



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

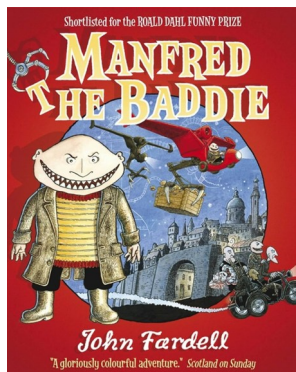
## Derwent Lent 2 Newsletter

Welcome back Derwent! I hope we are all ready for another amazing half term leading up to Easter!

### English

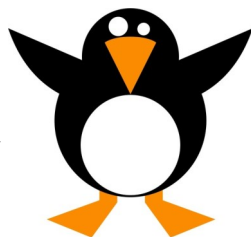
Throughout this half term, we will be diving into the captivating story of "Manfred the Baddie." The children will compose persuasive letters to join Manfred's gang, which will encourage them to think about the purpose and structure of formal letters in a creative context.

Additionally, they will write wanted reports, encouraging them to think critically about character motivations and the consequences of their actions. Finally, the children will craft an explanation text on an evil invention of their own, allowing them to blend creativity with informative writing.



### Computing

This half term, our computing lessons will focus on vector drawings. The children will explore how these drawings are created, their various applications, and the important role graphic designers play in our digital world.

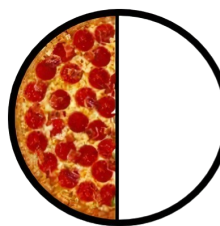


### Maths

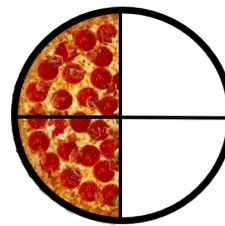
Our focus in maths will be on fractions and decimals, concepts that are not only essential for this curriculum, but also valuable life skills.

In our fractions unit, students will be simplifying fractions, as well as adding, subtracting, and multiplying them. These topics can initially seem daunting, but with practice and encouragement, your child will gain confidence and proficiency. To support their learning at home, you might consider engaging them in real-life scenarios, such as sharing food items or dividing money, which can make these concepts more real.

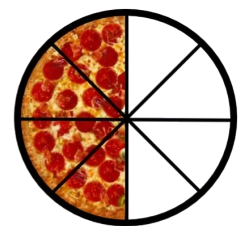
On the decimal side, we will explore tenths and hundredths, helping students to understand these values. Additionally, we will delve into the fascinating world of percentages. By the end of this unit, your child will be able to calculate percentages of various numbers, a skill that is increasingly important in everyday situations.



$\frac{1}{2}$



$\frac{2}{4}$



$\frac{4}{8}$

### RE

The Big Question this half term in RE – How do we, as Christians, prepare ourselves for Lent?



In Derwent, we are looking at parables including The Prodigal Son, The Judgement of Nations, and others in the Gospel. These parables will be linked to how we can better our lives as Christians, and how we can show others mercy. Our Catholic Social Teaching theme looks at Rights and Responsibilities. Derwent will continue to take part and lead class 'Celebrations of the Word'.



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Derwent Lent I Newsletter

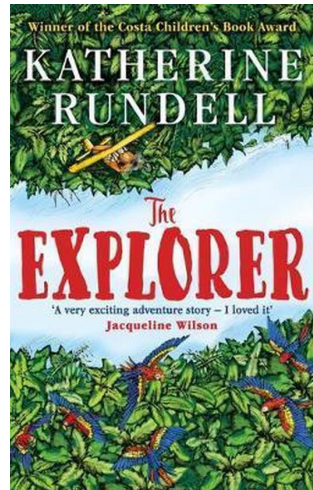
### Guided Reading

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?



### Science

In Science, Derwent will be focusing on the development of animals including humans. Throughout this topic, we will explore gestation periods of various mammals, examining how long different species develop before birth. We will also delve into prenatal development, discussing how babies grow and change before they are born. This will provide a fascinating insight into the complexities of life itself. Furthermore, we will look at how humans grow and evolve throughout their lives, considering the various stages—from infancy to adulthood and into old age.

To enrich the learning experience, we encourage you to engage with your child about mammals and human development at home. Discussing family milestones and sharing personal growth stories can help them make connections between their own experiences and the scientific concepts we are studying..



### Design & Technology

Throughout this term, the children will discover how different climates affect food growth across the globe. They will engage with the idea of seasonal ingredients, testing and understanding the flavours and benefits that come with each season. This hands-on approach will not only enhance their culinary skills but also foster a greater appreciation for the environment and sustainable practices.

Towards the end of the term, we will be evaluating a seasonal recipe, allowing the children to showcase what they have learnt. It would be wonderful if you could support their learning at home by discussing seasonal fruits and vegetables, perhaps even trying a few recipes together!

### 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.

During this half term, we are holding a times tables club, every **Wednesday morning at 8.10**. This will be great practice for our Year 4's, who have their MTC's coming up. To sign up, please use the Extra-Curricular Club e-form. You can find links to this on the Friday letter, the QR on the entrance board or on our [website here](#).