



Archdiocese of Birmingham

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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 3 newsletter - Spring 1

Happy new year from the Y3 team! This half term, Year 3 will continue to strive for excellence across all subjects. We have an exciting half term ahead, learning about the UK, Light and Darkness and beginning our work on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We also have our fun food DT project, where the children will bake tarts. We would greatly appreciate a donation of £1 to contribute to the food costs. We know all of the children have been practising their spellings and times tables, please continue to practise these as the children will be tested weekly. Please refer to our Spring 1 curriculum map for details about what will be covered in lessons. Year 3 also have their year group Assembly all about the Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope on 14/02/25. We hope you can make it!

**From, the Year 3 staff**

### PE

#### PE days - Spring 1

|        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Year 3 | Tuesday - Hockey<br>Thursday - Dance |
|--------|--------------------------------------|



*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 the story of the shepherds provides a focus for children to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and who he is.

### Reconciliation

This unit involves the children exploring human choices, the consequences of sin, Christ's teaching on forgiveness and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## Curriculum Map - Spring 1

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

#### Stunning Start

Flowchart of adults in school and what we appreciate most about their work and how it helps build up the school community.

#### Maths UNCRC 28,29

Multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number.  
Divide a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number.  
**Length and perimeter**  
Measure in cm, mm, m  
Compare lengths  
Add and subtract lengths  
Measure and calculate perimeter.

#### Science – Light UNCRC 13,28

To recognise that light is needed in order to see things.  
To notice that light is reflected from surfaces.  
To recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous.  
To know how shadows are formed.

#### English UNCRC 28, 29

**Terrific Text**  
'The Little Match Girl' by Jerry Pinkney  
'The Little Match Girl Strikes Back' by Emma Carroll

#### Writing Opportunities

Setting description of the cold streets on New Years' Eve  
Diary entries of Bridie and Mrs. Bessant  
Retell of a key event in the story e.g.: Bridie discovering another match seller on her patch

#### Music – UNCRC Article 31, 28, 29

**Creating compositions for animation** Verbalise how the music makes them feel. Create actions or movements appropriate to each section of a piece of music.  
Play in time and with an awareness of other pupils' parts, giving some thought to dynamics.  
Play melodies and rhythms which represent the section of animation they are accompanying.

#### Other Reading Opportunities

Refugee reading –  
Class reads

#### Spoken Language opportunities

Debate about adults in school jobs – who's work is most important  
Workers right  
Year 3 Assembly

#### Oracy UNCRC Article 12

Agree, Build, Challenge, Question

### Year 3

R.E. UNCRC 14

**Unit D: Christmas** - In this unit the story of the shepherds provides a focus for children to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and who he is.

**Unit B: Reconciliation** -In this unit, we will explore human choices, the consequences of sin, Christ's teaching on forgiveness and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

PSHE: UNCRC 5, 6, 28

**My Happy Mind – celebrate!**

Children learn that their brain is an organ and that it has many functions. They learn that the brain controls most of what we do and that it is an amazing thing!

**RSE: Emotional Well-Being** helps children to understand the difference between feelings and actions, how to manage them and what they can do to help themselves stay emotionally healthy.

### Dignity of Work

Work increases the common good.

#### Virtues:

Grateful & Generous

#### Scripture Focus:

Practise integrity in your work.

Luke 3:10-14

#### Prayer Focus:

Act of love  
The Confitore

#### Big Question –

How does our work shape the world?

#### Art – UNCRC Article 29, 31

##### Leonardo Da Vinci

Children will explore the world of landscape art. Inspired by the techniques of the renowned artist Leonardo da Vinci, students will explore pattern making and engage their imagination to create vibrant landscape artworks using felt tips.

#### MFL – UNCRC 27, 28, 29

Children will learn how to say where they live: J'habite en Angleterre/ à Birmingham. They will learn the names of locations/ items found in and around a house: la maison, une porte, une fenêtre, un arbre, une fleur, une cheminée, un toit, un garage, un mur. They will learn the names of rooms: les pièces dans la maison: la cuisine, la salle à manger, la salle de bain, la chambre.

#### Geography United Kingdom – UNCRC Article 28, 29, 13

**Substantive Knowledge:** Countries, regions, and major cities of the UK.

**Physical features of the UK, including landmarks and topographical characteristics.**

**Disciplinary Knowledge:** Map interpretation and reading. Understanding the purpose and use of compasses and map keys.

**Procedural Knowledge:** Using maps and atlases to name, locate, and identify physical characteristics. Using compasses and map keys to navigate and interpret maps.

Identifying and labelling geographical features on maps. Recognising human and physical features in the UK.

#### Computing – UNCRC 17, 13

##### Programming

To know that Scratch is a programming language and some of its basic functions.  
To understand how to use loops to improve programming.  
To understand how decomposition is used in programming.

#### Other Opportunities

Epiphany UNCRC 14

School of Sanctuary – UNCRC 22

Jubilee launch day UNCRC 14

Online Safety Week - UNCRC 17

Candlemas UNCRC 14

#### P.E. UNCRC 31

**Hockey** – To explore how to apply the principles of attack vs defence, with a particular focus on passing and moving and dribbling.

**Dance** – To challenge pupils to respond to different stimuli being able to sustain characters to add drama and emotion to the dance.

#### Marvelous Middle

Children analyse an area of Catholic life – explaining what we do well and choosing an element to lead on for improvement.

# Homework - spelling

| 10.1.25   | 17.1.25   | 24.1.25  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>suffixes '-ness' and '-ful' following a consonant</b><br><br>fairness<br>kindness<br>nastiness<br>happiness<br>successful<br>beautiful<br>painful<br>wishful | <b>Prefixes 'sub-' and 'tele-'</b><br><br>subway<br>submerge<br>subsoil<br>submarine<br>telephone<br>telegraph<br>telescope<br>television | <b>Apostrophe for contraction</b><br><br>I've<br>we're<br>they're<br>can't<br>didn't<br>shouldn't<br>you've<br>they'll |

**Please note:**

Words containing an apostrophe must be spelt in the same way during a test to be marked as correct.



| 31.1.25  | 7.2.25  | 14.2.25   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>'sh' sound spelt 'ch', 's' and 'ss'</b><br><br>chef<br>shop<br>sure<br>mission<br>special<br>brochure<br>machine<br>parachute | <b>Suffixes '-less' and '-ly'</b><br><br>careless<br>fearless<br>painless<br>merciless<br>angrily<br>happily<br>suddenly<br>carefully | <b>Year 3/4 Common Exception Words</b><br><br>accidentally<br>business<br>grammar<br>guard<br>particular<br>quarter<br>strength<br>remember |



## Year 2 Common Exception Words

after  
 again  
 any  
 bath  
 beautiful  
 because  
 behind  
 both  
 break  
 busy  
 child  
 children  
 Christmas

class  
 climb  
 clothes  
 could  
 cold  
 door  
 even  
 every  
 everybody  
 eye  
 fast  
 father  
 find

floor  
 gold  
 grass  
 great  
 half  
 hold  
 hour  
 improve  
 kind  
 last  
 many  
 mind  
 money

most  
 move  
 Mr  
 Mrs  
 old  
 only  
 parents  
 pass  
 past  
 path  
 people  
 plant  
 poor

pretty  
 prove  
 should  
 steak  
 sugar  
 sure  
 told  
 water  
 whole  
 who  
 wild  
 would



## 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.

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## 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.

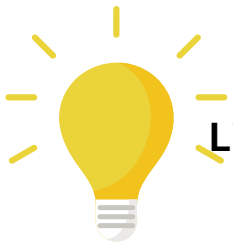
### Y3 Times tables test

The children will be tested every **Thursday**. There will be 10 questions each week. The children will have a set number of seconds to answer each question, which may change.

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 09.01.25                 | 16.01.25                 |
| 3x tables for 7 seconds  | 4x tables for 10 seconds |
| 23.01.25                 | 30.01.25                 |
| 4x tables for 10 seconds | 4x tables for 7 seconds  |
| 06.02.25                 | 13.02.25                 |
| 4x tables for 7 seconds  | 8x tables for 10 seconds |

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# Homework - Power Project - Science

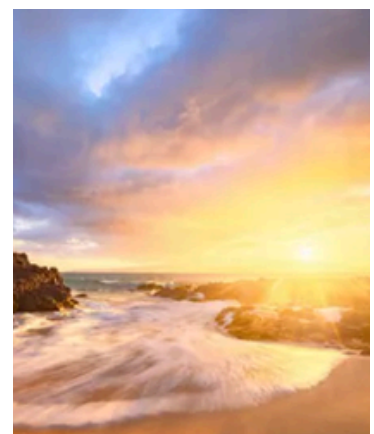
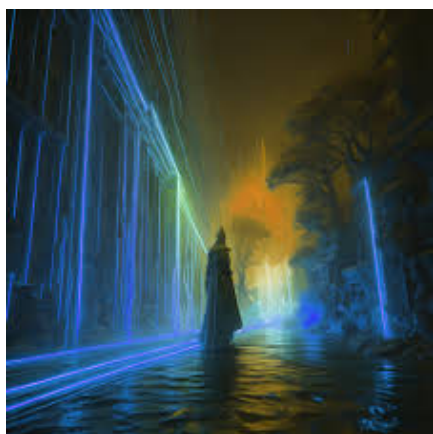
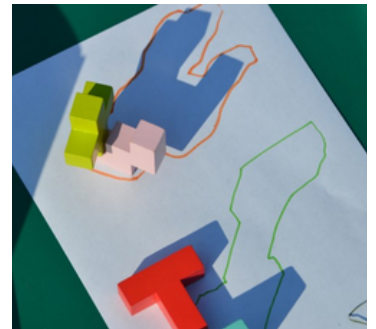


**Light** - Our power projects this half term have a Science theme.  
Year 3 are learning: - Light

We will be learning that we need light to see things; light can be reflected off surfaces; light from the sun can be dangerous; how shadows are formed. 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. Light maze:** learn about light travelling in straight lines and reflection by making a light maze. Make a maze using mirrors to reflect light around corners.
- 2. Creating shadows:** shine a light on an object that is sitting on a piece of paper and draw its shadow. How can you make the shadow change length and direction?
- 3. Significant Individual - Percy Shaw.** Why is Percy Shaw significant when studying light? Research what he created and explain how this invention uses light.
- 4. Staying safe in the sun** - Create an informative poster about how the sun makes light and how the sun can be dangerous. As part of your poster, explain how to keep safe in the sun i.e. wearing a hat...
- 5. Art - using light in art** - create a piece of art work that uses light and dark. When mixing paint - what do you add to a colour to make it lighter? What do you add to a colour to make it darker.



# Dates for this half term - Year 3

*Spring theme -*

*Spring 1 Virtues*

*6th January - all day*

*8th January 2025 - 9:15am*

*21st January 2025 - am*

*24th January 2025- all day*

*5th February 2025 - 9:15am*

*6th February 2025 - 4:00pm*

*WB 10.2.25*

*11th February 2025 - all day*

*14th February 2025 - 9:15am*

*14th February 2025 - end of day*

*Dignity of Work*

*Grateful and Generous*

*Children return to school at normal time*

*Year 3 Mass in Church (and Year 4 classes attend) - parents welcome*

*Year 3 visit to Harborne library (8:45 3L and 10:15 3T)*

*Jubilee Launch Day*

*Year 4 Mass in Church (and Year 3 classes attend) - parents welcome*

*PTA meeting*

*Online Safety Week*

*Safer Internet Day*

*Year 3 Year group Assembly*

*Break up for half-term break - normal time*