



St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School

Inspiring all to live, learn and love in the light of Jesus.

(cf John 8:12)



10th January 2020



Dear Parents / Carers

Year 6 - Spring Term Curriculum Letter

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays! We hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas break and are looking forward to an exciting academic year ahead.

Year 6 Staff : Class Teachers: Mr. R. Cameron & Mr. D. Hutton
Higher Level Teaching Assistant: Mrs. J. Moore
Support Assistant: Mrs. T. Smith, Mrs. P. Halloran & Mrs. J. Nash

Our topic this term is ... 'Mayans'

During this topic we will explore where the Mayans lived and why they settled there.

We will compare how they lived with how we live today. We will discover the religious beliefs of the Maya people, understand how they worshipped, name some of the main Gods and know what they represented to the people. We will explore the Maya writing and number systems and use these to solve problems and write Maya words. We will look at sources of evidence especially from Frederick Catherwood and discuss why our interpretation of this is important.

Our topic will allow the children to utilise many skills learnt throughout the term resulting in them creating a number of non-fiction written pieces such as persuasive writing, information texts and instructions. The children will also have the opportunity to use their artistic skills this term along with their designing skills to produce a Mayan meal and draw a Maya village.

(See topic plan for full details)

In **R.E.** we will be studying the topics 'Exploring the Mass' and 'Jesus the Messiah'. There will be further opportunities to contribute to Act of Worship sessions and fully immerse themselves in the spirituality of the school. **At home**, encourage discussions with children relating to these topics focusing on key terminology and its meaning.

In **Mathematics** we will use our Number knowledge and understanding (place value, ordering & sorting, four operations, fractions, decimals & percentages) as a foundation to build on in applying these skills to problem-solving and reasoning situations. (Further information can be found on the topic plan). Also, we will look at converting units of measure, perimeter, area and volume, algebra and ratio in preparation for the end of year SAT assessments. **At home**, please encourage regular Maths games involving dice, mental calculation of numbers and money, practical use of Maths in shopping making it relevant to the real world wherever possible and finally to continue to practice and learn their **times tables** making use of the games on the 'TT Rockstar' website.

In **English** we will firstly be focusing on the award-winning Robert Swindells' novel '**Room 13**'. It is a wonderful, spooky story about a school trip set in Whitby with good characterisation, a believable setting, humour and the ability to make the unreal seem real. The scary plot grips the reader from the opening paragraph. We will then move on to the best-selling novel, '**A Monster Calls**' by Patrick Ness which is about love, loss and hope where a child's monster isn't what it seems. The author skilfully weaves an extraordinary and heart-breaking tale of mischief, healing and above all, the courage it takes to survive. These texts will allow the children to extend their narrative writing whilst also providing excellent opportunities for non-fiction genres such as newspaper reports, persuasive writing, instructions and poems. **At home**, please encourage regular reading of fiction & non-fiction. Continue to promote the love for books and try to allow your child the opportunity to discuss the texts they've read. Through discussion at home, encourage them to develop their vocal expression in their written language, their understanding of the meaning of words and the effects they have. Remember - '**They have to be able to say it before they can write it.**'

In **Science** our topic is '**We're Evolving**' and '**Let it Shine**' (Further information can be found on the topic map). **At home**, encourage their curiosity in the world around them so that they ask questions and seek to find the answers to everyday events.

Physical Education (P.E.) – is on **Friday afternoons**, so children must ensure their P.E. kits are in school ready to be worn on these days.

A P.E. kit consists of: a white t-shirt, blue (or black) shorts, and a pair of sports trainers for outdoor use, which they should leave in school. As an optional extra, a dark coloured pair of jogging trousers and a jumper can also be worn when we are outside / during the winter months.

In addition, the **only** jewellery permitted in school is a pair of plain small stud earrings. If your child has pierced ears, then they need to remove their earrings on each morning of P.E.

Please note that staff are not able to remove earrings, so this will result in your child not taking part in our P.E. lesson and an alternative task will be provided for the child, this is due to health and safety reasons.

- Long hair must be tied back.
- Please ensure your child has a P.E. kit in school at all times. All P.E. kit **MUST** be labelled clearly with your child's name. If it becomes lost, it can easily be returned to the rightful owner.

Homework - will be given out each **Thursday** and **MUST** be completed and returned by the following **Wednesday**. This gives the children enough time to see their class teacher if they are struggling. The purpose of this work is to consolidate the learning from class and to prepare them for more intensive homework at high school. It is therefore extremely important that this work is completed. If a child does not complete their homework without a valid reason, they will be asked to stay in and complete it at break/lunchtime. No homework three times in a half-term, a letter will go home notifying parents.

Children will have an independent reading book which will be brought home on a daily basis and **MUST** be returned to school every day. Reading records will be given to the children for parents to fill out as and when their child reads during the week at home.

read with your child (or independently). These books need to be returned every Thursday.

Important Dates 2020

KS2 Celebration Assembly :	Friday 17 January, 14:40 / Friday 28 February, 14:40 / Friday 20 March, 14:40
Year 6 SATs Information Sessions :	Monday 20 January, 15:15 – 16:00 / then repeated at 17:00 – 17:45
KS2 Candlemas Assembly	Friday 31 January, 14:15
School Family Mass @ Church :	Sunday 2 February, 11:15
Safer Internet Day :	Wednesday 5 February
KS2 Eurovision Song Contest :	Friday 7 February, 19:30 – 21:00
St. Paulinus Anti-Bullying Day :	Wednesday 12 February
FofSP KS2 Valentine's Disco :	Friday 14 February, 18:00 – 21:00
Spring Half Term Holidays :	Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February
School Re-opens :	Monday 24 February

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Ash Wednesday :	Wednesday 26 February, 10:00 at church
World Book Day :	Friday 6 March (Non-Uniform / Dress up)
Mother's Day Gifts (Friends of St. Paulinus) :	Wednesday 18 March (afternoon)
Class 6H Mass :	Friday 20 March, 10:00
Class 6C Mass :	Friday 27 March, 10:00
Parent Consultation Evenings :	Tuesday 31 March & Wednesday 1 April
Year 6 Holy Week Assembly :	This will take place on <u>Thursday 2 April, 14:30</u> . Further details will follow.
Easter Holidays :	Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April
Summer Half Term Holidays :	Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

Additional information will be sent out with regards to the following:

- School trips, assemblies, after school clubs, etc.

If you would like a paper copy of this curriculum letter / topic plan, then please contact the office OR complete the 'e-mail request form' on the School App. Any information you provide us with will be kept private and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

We are looking forward to a very productive and fun half term.

Thank you

Mr. R. Cameron & Mr. D. Hutton
Year 6 Teachers

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Year 6 Entry Point: What did the Mayans do for us?

Exit Point: Watch 'A Monster Calls' Film.



Mathematics – As mathematicians we will :

- Consolidate and extend our knowledge and understanding of 'Number' whilst applying these skills to problem-solving and reasoning situations.
- Study properties of 'Shapes.' - draw 2D shapes, recognise, describe & build 3D shapes, compare and classify shapes (polygons).
- Recognise angles at points where they meet and find missing angles in shapes.
- Illustrate and name parts of circles (radius, diameter, circumference).
- Co-ordinates - describe positions on 4 quadrant grid. Draw, translate, & rotate shapes on the co-ordinate plane plus reflect them on the axes.
- Measure - Problem-solving activities that include the calculation & conversion of units of measure using decimal notation to 3 decimal places.
- Read, write & convert between standard units of length, mass, volume & time. Convert between metric and imperial units of measurement.
- Calculate the area of parallelograms & triangles.
- Statistics - Interpret & construct pie charts, line graphs and solve problems. Calculate the mean, median & mode.
- Algebra - express missing numbers, sequences, equations.
- Ratio - relative sizes of 2 quantities, sharing/grouping.

P.E. – As athletes we will :

- Develop our dance skills
- Develop our hockey skills.

PSHE - We will learn about our:

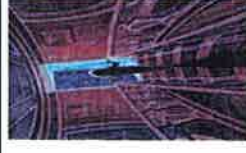
- Health and well-being.
- Growing & changing.
- Keeping safe.
- Feelings & emotions.
- Rights and responsibilities.
- Valuing difference.

Mayans & Monsters



English – As writers and communicators we will :

- Extend our narrative writing, using the horror genre, to engage the reader by creating tension and suspense.
- Write a detailed description of a haunted setting.
- Write a set of instructions on how to destroy a monster.
- Create a newspaper article on a monster sighting.
- Use poetry to describe character's feelings & moods.



Science – As scientists we will look at :

'We're Evolving' -

- The topic looks at how living things produce offspring that are similar in appearance, but identical to themselves, whether they are plants or animals. They should also consider how animals change over time as they adapt to their environment and this leads to longer term changes.
- Evidence of changes over long periods of time, will be built on the year 3 topic of rocks, looking at fossils.

'Let it Shine' -

- This topic introduces the concept of light travelling in straight lines. It starts by looking at beams of light and how light travels to enable children to understand how we see things. This understanding is then applied to the product of shadows and starts to look at how light is reflected. The topic then takes the learning into the realm of coloured light and rainbows, using scientific skills to raise and answer questions.

R.E. - As theologians we will study :

Exploring the Mass -

- Jesus is the bread of life.
- Understand that Jesus made a New Covenant with us.
- Understand that Penitential Act and the Liturgy of the Word.
- Understand what happens at the Offertory, Consecration.
- Understand that the Eucharist is the source and summit of life.

Jesus then Messiah -

- Deepen our understanding of Jesus.
- Understand that Jesus is the Messiah.
- Know about the final journey Jesus made to Jerusalem.
- Know about the events of holy Thursday and reflect on the importance of these events.
- Know about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and reflect on their meanings.

History – As historians we will :

- Locate where the Mayans lived on maps and in atlases.
- Identify sources of evidence and question our interpretation and its reliability.
- Look at the Maya religious beliefs and name some of the main Gods.
- Research important Maya buildings and places and produce a tourist leaflet.
- Draw a detailed plan of a Maya village. Discuss why it is planned in this way.
- Use the Maya writing and number system to solve problems and construct Maya words.

Computing – We will study spreadsheets & blogging:

- Exploring probability.
- Use of spreadsheets in 'real life'.
- Use a spreadsheet to plan pocket money spending.
- Planning a school event.
- Identify purpose & features of a blog.
- Plan the theme and content for a blog.
- Understand how to write a blog.

Art – As artists we will :

- To respond to portraits from different times and styles.
- Understanding and investigating the variety of methods and different media used by artists for portrait work.



Global Dimensions:

These lessons are designed to help children recognise their contribution & responsibilities as citizens of our global community and equip them with the skills to make informed decisions and take responsible actions. They will be given opportunities to: critically examine their own values and attitudes; appreciate the similarities between peoples everywhere, and value diversity; understand the global context of their local lives; and develop skills that will enable them to combat injustice, prejudice and discrimination. Such knowledge and understanding enables young people to play an active role in the global community.