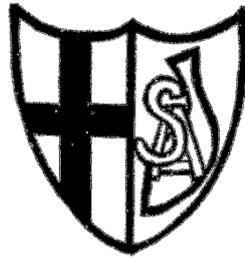


ST ALBERT THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL



YEAR 6

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

2017 - 2018

TEACHER:

Mrs Anderton

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Mrs Adams, Mrs Hessey



By the time pupils reach Year 6 they are organised and independent school pupils. With this in mind they are given responsibilities within school to help staff and the younger pupils. All pupils are expected to show a greater sense of responsibility. They are expected to complete their reading records independently and should ask you to sign it at the end of each week. Pupils will be expected to read every evening and learn the spellings set each week. For you, as a parent, it is quite useful to know which steps your child will take during his/her time in Year 6.



English

The English Curriculum in Year 6 is based on the National Curriculum 2014.

Through the use of a wide range of media and stimuli, our aim is:

- To use reading skills to extend understanding of more complex text.
- To extend independent writing across a variety of genres.
- To extend and use a full range of grammar and punctuation skills.
- To further develop independent spelling strategies.
- To identify features of texts and develop a high level of reading skills

Speaking and Listening

Opportunities will be made across the curriculum for pupils to speak aloud, in groups or individually, to the whole class, whole school and other age groups for a variety of purposes;

- To develop powers of reasoning
- To develop powers of imagination, inventiveness and critical awareness
- To listen carefully and to make appropriate responses
- To express their own views and give opinions on a variety of topics

Reading

Reading should be something pupils enjoy and so they are encouraged to read a wide range of books in order to develop fluency and expression. They are encouraged to evaluate what they have read and justify their preferences. There are numerous opportunities during the school week to read aloud in small groups, to the class or the whole school. We have introduced reading bingo to encourage the pupils to read books that they would not usually choose as their independent reading book. Please see the reading bingo sheet in your child's reading record.

In Year 6 we still expect pupils to read at home regularly.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to read as widely as possible, selecting books from our library or from home as well as being encouraged to read information books and public library books.

Writing

Pupils are encouraged to use a neat and well-formed style of joined writing following the school handwriting scheme.

Presentation of written work is important and the pupils are required to use a handwriting pen for most of their work.

We give pupils the opportunity to express themselves clearly, to expand their written vocabulary and to develop imaginative ideas through:

- Classic fiction, poetry and drama
- Stories from more than one genre e.g. mystery, humour, sci- fi, historical, fantasy worlds.
- A range of poetic forms e.g. narrative, ballads, riddles, cinquain, haiku and free verse.
- Autobiography & Biography
- Diaries
- Journals
- Letters
- Persuasive writing
- Journalistic writing
- Discussion texts
- Non- chronological reports
- Records of observations
- Formal writing
- Public information documents
- Use of reference texts range of dictionaries, thesauruses including ICT sources

Pupils in Year 6 are given the opportunity to revise and improve independent spelling strategies using a variety of known strategies. The understanding of vocabulary in context is an important part of this area of learning and pupils are encouraged to use a dictionary and thesaurus.

Pupils will build on and further develop Year 5 work in sentence level work, grammar and punctuation

This work will include:

- Active and passive verbs
- Understanding features of formal official language
- Note conventions of language
- Revise complex sentences
- Con junctions
- Appropriate use of punctuation. Consolidate use of apostrophes, semi-colons, speech marks, dashes and brackets
- Hypotheses
- Revise summary, note taking and editing
- Revise spelling strategies, conventions and rules
- Vocabulary extension



Maths



Maths is based on the National Curriculum 2014. Our aim is to give confidence and competence with numbers and measures, using a wide range of resources and approaches, so we aim to develop:

- a working knowledge of the number system which can be applied to problem solving
- accurate computational skills
- the ability to use mental arithmetic strategies
- a practical understanding of the ways in which information is gathered and presented in charts such as graphs and tables

There is a dedicated Maths lesson each day which will include daily oral and mental work to secure strategies learnt and to promote rapid recall.

Year 6 Key Objectives

- 1 Use negative numbers to calculate intervals across zero
- 2 Divide numbers using long division, interpreting the remainders as appropriate
- 3 Use order of operations to carry out calculations
- 4 Use common factors to simplify fractions
- 5 Compare and order fractions of any size
- 6 Add and subtract fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers
- 7 Multiply simple pairs of proper fractions
- 8 Divide proper fractions by whole numbers
- 9 Calculate decimal fraction equivalents for simple fractions
- 10 Multiply a number with up to two decimal places by whole numbers
- 11 Use written division with answers of up to two decimal places
- 12 Solve problems involving the calculation of percentages
- 13 Recall and use equivalences between fractions, decimals and percentages
- 14 Solve problems using ratio using multiplication and division facts
- 15 Solve problems involving similar shapes where the scale factor is known
- 16 Solve problems involving proportion, using knowledge of fractions and multiples
- 17 Use simple formulae
- 18 Generate and describe linear number sequences
- 19 Express missing number problems algebraically
- 20 Convert units of measure between smaller and larger units
- 21 Convert between miles and kilometres
- 22 Calculate the area of parallelograms and triangles
- 23 Calculate and compare volume of cubes and cuboids
- 24 Illustrate and name parts of a circle
- 25 Finding missing angles in triangles, quadrilaterals and regular polygons
- 26 Recognise vertically opposite angles and find missing angles
- 27 Describe positions on the full co-ordinate grid
- 28 Translate shapes on a co-ordinate grid and reflect in the axes
- 29 Construct and interpret pie charts
- 30 Calculate the mean as an average



Science



In our Science teaching we aim to stimulate and excite our pupils' curiosity about the world around them.

Lessons will include pupils independently setting up practical experiments, with consideration given to fair testing, writing up reports on the experiments and using ICT for graphs and tables. They will be expected to research some aspects of the work.

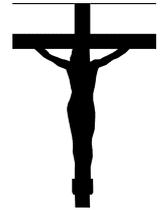
The lessons will be backed up with written work and diagrams.

The topics covered will include

- Working scientifically
- Living things and their habitats
- Animals including humans
- Evolution and inheritance
- Light
- Electricity



RE



We will be following the Catholic 'Come and See' scheme. This is divided into 3 topics each term, with the common theme running throughout the school.

These topics are as follows:-

Autumn term:

Family
Belonging
Loving

Spring Term:

Local Church
Eucharist
Lent/Easter

Summer Term:

Pentecost
Reconciliation
Universal Church



Computing



The national curriculum for Computing aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Can understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation.
- Can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve such problems.
- Can evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems.
- Are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

Computing Units

Young Authors

During this project, children will develop a story idea in small groups to create a storyboard. The children will then use Book Creator and Brushes to create their own eBook including text, illustrations and audio.

Stocks and Shares

This activity is designed to give children an understanding of the stock market but more importantly engage them in a task that makes them analyse data, make informed choices, present and critique their decisions. It has been designed to bring together all their 'office' skills and show how they can be used to complement each other.

Let's Learn a Language

By year 6 it is anticipated that the children will have prior experience of coding using a visual based programming language, such as Scratch or Kodu but this is likely to be the first time they will code using a scripting language i.e. writing lines of code as opposed to dragging blocks to build algorithms and programs. The aim of this activity is to introduce children to the world of programming languages, of which there are many. They will experiment with learning some basic Python code.

Appy Times

In this activity we will give children the chance to experiment with the basics of programming and app development using a variety of development platforms and styles of code. Then as an overall plenary they will be asked to compare, contrast and express their thoughts on the different programming styles of languages.

Heroes and Villains – Graphics

This project will take you through the steps to create your own Heroes and Villains style game using the program Scratch. As the hero of the game you will battle against the villain to collect diamonds and destroy each other's health. The aim of the game is to either be the first to collect 5 diamonds or destroy the villain's health to 0.

Building Battle Bots

The children will use Physics engines and prototyping software to build and test a virtual robot. Algodoo is a unique 2D-simulation software. Children can design in a playful, cartoon manner, making it the perfect tool for creating and exploring physics whilst building amazing inventions. Children will work in pairs as part of a design team to create a robot that will save the world by battling a world issue like climate change.

Helping your child at home

Spelling Log Book

Spellings will be set on a **Friday** and the children will copy these down so that they have them to practise throughout the week in preparation for the test on the following **Friday**. Each set of spellings should be written out across a double page enabling the children to practise them 5 times.

Homework Tasks

This year the children will be given regular, weekly homework which will consolidate work completed in English and Maths. They will be given a homework diary so that they can plan their time effectively. Each week they will receive reading, spellings, mathematics, English and Maths homework. This will usually be given out on a Wednesday and will be collected in on a Monday. It is essential that the children complete these tasks and return them to school on time. If they are unsure about how to complete the task please encourage them to come and ask one of the year 6 team who will discuss this with them.

Reading

It is important that your child reads regularly at home. We suggest 20 minutes each night. This should include a wide range of texts (novels, short stories, newspaper, topic books). The children will need to record their reading **at least three times a week in their homework diary** which will be checked regularly in school.

News

Please encourage your child to show an interest in items of national and international news. Discussing these events helps to develop their skills of reasoning and confidence in their opinions.

ICT

Use of computers is encouraged for research and presentation (unless specifically indicated otherwise).

PE

PE lessons are currently on a Tuesday with swimming on a Friday. Please make sure your child has the appropriate labelled PE kit in school including trainers.

Notes

SATs week is 14th – 17th May. Please do not book any holidays (or family events) during this time.