



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Valehouse Lent I Newsletter

Happy 2026 Valehouse! Let's have a look to see what we will be learning in this half term

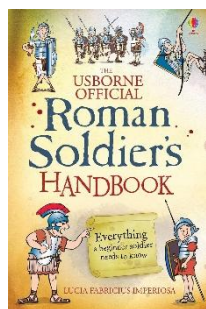
### English

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



#### **The Poetry of Clare Bevan**

Using a number of different poems from this collection, we will explore figurative language of onomatopoeia, expanded noun phrases to describe and finally perform our poems to the class



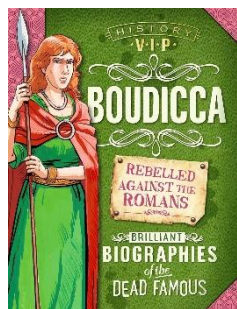
#### **Diary Writing**

Following our learning about the Roman Army, the children will write diary entries of an incompetent recruit as they try to figure out how to be a Roman Soldier. We will look at informal writing and grammar features such as commas in a list and

apostrophes for contraction

#### **Persuasive Writing**

We will use persuasive writing to create rallying speeches by Boudicca to encourage her followers to stand up to the Romans and follow her into battle.



### Maths

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

#### **Year Two Money**

- Count money – pence
- Count money – pounds (notes and coins)
- Count money – pounds and pence
- Choose notes and coins
- Make the same amount
- Compare amounts of money
- Calculate with money
- Make a pound
- Find change
- Two-step problems

#### **Year Two Multiplication and Division**

- Recognise make and add equal groups
- Introduce the multiplication symbol
- Multiplication sentences
- Use arrays
- Make equal groups – grouping and sharing
- The 2 times-table
- Divide by 2
- Doubling and halving
- Odd and even numbers
- The 10 times-table
- Divide by 10
- The 5 times-table
- Divide by 5
- The 5 and 10 times-tables

#### **Year Three Multiplication and Division B**

- Multiples of 10
- Related calculations
- Reasoning about multiplication
- Multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number – no exchange
- Multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number – with exchange
- Link multiplication and division
- Divide a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number – no exchange
- Divide a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number – flexible partitioning
- Divide a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number – with remainders
- Scaling
- How many ways?

#### **Year Three Length and Perimeter**

- Measure in metres, centimetres and millimetres
- Equivalent lengths (m/cm, cm/mm)
- Compare, add and subtract lengths
- Measure and calculate perimeter

### RE

#### **Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity and the Common Good**

This half term we will be exploring the theme of solidarity and our actions to help the common good. We will explore how we can be bringers of peace and understand how solidarity spurs us to stand side by side with our sisters and brothers, especially those living in poverty.



#### **Galilee to Jerusalem**

Our RE Curriculum 'To Know You More Clearly' is comprised of six branches throughout the year. This half term the branch is 'Galilee to Jerusalem'. In this branch, pupils will encounter the Gospel of St Matthew. Matthew's gospel contains narratives of Jesus' life from birth to death and resurrection, and it also includes parables which we will be looking at to help us understand the teachings of Jesus.





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### Science - Forces and magnets

During this topic, the children will learn how to

- Identify examples of pushes, pulls and twists.
- Define a force, including describing, naming and classifying contact and non-contact forces.
- Describe the relationship between friction and the roughness of a surface.
- Identify examples of friction being useful or not.
- Predict attraction and repulsion between like and opposite poles.
- Identify examples of magnetic and non-magnetic materials.
- Name some examples of types of magnets and compare their strengths.
- Describe some examples of the uses of magnets.
- Use arrows and scientific vocabulary to show the direction of a contact force.
- Use evidence to support conclusions.
- Identify the variables to change, measure and control.
- Write a method to explain how to use a magnet to sort and classify materials as magnetic or non-magnetic.
- Label the axes of a bar chart.
- Draw bars on a chart accurately.
- Identify key information from a source.
- Use more than one source to research a question.

### History

This half term we're exploring the question

#### Why did the Romans invade and settle in Britain?

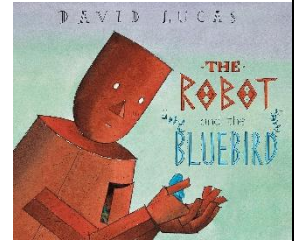
The children will -

- Explain what was important to people in Ancient Rome.
- Explain the meaning of the words 'empire', 'invasion' and 'settlement'.
- Analyse the different reasons for the Roman invasion of Britain.
- Explain how the Celts responded to the Roman invasion.
- Explain how the Roman army's structure, discipline and equipment made it so successful.
- Use artefacts to make deductions about the lives of Roman soldiers in Britain.
- Explain the meaning of legacy, identifying how the Romans changed Britain and ordering legacies by their significance.



### Guided Reading

#### The Robot and the Bluebird by David Lucas



There was once a robot with a broken heart, good for nothing but expiring slowly on a scrap heap. Then one winter's day a migrating bluebird lands on his shoulder, too exhausted to go further. The robot offers her shelter in the place where his heart used to be, and her warmth and singing and companionship stir up the last glimmer of energy the robot has; he carries her across snowy wastes to the warm south, whereupon his strength dies out finally. And there he still stands today like an old hollow tree, home every year to singing birds.

#### 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 and Thursdays**, so will need to come into school in their PE Kit on those days.

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.