



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Valehouse Advent 2 Newsletter

We hope you have all had a restful half term. We've got a busy and exciting term ahead, so let's see what we'll be learning together.

English

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

Narrative writing

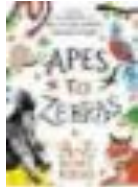
Using the narrative 'Vladimir the Volcano', we will create a timeline and capture emotional language. The children will begin to identify and use subordinate conjunctions, paragraphs, time adverbials and subordinations.

Explanation Text

The children will explore how an explanation text is structured. They will write their own explanation text based on volcanoes and including headings, sub-headings, labelled diagrams and illustrations.

Poetry

We will be sharing concrete and calligram poems, such as 'Apes to Zebras' by Brownlee. The children will be exploring the role and structure of different forms of poetry and will be creating their own poems.



Maths

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

Year Two Addition and Subtraction

- Add 2-digit numbers
- Subtract 2-digit numbers
- compare number sentences
- missing number problems

Shape

- recognise 2D and 3D shapes
- count sides on a 2D shape
- count vertices on 2D shapes
- draw 2D shapes
- lines of symmetry on shapes
- count faces on 3D shapes
- count edges on 3D shapes
- count vertices on 3D shapes

Year Three Addition and Subtraction

- add two numbers
- subtract two numbers
- add 2-digit and 3-digit numbers
- subtract a 2-digit number from a 3-digit number
- estimate answers
- inverse operations

Multiplication

- equal groups
- use arrays
- multiples of 2
- multiples of 5 and 10
- sharing and grouping
- multiply by 3
- divide by 3
- 3 times table
- multiply by 4
- divide by 4
- 4 times table
- multiply by 8
- divide by 8
- 8 times table

RE

Catholic Social Teaching: Community & Participation

This half term we will be exploring the theme of 'Community and Participation'. The children will be considering the communities they belong to and learning that as Christians, we are called to live in community with one another. But community is not just thinking about yourself, it's loving and taking care of those around us.



Prophecy & Promise

Our RE Curriculum 'To Know You More Clearly' is comprised of six branches throughout the year. This half term the branch is 'Prophecy and Promise'. The children will be talking, asking and answering questions about their experiences of liturgies and the Mass. We will consider how Catholics use prayers, symbols, signs and actions during Mass. In the lead up to Christmas, we will explore how Joseph and Mary trusted in God.





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Science – Movement & Nutrition

During this topic, the children will learn how to

- Recall the three key functions of the skeleton (movement, support and protection).
- Describe a vertebrate, invertebrate, endoskeleton and exoskeleton.
- Identify and name the skull, spine, ribs and pelvis on a diagram.
- Recall that muscles cause movements in the body, some of which we control by choice and that they cause a movement by shortening and pulling on a bone.
- Recall that animals, including humans, need to eat food to survive.
- Describe some examples of how energy is used by the body and make comparisons about the energy demands between people.

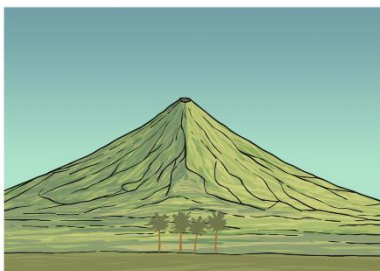
Geography

This half term we're exploring the question

Why Do People Live Near Volcanoes?

The children will -

- know the names of and can describe the layers of the earth.
- know how and where mountains are formed.
- know why volcanoes happen and where they occur.
- know the negative and positive effects of living near a volcano.
- know what earthquakes are and where they occur.
- know how to observe and record the location of rocks around the school grounds and discuss findings.



Guided Reading

The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark – Jill Tomlinson

Plop, the Baby Barn Owl, is like every Barn Owl there ever was, except for one thing – he is afraid of the dark. “Dark is nasty” he says and so he won’t go hunting with his parents. Mrs Barn Owl sends him down from his nest-hole to ask about the dark and he meets a little boy waiting for the fireworks to begin. Perhaps there is magic in the dark after all.



A Day in the Life of Ancient Greece – Joanna Nadin

What was everyday life like for children in ancient Greece? Meet two children who will guide you through their daily lives – from what they eat and the games they play, to the school subjects they do.



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 KS1 children (Rec, Y1 and Y2) and we cannot depend on there being any left over for those children in KS2 (Years 3 to 6).

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 OTIS on **Mondays**, so will need to come into school in their PE Kit on that day. They also have Forest School on **Thursdays** so will need to come in suitable clothing.

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 spellings and improve fluency particularly with times tables.



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