

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary Curriculum Overview

Spring Term 2018

Happy New Year and welcome back to Year 4. We will be covering the following areas in the Spring Term:

Religious Education Our studies will reflect the seasons, feasts and monthly devotions of the Church Year. We will study and pray the prayers from the Catholic tradition, growing in knowledge and love of God and His Holy Catholic Church.

We will be following the Come and See scheme, which will cover the Local Community, Giving and Receiving along with Self Discipline. The children will be focusing on Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the Parish, Living in Communion, and Celebrating growth to new life.

English Using information texts, stories from other cultures, play scripts and explanation texts we will extend our vocabulary and improve our writing through the use of expressive and descriptive language, connectives and punctuation. There will be a focus on the use of paragraphs and structural features appropriate to the writing genre. We will use the 'Pie Corbett' method of writing in fiction and non-fiction writing, which involves the children using story maps and orally retelling the story first to help develop appropriate language. Our class story book is Varjak Paw by SF Said.

Reading Comprehension will continue in Guided Reading sessions as well as during Literacy lessons. New and revised punctuation will be taught throughout writing and reading. In addition to daily reading, weekly homework (given out every Monday) will include either a short writing or research task and spelling. Children will bring a reading book home daily and are responsible for changing their book regularly in discussion with the teacher. Presentation will be important as we secure the use of cursive script.

Mathematics We are continuing to use Abacus Active Learn to support the teaching of mathematics. Active Learn helps children make sense of and practice their maths through a combination of activities, maths games, interactive tasks and pupil videos. Remember that Abacus can be used to support learning at home. Your child has been provided with a username and password to allow them to practise their maths skills using Abacus at home.

The topics covered this spring term will include number and place value, mental and written addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as geometry (properties of shapes); measures of time, capacity and symmetry. Children will investigate calculations including algebra and will explore different ways of Handling Data, Fractions and Decimals. They will also continue to learn how to develop and apply problem solving and reasoning skills. Homework will be set weekly (given out every Wednesday) to reinforce learning in class.

Science Our new topic is States of Matter, learning to compare and group materials together according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. We will observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled and identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle. We shall then study Sound, discovering how sounds are made, and learn that vibration travel through a medium to the ear.

Computing The children are continuing to develop skills in computing that support work across the curriculum. Working with Digital Media, the children will create basic stop motion animations using technology. The children will understand that technology allows for situations, which would be impractical to try out in real life, to be modelled and investigate the effect of changing variables in these simulations. There will be a continued emphasis on e-safety so that they are more confident in knowing how to stay safe whilst using the internet. . We will celebrate Internet Safety Day, revising how to stay safe online.

Geography The children will study the Mediterranean, compare, and contrast a locality, which will include a follow-up study on Modern Greece. We will use an atlas to identify and describe what places are like, and locate the world's countries, ask geographical questions and use appropriate vocabulary. Physical geography will look at coastal features and we will link this with human geography. Discussions will take place on the European Community and the impact of recent events, e.g. Brexit.

Art and D&T This work is linked to topic work covered across the curriculum and will be reflected in their sketchbooks and paintings, creating their own landscapes. The children will also explore Mediterranean food with a particular focus on 'light bites'.

PSHCE (P=Personal, S=Social, H=Health, C=Citizenship, E=Education). Children will learn about their responsibilities within the school and in the wider world. We will celebrate Internet Safety Day, revising how to stay safe online. Our monthly values of Truth and Justice, Humility and Gentleness, Service and Sacrifice will be a focus to help teach children how they should behave to become effective citizens. We will also discuss significant world events as well as delving into the lives of famous people who have contributed to society in various ways.

French Children will continue to learn conversational French as well as studying the culture of France.

Music Children will be learning about composition and musical structure, and will continue to perform songs taught by Mr Bramley. They will also respond to music composers from the 1800s, such as Mozart, Bach and Haydn.

PE The children will work on developing their strike-and-field techniques through a series of games including Basketball and Netball. They will also enhance their gymnastics skills during their indoor PE sessions, which will still take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as normal. Please ensure that your child has the correct, clearly-labelled and well-fitting PE kit in school on those days.