



Spring Term Newsletter 2024

Year 3

Welcome: On behalf of Sacred Heart I welcome you back and wish you a happy New Year! I hope that you have had a rested holiday and are ready for the new term ahead.

Religious Education: We start the year with a focus on the local church in the unit, 'Journeys'. The children will be exploring the journey of the year, marking special occasions, seasons and highlights in the school and community calendar. The children will be introduced to the Liturgical Year of the Catholic Church and learn how it is a continuous cycle. They will learn about the colours of each church season and what the colour represents. The children will then complete the topic 'Listening and Sharing' which will focus upon listening to God's word and sharing the Eucharist. Finally, the class will complete the unit 'Giving All' which will be focused on Lent as the time that Jesus gave himself to us. The class will also be taking an active part in a Chinese New Year workshop at the end of January. The learning about other world faith religions will continue into the Summer Term.

RSE: The children will be focusing on Journey in Love and will cover the 4 stages of Journey in Love focusing on friendships and how we show love and care for each other and ourselves. We will also continue to work on the Commando Joe's scheme of work where Year 3 will continue to learn about teamwork, patience, communication and resilience.

Mathematics: This term the children will be focusing upon multiplication and division, length and perimeter, fractions and mass and capacity. They will explore efficient strategies to calculate multiplication and division facts, solving division problems involving remainders and multiplication involving exchange. The class will then explore length and perimeter, how to measure in cm, m, and mm. They will add and subtract lengths and calculate a shape's perimeter. In their work on fractions the class they will order fractions and find equivalent fractions. In their work in measurement they will measure weight in g and kg and calculate the volume of a liquid using ml and l. Through problem solving using real-life contexts the children will see that maths is all around them and is purposeful and needed to equip them with life outside the classroom.

Reading: The children will begin the term reading, 'Ice Palace' by Robert Swindells and will also read, 'This Morning I Met a Whale' by Michael Morpurgo. During their reading sessions they will be asking questions to improve understanding, draw inferences about the characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions and justify with evidence. They will also discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination.

Writing: The children will develop their writing through the use of two texts this term. The first 'Winter's Child' by Angela McAllister will be analysed to support them to write a fantasy story based upon a fable. The second text, 'Big Blue Whale' by Nicola Davies will be shared to support the children to write an informative article about whales persuading for the protection of the blue whale. The children will identify and use adverbs to express time, place and cause, build an increasing range of sentence structures and assess the effectiveness of own and others' writing.

Spelling The class will be starting a new spelling scheme, 'Supersonic Spelling Star' this term which will support them in their spellings by becoming a 'Word Whizz' and a 'Spelling Star'. Each week they will explore a particular spelling sound and how it is spelt such as 'g' sound spelt 'gue' and the 's' sound spelt with the 'sc' spelling. The class will also continue with remembering the doubles in the Common Exception Word list for Year 3.

Grammar: The children will be identifying and using prepositions to develop their ideas. They will be using a range of conjunctions and adverbs to express time, place and cause. They will be using inverted commas to punctuate direct speech in their writing to provide more detail to the reader about the key characters within a story.

How you can help at home: To aid your child to succeed in class please support home learning through the weekly home learning assignments, practising the spellings each week by talking about the spelling and recording it into a sentence. Continue to support your child with their maths by chanting times table facts and supporting them in measuring items in the kitchen. This will really help them in their work on measure.

Science: The theme is 'Magnetism' and we will be focussing on: Understanding how magnetic fields work; Understanding the impact of the Earth behaving like a magnet itself and understanding the importance of magnetism when it comes to new inventions and innovation. Next they will explore plants and life cycles. They will describe the lifecycle of a plant, explain how plants make their own food and name the parts and functions of a flower.

Computing: The children will be completing a unit of work on 'Branching Databases' and will develop their understanding and use of the language within creating a database. They will complete and create a simple branching database. Later into the term the children will be completing the unit, 'Simulations' which will involve learning what a simulation is, exploring simulations and analysing and evaluating a simulation against a set of criteria.

History: The theme is 'Ancient Civilisation' with the main study on the Ancient Egyptians, we will be focussing on: Where in the world were these civilisations? What did these civilisations achieve? Are there any similarities between them? Who were the Ancient Egyptians and what did they achieve?

Art: The children will be exploring and designing typography and we will be focussing on: Exploring the creation of the letters of a typeface in an intuitive and fun way; Thinking about the structure and design of letters as having personalities; Taking starting points from observational drawing and developing graphic onomatopoeia. The theme is 'Daring Designers' and the children will create collages using inspiration from front designers and Egyptian art to create their own inspired by pieces of art.

Music: This term, our topic is 'Pulse and Metre' and we will be focussing on: Exploring pulse as the steady beat to the music, Keeping a steady pulse when listening to music and recognising music in different time signatures.

French: The focus of this term is on animals. This will involve learning new vocabulary and phrases so that they can state animals that they like and do not like. They will also complete a unit about a carnival looking at new vocabulary, stating questions and answers using sentence stems.

PSHE: The children will continue to learn more about their wellbeing and managing their feelings through exploring specific focuses such as being safe online, self-image, growth mindset and helping others.

PE / Sports: The children will be completing a gymnastics and dance unit. Which will be exploring how to create shape and to sequence a group dance. Later in the term the children will be completing team activities involving Tag Rugby and Football.

How you can help at home (in relation to the above subjects): A visit to the local library to explore these areas of study will help your child to be armed with facts and help them to have a deeper understanding of the areas of focus this term. Additionally, trips to a museum to discover more about the ancient civilisations such as the ancient Egyptians will help to develop their child's understanding of this period of history. We recommend The World Museum in Liverpool and Bolton Museum.