



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Derwent Pentecost 2 Newsletter

Here we go Derwent, one last term! I hope you are all ready for a great few weeks.

English

This term, the children will be diving into the fascinating story of Jeanette Epps, a notable figure in space exploration. Students will be tasked with writing a biographical report about her life and achievements. Not only will they learn about her inspiring journey, but they will also be revisiting essential English techniques that are crucial for effective writing, such as relative clauses, adverbial phrases, and the all-important punctuation.

As we move later into the term, the children will unleash their creativity by crafting their very own space adventure narratives. This will be an excellent opportunity for them to invent unique alien characters and create captivating storylines. This English unit will link heavily to our Science this term, as we will be exploring Earth and Space in those lessons.

I recommend that you engage your children in conversations about space and famous astronauts at home, as this can increase their enthusiasm and understanding.



Art

We will begin by exploring outer space artwork, including pastel creations of galaxies, studying NASA propaganda posters, and sketching imaginative alien creatures.

As the term progresses, we will transition into symmetrical artwork, where students will experiment with different patterns and art styles, connecting their artistic creations with mathematical concepts.



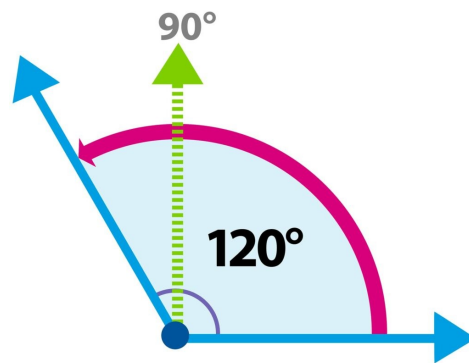
Maths

This term, our focus will be on the properties of shapes, an area that not only helps to enhance your child's understanding of geometry but also encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

We will begin by looking at different types of angles, identifying acute, obtuse, and right angles, and applying these to real world scenarios. Understanding angles is crucial, as they form the foundation for many concepts in geometry. To aid in this learning, we will be using protractors to measure angles accurately, which can be quite fun and a skill that will benefit the children in the long run.

Additionally, we will delve into the concept of lines of symmetry. Through various practical activities, students will discover how to identify symmetrical shapes and create their own symmetrical artwork. This visual approach not only makes the learning experience enjoyable but also reinforces their understanding of balance and proportion.

Lastly, we will explore the idea of reflection. The children will learn about reflective symmetry and how to create designs that reflect their creativity. We hope this will inspire them to think about shapes and symmetry in new and exciting ways.



RE

The Big Question this half term in RE – How do people of faith work together in the local community towards the common good?



In Derwent, we are looking at parables including the conversion of Saul to St Paul, as well as our churches liturgical traditions. 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'.

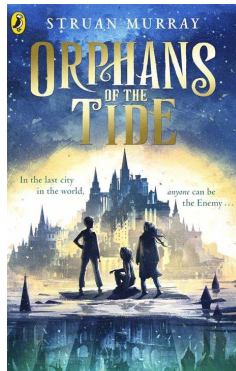


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Guided Reading

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.

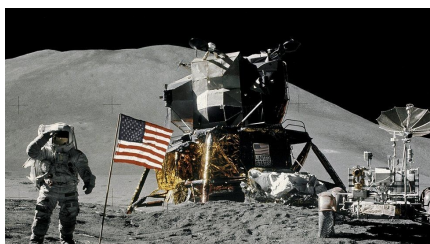


Science

In Science, we will embark on an exciting journey through the cosmos, starting with the event of the moon landing. We will explore the historical context of this achievement, as well as the science behind the lunar mission. Understanding how astronauts landed on the Moon and returned safely will provide a fantastic opportunity for the children to engage with both history and science.

In addition to the moon landing, our exploration will take us deeper into the wonders of our solar system. We will learn about the different planets, their characteristics, and how they interact within our galaxy. Students will be encouraged to think critically about the nature of space and the fascinating things that occur within it.

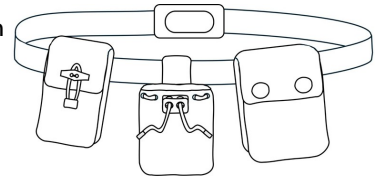
A key topic we will cover is lunar motion and how it affects different aspects of life on Earth. The children will be introduced to the concepts of night and day, including how the rotation of our planet creates these cycles. We aim to develop their understanding of these important scientific principles through engaging activities and discussions.



Design & Technology

Throughout the term, we will be focusing on creating utility belts that are suitable for their user. Students will delve into the world of accessible fabrics and innovative designs. We will encourage them to consider not just aesthetics but also functionality and comfort in their creations. The goal is to ensure each belt is both practical and tailored to the specific needs of its user.

To help our students bring their designs to life, we will be learning various sewing techniques that will aid in the assembly of their belts. This hands-on experience will not only enhance their practical skills but will also foster creativity and problem-solving abilities.



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.