

Maths

We are going to continue with our early morning work on number, place value and times-tables so it is essential that the children persevere in recalling these times-tables facts. Their recall of facts is particularly important this term as we move in to our next unit of work based on fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio and proportion.

By the end of the half term we will also be exploring problems using algebra.

Linked to our science topic, we will also recap the children's understanding of area, perimeter, circumference, diameter/radius as well as measures for distance and mass.

How you can help: Ensure your child is completing homework tasks and practising their times tables.

Computing

Pupils will be researching different planets in our solar system and creating their own database using this information. Using a database programme, they will also be interrogating other information and looking for errors in the data. The children will also be using the computers and tablet PCs to support their learning in lots of other curriculum areas.

PSHE

Pupils will explore how people around the world respond to natural disasters.

They will look at how famine, drought and poverty affect people and how human activity can affect climate change.

Following the Christopher Winter scheme of work, pupils will look at Drugs education according to their given year group.

The objectives covered are:

Y5 - To explore a range of legal and illegal drugs, their risks and effects; to consider pupils' attitudes and beliefs about drug use and drug users; consider strategies to avoid drug use.

Y6 - To understand the effects, risks and law relating to certain drugs and substance abuse; to be aware of how people can get advice, help and support.

History/ Geography

Through this topic we will be exploring the history of space travel and exploration. By learning about key events, we will consider the impact these have had on our everyday lives. The pupils will also learn about the lives of astronauts and how they live and work whilst orbiting Earth.

St Mary's Catholic School Topic Planner



Earth and Space



Burrator – Spring 2015

Science

Science is our main topic this half term. We shall be learning about the sizes of the different planets, discovering how they move in space and how the earth orbits the Sun.

We will also find out why we have night and day and why the length of daylight hours changes throughout the year.

In addition, the class will also find out about how and why we experience different seasons.

Finally, pupils will learn about the phases of the moon and what stars are.

French

Pupils will revise their recall of numbers and develop their knowledge of numbers in French from 0-20. Pupils will learn the names of playground games and talk about their likes and dislikes. The children will also learn the names of different colours.

Music

We will be studying Gustav Holst – 'Mars' from 'The Planets'. The children will be:-

- Identifying instrumentation and instrumental techniques.
- Analysing mood and character.
- Creating new work where children compose a short piece that creates mood and character for a different planet.

Literacy

We will be covering two very different text types which will give children the opportunity to write with humour (The Day the Crayons Quit) and create suspense through action and dialogue (The Shadow Cage). Children need to demonstrate a range of skills including paragraphing, the use of complex sentences and that they can accurately use punctuation marks. We will continue to explore spelling conventions and grammar through analysing the texts read and during stand-alone sessions.

How you can help: Read every night with your child, practise spellings and ensure your child is completing their homework tasks.

RE

Christmas – Children will analyse the Christmas story in greater detail, looking at some of the difficulties encountered by the Holy Family as a result of the Birth of Jesus. In particular, the effects of being homeless and a refugee will also be explored.

Revelation – We will be considering God's revelation of Himself in Jesus. The words "This is my Son the Beloved, my favour rests on him" provide a basis for this consideration. The importance of baptism today will also be discussed.

Art/ Design Technology

This term the children will be designing and testing rockets, which will be propelled using pneumatics.

PE

We will be covering passing and tackling skills and learning to play Handball on Monday (trainers essential!)

Children will be instructed by a dance tutor from South Dartmoor Community College on Thursdays (bare feet).