



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

Telephone: 0121 464 2141

Email: enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs L. J. Yorke M.Ed.



St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

Year 6 newsletter - Spring 1

Happy new year everyone! As we move into the Spring term, Year 6 will continue to work hard in their lessons. With the SATs getting closer, we will ensure that we continue to cover the content that the children will need, whilst ensuring that they feel as comfortable and confident with themselves as possible. We look forwards to seeing you at our SATs workshop on 16th January, in school at 2:15pm. We will also be keeping up with a range of wider curriculum lessons so that all children get a broad and balanced curriculum. Please refer to our spring curriculum map for details about what will be covered and what the children have to look forward to.

kind regards,

Year 6 staff

PE

PE days - Spring 1

Year 6	Tuesday - Gymnastics Wednesday - Dance
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On PE days - the children come in wearing their PE uniform.

This is the gold t-shirt, royal blue shorts, dark navy or black tracksuit bottoms and plain trainers. Please ensure that any jewellery is taken off for PE days for your child's (and others) safety. All long hair must be tied back in a ponytail.



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*



Our RE learning for Spring 1 is: -

We will be studying the following units in our RE lessons: -

Christmas

In this unit of work the children will explore the story of the birth of Christ from the Gospel of St. Matthew and the Gospel of St. Luke. They will also learn about some images of Christ that are found in the Prologue to the Gospel of St. John.

Baptism & Confirmation: Celebrations of the Holy Spirit

In this unit the children will learn about the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. They will explore the signs and symbols of both these Sacraments and will hear about the gift of the Holy Spirit being given in the celebration of these Sacraments.

Curriculum Map - Spring 1

These are the topics that your child will be studying in Spring 1 -

Stunning Start

Children will be introduced to 'stone cutter's story' – how we all build up our community and small roles build up a bigger picture – each small role equally important

Science – Light

- Recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines.
- Explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye.
- Explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes.
- Explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast

English

Terrific Text

'Macbeth' by Andrew Ross and Tony Ross

Writing Opportunities

- Setting description of the heath
- Diary entries of Lord and Lady Macbeth
- Retell of a scene from Macbeth

Oracy

Agree, Build, Challenge, Question

Maths

Converting units of measure and using imperial measures

Ratio and proportion problems

Algebra

Music – UNCRC Article 31

Children will explore Baroque music, learning about its features like recitative, canon, ground bass, and fugue. They'll actively engage in vocal improvisation, play canon sections, compose a ground bass, notate patterns, and study famous Baroque composers. The unit concludes with the students learning and performing a fugue, demonstrating their grasp of Baroque music elements.

Other Reading Opportunities

'The Island' – Armin Greder

'Shakespeare Stories' by Leon Garfield

William Shakespeare non-fiction

Spoken Language opportunities

Using a Shakespearean text (Macbeth), children will use formality, tone and intonation.

Year 6

R.E. UNCRC 14

Christmas (Unit D) – Assessed unit

Children will identify the main features of the Christmas story and know which Gospels they are recorded in.

Baptism and Confirmation (Unit E)

Children will identify the actions, signs and symbols of Baptism and Confirmation and recognise the link with the Holy Spirit

PSHE: UNCRC 5, 18 Citizenship – Kapow

Children will discuss environmental issues and why they have a responsibility to care for others.

My happy mind – Celebrate

RSE: Module 3: Created to live in Community

Dignity of Work

Work increases the common good.

Virtues:

Grateful & Generous

Scripture Focus:

Practise integrity in your work.

Luke 3:10-14

Prayer Focus:

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Big Question –

How can we help others realise their potential?

Art – UNCRC Article 29

Claude Monet
This unit focuses on the work of Claude Monet, particularly his *Houses of Parliament* series, and explores the Impressionist art movement. Students will develop key skills such as sketching, adding colour to sketches, and using blending techniques to create the illusion of reflections. The medium for this activity will be wax crayons.

History – Democracy UNCRC Articles 2 & 12 / British Values

Substantive Knowledge:

- Key events: Magna Carta, Levellers, Glorious Revolution, Reform Acts, and suffragette movement.
- Understand their role in shaping democracy and rights.

Disciplinary Knowledge:

- Contextualise events and movements like the Levellers and suffragettes.
- Analyse primary sources and legal documents like the Bill of Rights.

Procedural Knowledge:

- Formulate questions, analyse sources, and build timelines.
- Use role-play to explore historical perspectives and construct responses on democratic evolution.

Computing - UNCRC 17

Programming – introduction to Python

- To know there are text-based programming languages such as Logo and Python
- To know that nested loops are loops inside of loops.
- To understand the use of random numbers and remix Python Code

Other Opportunities

Epiphany UNCRC 14
School of Sanctuary – UNCRC 22
Year 6 SATs meeting for parents
Jubilee launch day UNCRC 14
Online Safety Week - UNCRC 17
Candlemas UNCRC 14

P.E. UNCRC 31

Dance: interpreting the music, performing with good timing and musicality
Gymnastics: creating sequences using floor and apparatus.

MFL – UNCRC 27

Regular Verbs in "er" - Learning and practicing regular verbs ending in "er" in French.

Marvelous Middle

Throughout Spring term – research the work that takes place in local community, interview people and hand out thank yous

Homework - spelling

Week 1: Words ending '-cial' and '-tial'

- official
- special
- artificial
- commercial
- partial
- influential
- preferential
- confidential

Week 2: Words ending '-cial' and '-tial'

- facial
- financial
- glacial
- social
- substantial
- residential
- essential
- torrential

Week 3: Y5/6 spellings

- leisure
- lightning
- marvellous
- mischievous
- muscle
- necessary
- neighbour
- nuisance

Week 4: Prefixes

- bicycle
- binary
- preschool
- overexcited
- irregular
- illegible
- autograph
- intergalactic

Week 5: Prefixes

- misfortune
- disarray
- misbehave
- extracurricular
- intermittent
- preliminary
- deactivate
- non-existent

Week 6: Y5/6 spellings

- guarantee
- harass
- hindrance
- identity
- immediately
- interfere
- interrupt
- language



Homework - reading

Read with your child/ren at home every day. Ask questions about the book to see how well your child has understood what they have read. Sign the reading diary so that the teachers know how reading is going at home.

Homework - maths

Research shows that quick recall of multiplication and division facts is essential for helping children do well in their maths learning. Encourage your child to be on x-table rockstars every night and support them to improve their x-table knowledge and quick arithmetic skills.

Homework - Power Project - Science

Light - Our power projects this half term have a Science theme.

Year 6 are learning: - Light theory

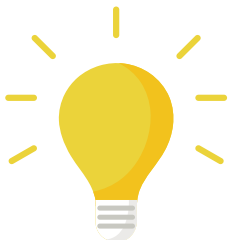
We will be learning how light travels, how we see things, and investigate reflections and refraction. To enhance this learning, children can complete a project at home to bring in for our class display.

We have given some activity ideas below...

- 1. The Eye:** create a 2D or 3D picture of model of the eye, ideally with labels to identify the different parts of the eye and be able to talk about the functions of these parts.
- 2. Bioluminescence:** What is this form of light? Where can we find it in nature? Create an information project / fact file / report about this natural light source.
- 3. How can you see around corners? Make a periscope.** Research how you can make your own periscope e.g.
<https://learning.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/resources/periscope/>
Bring in and show the class how it works and talk about how you made it.

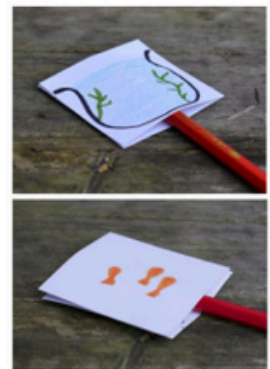
4. Optical illusions - How can you trick the human eye? Research different optical illusions and create one of your own.

5. History: The story of the light bulb... who invented it? Was it actually Thomas Edison? Research and present your findings in an information report or fact file poster.



You'll need

White cardboard
Pencils or colouring pens
Straw or pencil
Scissors
Glue/tape



Instructions

Cut out two squares from a sheet of white cardboard.

Draw a fish tank on one piece of card and a fish for the tank on the second piece.

Glue or sellotape a pencil or straw in between the two pictures.

Hold the pencil between your palms and rub your hands to make the picture spin around.

Why does it work?

This clever optical illusion lets you turn two pictures into one! Did you know your brain uses short cuts in order to process all the millions of things you see at any one time. An optical illusion "tricks" your eyes and brain.

When you spin the pencil your brain sees one image first and then the second image before it finishes processing the first, so you see two images at the same time.

Dates for this half term – Year 6

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

6th January - all day

16th January 2025 - 2:15am

22nd January 2025 - 9:15am

24th January 2025- all day

29th January 2025 - all day

6th February 2025 - 4:00pm

WB 10.2.25

11th February 2025 - all day

12th February 2025 - am

14th February 2025 - end of day

Dignity of Work

Grateful and Generous

Children return to school at normal time

Year 6 SATs workshop for parents

Year 5 Mass in Church (and Year 6 classes attend) - parents welcome

Jubilee Launch Day

Year 6 visit to St. Chad's visit

PTA meeting

Online Safety Week

Safer Internet Day

Reception Mass in Church (with Year 6 buddies) - parents welcome

Break up for half-term break - normal time