



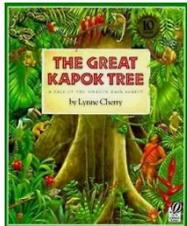
Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Valehouse Lent 2 Newsletter

Welcome back Valehouse. Let's see what we'll be learning about this half term

English

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



The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry

Pupils will read *The Great Kapok Tree* and create a new page showing rainforest animals pleading with the woodcutter. In role as different creatures, Year 2 will focus on past tense and description, while Year 3 will use direct speech, cohesive devices and varied reporting verbs.

Posters

Children will write bedroom "rules" for a visiting Orangutan using present tense verbs and learn how contractions (e.g. *don't*, *can't*) make language sound less formal and softer in tone. Through drama, discussion and writing, pupils will develop their understanding of grammar while thinking carefully about how language choice affects meaning and voice.



Persuasive Writing

Children will write a persuasive letter of complaint about rainforest destruction caused by palm oil production for chocolate. They will learn how to structure formal letters, use emotive language and factual evidence, and clearly express their concerns about protecting habitats such as those of endangered orangutans.

Catholic Social Teaching: Preferential Option for the Poor

This half term we will be exploring the theme of the Preferential Option for the Poor. actions to help the common good. We will explore how our community is judged on how it cares for and stands with the poor and vulnerable- our brothers and sisters. The Church calls us to respond to the cry of the poor and put their needs first.



Maths

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

Year Two Length and Height

- Measure in centimetres
- Measure in metres
- Compare lengths and heights
- Order lengths and heights
- Four operations with lengths and heights

Year Two Mass, capacity and temperature

- Compare mass
- Measure in grams
- Measure in kilograms
- Four operations with mass
- Compare volume and capacity
- Measure in millilitres
- Measure in litres
- Four operations with volume and capacity
- Temperature

Year Three Fractions (A)

- Understand the denominators of unit fractions
- Compare and order unit fractions
- Understand the numerators of non-unit fractions
- Understand the whole
- Compare and order non-unit fractions
- Fractions and scales
- Fractions on a number line
- Count in fractions on a number line
- Equivalent fractions on a number line
- Equivalent fractions as bar models

Year 3 Mass and Capacity

- Use scales
- Measure mass in grams
- Measure mass in kilograms and grams
- Equivalent masses (kilograms and grams)
- Compare mass
- Add and subtract mass
- Measure capacity and volume in millilitres
- Measure capacity and volume in litres and millilitres
- Equivalent capacities and volumes (litres and millilitres)
- Compare capacity and volume
- Add and subtract capacity and volume

RE

Desert to Garden

Our RE Curriculum 'To Know You More Clearly' is comprised of six branches throughout the year. This half term the branch is 'Desert to Garden'. Following on from focusing on the Liturgy of the Word in the 'Prophecy and Promise' branch, pupils will focus on the second part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We will revisit the Mass as a whole and recognise 'The Holy Mass is a miracle: we can be present at Jesus' death and Resurrection.





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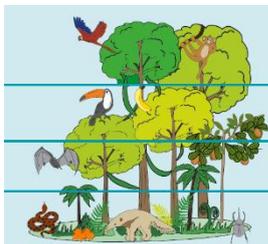
Science - Lights and Shadows



- Recall examples of light sources, objects that do not give out light and that darkness is the absence of light.
- Describe ways to protect eyes from harm.
- Describe what happens when light reflects, give examples of reflective surfaces or materials and describe factors that may affect the quality of a reflected image.
- Describe how shadows form and identify patterns between groups of materials and the shadows produced.
- Recall factors that affect the way a shadow appears, including what causes shadows to change throughout the day and factors that change the size of a shadow
- Describe the pattern of changing shadows throughout the day.
- Describe how the light source's distance affects the shadow's size.
- Explain why a particular material is appropriate to make a shadow puppet and use knowledge of shadows to animate it.
- Recall what information needs recording to decide the number of columns in a results table and suggest suitable headings for the results table.
- Record information in the correct columns.
- Identify if a question is testable, explain why and plan ways to answer a testable question.
- Identify and explain why something is an advantage or disadvantage of a method and suggest an improvement to the experiment.
- Describe patterns in data and quote values as evidence of patterns in data.
- Identify odd results that do not fit the pattern.
- Use patterns to make predictions for missing data.

Geography – Why are Rainforests important to us?

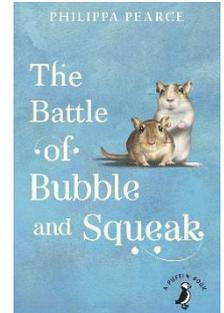
- Describe a biome and give an example.
- State the location and some key features of the Amazon rainforest.
- Name and describe the four layers of tropical rainforests.
- Understand that trees and plants adapt to living in the rainforest and give an example.
- Define the word indigenous and give an example of how indigenous peoples use the Amazon's resources.
- Name one way in which the Amazon is changing.
- Articulate why the Amazon rainforest is important.
- Give an example of how humans are having a negative impact on the Amazon and an action that can be taken to help.
- Use a variety of data collection methods with support.
- Summarise how the local woodland is used and suggest changes to improve the area.



Guided Reading

The Battle of Bubble and Squeak by Philippa Pearce

Sid, Peggy and Amy adore the two gerbils, Bubble and Squeak, but their mother detests them. A major family battle results, and it is clear life is never going to be quite the same again. But after a near fatal encounter between Bubble and Ginger the cat, Mrs Sparrow begins to see that life with a pair of gerbils might not be so bad after all.



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 **Thursdays**, so will need to come into school in their PE Kit.

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.