



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Ladybower Pentecost 2 Newsletter

Welcome back Ladybower! We've got a busy term ahead so let's see what we'll be learning.

English

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

Ducks Overboard

We will begin our half term by reading the book *Ducks Overboard!*

Based on a true story, this innovative take on the plastic pollution crisis follows one duck as it travels on ocean currents to meet sea life and discovers the rubbish from humans that endangers our oceans.

Narrative

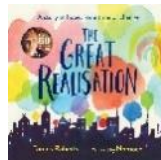
We will be writing a narrative in role as one of the ducks that were dumped into the ocean. We will be creating our own characters and telling the story of our journey from being on the boat, to our adventures as we travel through the ocean.

Persuasive writing

We will then focus on the current situation in the world regarding our energy usage and the huge problem of pollution by writing a persuasive letter to the government explaining our reasons as to why we believe we need to make our world a better place.

Poetry

The class will then focus on two environmental poems and practice performing them to their peers. They will then generate ideas to create their own versions of these two poems.

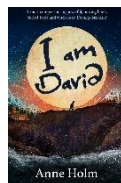


Guided Reading

This half term we will be reading the book, 'I am David', by Anne Holm.

'David is a twelve-year-old boy who escapes a brutal Eastern European concentration camp. Alone and armed only with a compass and his wits, David journeys across Europe toward Denmark, learning to navigate a new world of kindness, nature, and trust'

We will teach it through the techniques of DERIC (Decoding, Explaining, Retrieving, Inferred/Interpreting and Choice). Children will read both to themselves and aloud to the class to focus on fluency and understanding of the text.



Maths

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

Year 5

Decimals

- Add and subtract decimals within 1
- Add and subtract decimals across 1
- Add and subtract decimals with the same and a different number of decimal places
- Efficient strategies for adding and subtracting decimals
- Decimal sequences
- Multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000
- Multiply and divide decimals

Negative numbers

- Understand negative numbers
- Count through zero in 1s and multiples
- Compare and order negative numbers

Converting units

- Kilograms and kilometres
- Millimetres and millilitres
- Convert units of length
- Convert between metric and imperial units
- Convert units of time
- Calculate with timetables

Volume

- Cubic centimetres
- Compare volume
- Estimate volume
- Estimate capacity

Year 6

This half term I have set the children an enterprise project to help raise money for the activities we have planned to celebrate our wonderful Year 6's when they leave. They are working in groups to produce a product which they will then sell to the school; they must calculate how much it will be to make and then how much profit they are planning on making from it. They also must market and advertise their product to the children to help promote what they're selling.

We will also spend some time on getting them 'Year 7 ready' – focussing on the topics that will help when they get to secondary school.



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Science

Animals including humans: Circulation and health

- Identify factors that affect our health and how to reduce their negative impact
- Summarise the key structures and purpose of the circulatory system
- Identify the key roles of blood
- Explore the relationship between animal size and heart rate
- Investigate the relationship between exercise and heart rate
- Describe the relationship between heart rate and fitness



Forces and space: Unbalanced forces

- Describe gravity and its effects
- Describe air resistance and its effects
- Describe water resistance and its effects
- Describe friction and its effects
- Describe the effects of levers, pulleys and simple machines on movement



Our Year 5 pupils in Ladybower have the pleasure of Mrs Barry teaching them their Science topic this half term, so have a look at Derwent's newsletter to see the exciting things they'll be getting up to!

Geography

Sustainability

What actions can we take to make the world more sustainable?

- Research and explain real-world environmental issues, solutions and careers.
- Work collaboratively to create and present a news report on sustainability.
- Suggest individual, class and school-level sustainability actions.



RE

Dialogue and Encounter

- Explain that the Bible came together over a period of more than a thousand years and contains sacred texts from Judaism, the four Gospels, and other early writings of the Church.
- Know that the Church teaches that Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God and the Church helps Catholics read and understand the Bible.
- Know that the Bible is translated from different languages into many languages.
- Recognise that the Tanakh uses different names for God that reveal aspects of his nature.
- Use specialist vocabulary to describe some Jewish beliefs expressed in the Shema prayer.
- Asking 'How can Sacred Scripture be "truth" if not everything in it is right?' and discussing how to read the Bible prayerfully and how the Church helps us understand Scripture.
- Exploring the place of Sacred Scripture in
- Discussing why the whole Bible is important for Christians, not just the New Testament
- Reflecting on the books that matter to them in their lives.
- Talking to others about their sacred texts and why they matter.

How can you help?

This half term, the children in Ladybower will have **OTIS** on a **Monday**. They will need to come to school in their PE kit. They will also have two weeks of extra Forest School sessions (4/6/26 and 11/6/26) so please make sure they come prepared for all weather!

Reading Diaries and reading books need to be brought into school every day. 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 and TT Rockstars - please ensure your child is accessing these regularly at home. It will help to embed their spellings and improve fluency particularly with times tables.