



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Derwent Pentecost I Newsletter

Welcome back Derwent! I hope you all had a great Easter break and are full to the brim with chocolate!

English

This half term, Derwent class is embarking on an exciting adventure into the enchanting world of Greek mythology. We are learning how to create our own Greek myths, where imagination and creativity take centre stage. As we delve into the tales of gods, heroes, and mythical creatures, we will focus on developing rich character and setting descriptions that capture the essence of ancient Greece.

In our lessons, we will examine well-known myths such as the story of Medusa and her dreaded curse, as well as the adventures of Hercules. Through these stories, we will explore how authors bring characters to life with descriptive language.

By the end of the half term, each student will have crafted their own original Greek myth, filled with imaginative characters and captivating settings.



Maths

Our focus in maths is diving deeper into the world of decimals. We will revisit the decimal skills we have gained so far and enhance our understanding by applying these concepts to real-life situations, particularly focusing on money. We will explore how decimals play a vital role in everyday transactions, such as when we buy items in shops or manage our pocket money.

During our lessons, we will begin with a refresher on decimal place value, ensuring everyone is confident in identifying tenths, hundredths, and even thousandths. Through interactive activities, we will practise adding and subtracting decimals, immersing ourselves in challenges that require us to handle real currency. For instance, we will simulate shopping scenarios where we calculate totals and work out change, providing us with a practical context for our skills.

As we approach the end of this half term, we will dedicate a week to exploring the measurement of time. We will learn to convert between different time units and apply our knowledge by scheduling events and activities. Understanding time is crucial, just like working with decimals, as it helps us organise our daily lives efficiently.



Music

This half term, our music lessons focus on the exciting world of musical theatre. We will look into the history of musicals, and the details and story's behind certain songs.

Our lessons will end in groups of children creating their own musical scene.



RE

To Know You More Clearly: To the Ends of the Earth

The Big Question this half term in RE – Why is the Holy Spirit so important?

In Derwent, we are looking at parables including Peter's journey of faith, 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. Derwent will continue to take part and lead class 'Celebrations of the Word'.



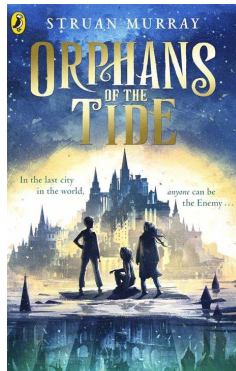


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Guided Reading

Set in a city that is forever submerged by the ocean, the story follows a brave girl named Ellie who discovers a secret that could change everything. One stormy night, a strange creature washes up on the shore, leading Ellie and her friends into a suspenseful journey to uncover its origins. As they delve deeper into the heart of this watery world, they must dodge dark forces that threaten their lives and the city's very existence. Each twist and turn unfolds new dangers, keeping readers on the edge of their seats. The looming threat of the creature adds tension and raises questions—what exactly is it, and who can be trusted? With every page, the suspense builds, leading to an unexpected climax that will leave you breathless. In a race against time, Ellie must find courage within herself to save those she loves before it's too late. All whilst attempting to keep her own secret safe.



Design & Technology

In DT, our focus is on electronics, specifically designing and creating a night light. This project offers a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage with essential concepts such as circuits and systems.

Throughout the term, we will explore various electronic items commonly found in our homes. We will discuss their functions, aesthetics, potential users, materials used, as well as weighing up the pros and cons of different designs. A key emphasis will be on sustainability, encouraging our children to consider the environmental impact of the products we commonly use.

History

This half term, Derwent Class will embark on an exciting journey through the history of ancient Greece. We will begin our exploration by delving into the fascinating tales of the Trojan War, a legendary conflict that teaches us about heroism and strategy. As we learn about this epic saga, we will also discuss the influential figures involved, including the cunning Odysseus.

Next, we will study one of the most remarkable leaders in history, Alexander the Great, who expanded his empire through bravery and strategic brilliance. His adventures will inspire us to think about leadership and ambition in our own lives.

We will also celebrate the ancient Greek Olympics, a sporting event that showcased the strength and skill of athletes, which continues to influence the modern Olympics today.

Additionally, we will investigate the fascinating pantheon of Greek gods, understanding how they shaped the culture and daily lives of ancient Greeks. Our studies will wrap up as we learn about daily life in ancient Greece, including food, clothing, and family life, providing insight into their vibrant society.



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 8.10am**. This will be great practice for our Year 4's, who have their MTC's coming up. To sign up, please use the sway app.