Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Derwent Advent 2 Newsletter

Welcome back Derwent! Let's look ahead to see what we'll be learning this half term

English

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

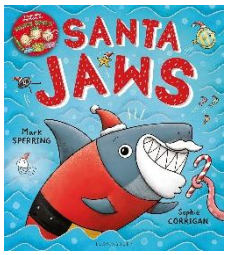
Finding Nemo

Using the story of Finding Nemo, Derwent class will explore a variety of genres and writing outcomes this half term.

We will
- Create scene narratives
- Develop instructional texts to help Nemo escape
- Write persuasive letters to Bruce to help him change his ways
- Explore the characters and their personalities to be able to adopt their voices when creating dialogue



Santa Jaws by Mark Sperring



Working in the style of 'Santa Jaws', Derwent will write instructional poems for Bruce to remind him how to behave properly in his role as Santa Jaws

Maths

Year Four Area
- What is area?
- Count squares
- Make shapes
- Compare areas

Year Four Multiplication and Division A
- Multiples of 3
- Multiply and divide by 6
- 6 times-table and division facts
- Multiply and divide by 9
- 9 times-table and division facts
- The 3, 6 and 9 times-tables
- Multiply and divide by 7
- 7 times-table and division facts
- 11 times-table and division facts
- 12 times-table and division facts
- Multiply by 1 and 0
- Divide a number by 1 and itself
- Multiply three numbers

Year Five Multiplication and Division A
- Multiples
- Common multiples
- Factors
- Common factors
- Prime numbers
- Square numbers
- Cube numbers
- Multiply by 10, 100 and 1,000
- Divide by 10, 100 and 1,000
- Multiples of 10, 100 and 1,000

Year Five Fractions A
- Find fractions equivalent to a unit fraction
- Find fractions equivalent to a non-unit fraction
- Recognise equivalent fractions
- Convert improper fractions to mixed numbers
- Convert mixed numbers to improper fractions
- Compare fractions less than 1
- Order fractions less than 1
- Compare and order fractions greater than 1
- Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator
- Add fractions within 1
- Add fractions with total greater than 1
- Add to a mixed number
- Add two mixed numbers
- Subtract fractions
- Subtract from a mixed number
- Subtract from a mixed number - breaking the whole
- Subtract two mixed numbers

RE

Catholic Social Teaching: Community and Participation



This half term we will be exploring the theme of community and participation and that as people we are social beings, communicating and relating to one another. We are made for community and communion with one another, living and sharing our daily lives, hopes and dreams.

Prophecy and Promise



Our RE Curriculum 'Meet in my name' is comprised of six branches throughout the year. This half term the branch is 'Prophecy and Promise'. In the second branch we will learn about what is meant by prophecy, about Advent as a time for preparation and how Christians prepare during this time. We will also understand the importance of historical context of biblical stories.

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Science

Materials: Properties and Changes

During this topic, the children will learn how to

- Determine the hardness of different materials and link this to their uses.
- Determine the transparency of different materials and link this to their uses.
- Determine the thermal and electrical conductivity of different materials and link this to their uses.
- Demonstrate, identify and describe reversible and irreversible changes.
- Evaluate the hardness test to determine the degree of trust in the results.
- Plan and draw a table of results.
- Write a detailed, organised and easy to follow method.
- Write a prediction using prior knowledge of the states of matter.
- Analyse observations about rusting and use them to support a conclusion.
- Measure accurately in centimetres.



Geography

This half term we're exploring the question

Why do oceans matter?

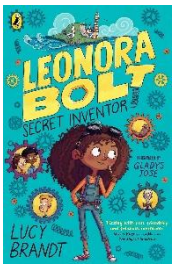
The children will -

- Describe how the ocean is used for human activity.
- Explain how the ocean helps to regulate the Earth's climate and temperature.
- Identify the Great Barrier Reef as part of Australia.
- Describe the benefits of the Great Barrier reef.
- Describe how humans impact the oceans and the consequences of this.
- Explain some actions that can be taken to help support healthy oceans.
- Explain which data collection method would be best for marine fieldwork and why.
- Collect data using a tally chart, photographs and a sketch map.
- Safely navigate the fieldwork environment.
- Make suggestions for how to improve a marine environment.
- Present data using a tally chart and pie chart.

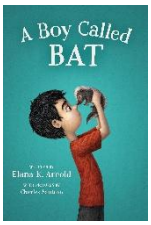


Guided Reading

Leonora Bolt by Lucy Brandt,



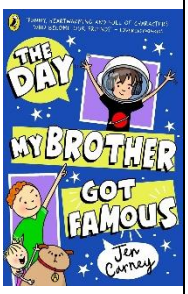
Leonora Bolt spends her days creating incredible inventions in her TOP SECRET laboratory, under the watchful eye of her terrifying uncle. Armed with her most important inventions, she must leave Crabby Island for the first time EVER to embark on an unforgettable journey that will test her brainpower to its limits. With the help of an otter with a special skilll, a questionable cook and a singing sea captain, can Leonora dream up an invention that will defeat her evil uncle once and for all?



A Boy Called Bat by Elena K Arnold

For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat's mum, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter. But the minute Bat meets the kit, he knows they belong together. And he's got one month to show his mum that a baby skunk might just make a pretty terrific pet.

The Day my Brother Got Famous by Jen Carney



First Ferris Foster's dog got famous, and then his school did! He's ready for normal life again, that is until his new foster brother Arthur arrives. The boys couldn't be more different: Arthur is OBSESSED with space, whereas Ferris has more down-to-earth hobbies, like rating crisps out of 10. Arthur's going to spend half-term at camp, giving Ferris the time (and space) to draw the best cartoon ever and win a grand cash prize that could change everything. On top of all that, Ferris and his mums are preparing for a nerve-wracking interview which will decide if they'll finally become his foster-sister Keely's forever family.

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 pupils, and we cannot depend on there being any left over for those children in KS2.

Spelling Shed/Maths Shed/Times Table Rock Stars - please ensure your child is accessing these regularly at home. It will help to embed their spellings and improve fluency particularly with times tables.

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 Derwent will have Forest School on **Thursdays**

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 and times tables 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.