



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Derwent Advent 2 Newsletter

Welcome back, I hope you have had a restful half term break! We are looking forward to a busy half term and the lead up into our Christmas celebrations. Here's an overview of what we will be learning about in Derwent this half term.

English

This half term we will be reading three texts to inspire our writing.

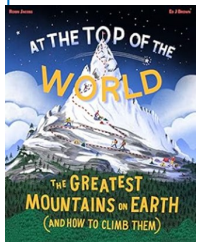
Beginning with the poem *The Dreadful Menace*

Personification poetry: Children will examine the use of personification to create fear and create their own Mountain personification poem to perform to the class.



Non-chronological report

Using *At the top of the world* and other sources to research the Alps, we will focus on the features and



language of a non-chronological report to write our own report.

Action and Adventure story

Using short clips of avalanches, children will plan, write and edit their own adventure story set in the snowy mountains.

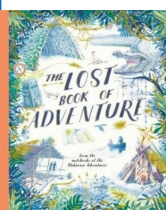
Instructional guide

Finally, we will use *The Lost book of Adventure* together with all our learning from the half term, to write our own Mountain Survival Guide.



Guided reading

This half term the children will be continuing the class



text *The Accidental Prime Minister*". In each session, the children will be looking at the Definition of words, Explaining, Retrieving, Interpreting and making a Choice using the text.

Maths

Year 4:

- Addition and subtraction
 - Subtracting two 4 digit numbers
 - Estimate answers and Checking strategies
- Area
- Multiplication and Division
 - Multiply and divide by 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12
 - Multiply three numbers

Year 5:

- Multiplication and Division
 - Factors, Prime, Square and Cube numbers
 - Multiply and divide by 10, 100, 1000
- Fractions
 - Equivalent to unit and non-unit fraction
 - Convert improper fractions
 - Compare, order and add fractions

RE

Prophecy and Promise

This half term we will learn about the prophets Elijah and John the Baptist. The children will understand about the feast of Christ the King and what is celebrated. They will examine how some artists have depicted Jesus Christ as King, and how Christians prepare for Advent, including using the Jesse tree and learning about the Nicene Creed.

PE

PE will continue to be taught on a Monday. Children should come to school in their school PE kit.



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Geography

Children will:

Locate the Alps on a world map and identify and label the eight countries they spread through.

Locate three physical and three human characteristics in the Alps.

Research and describe the physical and human features of Innsbruck, and compare to the features of Glossop.

Use a variety of data collection methods and record their findings in sketches or photographs.

Describe at least four of the key aspects of the human and physical geography of the Alps to answer the enquiry question, 'What is life like in the Alps?'

How can you help?

- I will send out homework on Monday to be completed and returned to school the following Monday. This work relates to work that the children will be completing in class that week so is great practise for them.
- Each Friday there will be new spellings sent home for the children to practise. These spellings relate to work the children complete in class but they will definitely benefit from the extra practise at home. Use Spelling Shed for a range of games that practise the week's spellings.
- Reading at home five times a week is a great way to improve your child's confidence and reading skills. Please ensure reading diaries are signed every time your child reads their reading book.
- We will be testing times tables each week, so I would encourage the children to practise regularly using TT Rockstars

Thank you for everything you do to support your child at home. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Mrs Barry

Science

Electricity and Circuits

Derwent will explain how to test if a circuit works and identify when simple electric circuits will work.

Identify symbols for open and closed switches and give examples of how switches are useful.

Describe when a material is a good electrical conductor or insulator.

Describe that the more bulbs added to a series circuit, the dimmer the bulbs will be.

Art and Design

Children will create a three-dimensional effect by using contrasting tones to show light and dark. They will combine lines and marks to represent texture, and will consider where to place objects thinking about space and size.

