to help us create our own Wishing Tales.



Non Chronological Reports

We will explore non-chronological reports, using the model of a report of the Amazon River. As we understand the features of this genre, we will use it to create our own text based on our local Glossop Brook.

River Poetry

We will explore rivers using our senses to create list poems and poems using sentences of 3.



Maths

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

Multiplication and Division

- Multiply and divide by 4
- The 4 times-table
- Multiply and divide by 8
- The 8 times-table
- The 2, 4 and 8 times-tables
- Multiples of 10
- Related calculations
- Reasoning about calculations
- Multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number (with and without exchange)
- Link multiplication and division
- Divide a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number (flexible partitioning and with remainders)
- Scaling

Length and perimeter

- Measure in metres, centimetres and millimetres
- Equivalent lengths (metres and centimetres)
- Equivalent lengths (centimetres and millimetres)
- Compare lengths
- Add and subtract lengths
- Measure and calculate perimeter

RE

Catholic Social Teaching:

Solidarity and the Common Good



This half term we will be exploring the theme of Solidarity and the Common Good. Solidarity is fundamental to the way we treat one another. Children will learn that solidarity is not just feeling sorry for those who suffer but shown in our actions. We will look at inspiration people who have shown how we can live this out.

To Know You More Clearly: Galilee to Jerusalem

In this branch of 'To Know You More Clearly', pupils will encounter the Gospel of St Matthew and learn about parables and miracles of Jesus. Parables are one of Jesus' teaching methods and in using them, he prompts us to think differently. The miracles of Jesus show what can be possible when a person's heart is fully opened to the possibilities of faith.





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Science

Valehouse will be exploring **'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'** this half term. During this topic, the children will learn

- about different types of waste and how waste is produced, as well as the importance of reducing it through the 3Rs – reducing, reusing and recycling.
- what 'energy' is, what a carbon footprint is and how it is measured.
- how waste impacts the environment and wildlife and what they could potentially do to help.

Using scientific enquiry and method, they will be able to

- analyse rainfall data and use it to answer a scientific question.
- examine the waste produced from a typical lunchbox.
- plan and set up a simple comparative test for plant growth.



Geography

This half term we're exploring the question



Why are most of the world's cities located by rivers?

The children will -

- Know where the main mountain regions are in the UK
- Know, name and locate the main rivers in the UK
- Know the names of and locate at least eight counties and at least six cities in England
- Know and label the main features of a river
- Know the name of and locate a number of the world's longest rivers
- Know the names of a number of the world's highest mountains
- Explain the features of a water cycle

Guided Reading

Song of the River by Gill Lewis

Times are tough for Cari and her mum. A violent storm has flooded the valley where they live, destroying their home and café business.

Things seem bleak – but hope appears in the form of a plan to reintroduce beavers into the area, as the changes that these amazing animals make to the waterways might prevent another flood.

Cari knows that she must get involved. But with the project facing resistance from locals, can she convince them to give the beavers a chance – and will it be enough to save her home from being destroyed for a second time?



How can you help?

Please ensure your child brings a **healthy snack** and a **bottle of water** every day. Unfortunately the Government free fruit scheme is only open to infant children and we cannot depend on there being any left over.

Tuck shop is open on Fridays, with a selection of treats for 50p. Alternatively your child may bring in a cereal bar or crisps as their Friday treat.

This half term, the children in Valehouse will have PE on **Thursdays**, so will need to come into school wearing their PE kit (jogging bottoms are advisable due to the colder weather) and they will have swimming on **Tuesdays**. Please ensure they come to school wearing their swim suit under their PE kit to help with start time for the lesson.

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