



St Mary's CE Primary School

"Nurturing Success"



Year 6 Information for Parents and Carers

Autumn 2025

Our theme this term is 'Moving Mountains'

This term, most of the work will be linked to our mountains theme. We have chosen this because we feel that it will help to focus the children on working towards and achieving their own goals – moving mountains in their learning. The residential visit will also help to promote team spirit and continue to encourage the children to take on new challenges.

We hope that you will find the following information useful in supporting your child in his or her work both at school and at home. Please talk to your child about what they are doing at school and ask them questions about the theme. If you would like any further information about your child's learning, please speak to one of the members of the Year 6 team. Planning is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum, the local agreed syllabus for religious education and specific non-statutory curriculum guidance.

English

English lessons will focus upon the novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo. This will involve a range of work to develop reading comprehension skills and to provide inspiration for some of the writing tasks this term. Non-fiction genres will relate to the theme of mountains. The children will also focus on poems to particularly develop their understanding of vocabulary and the effective use of language. English lessons will involve grammar, punctuation and spelling activities and handwriting sessions each week. Opportunities will be provided for children to develop their spoken language skills within a range of contexts.



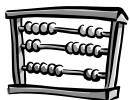
Your child will receive a list of words on a Friday to learn for a spelling test on the following Friday.

The children will not have spelling homework books this year and will not be expected to hand their spelling homework in. We expect children to use the grid on their spelling homework sheet to learn their spellings using the 'look, say, cover, write, check' strategy and to use other strategies for learning these spellings and their meanings on the back of the sheet. The same words to learn will also be set on Spelling Shed so that children can use these resources to help them to practise their spellings. Further guidance about spelling homework can be found on the school website.

All children are expected to have a 'reading book' (from home, school or the school library service), to read on a daily basis and to record their reading in their school reading records. Reading records will be checked each Monday. Each week in school will end with 'Book Club' when children will spend time enjoying reading independently and with others and sharing and recommending texts.

Mathematics

We will continue to use the Maths No Problem text and work books as a resource to deliver our Maths throughout this term. They will be used alongside problem solving and reasoning activities that will be used to challenge all children. We will begin the term by exploring place value in numbers up to ten million. Then the children will use written methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers. Other work will involve understanding fractions, exploring equivalence and calculating fractions of quantities. Throughout the term, the children will need to be able to explain their methods using the correct mathematical vocabulary and clear reasoning and will regularly be required to apply their mathematical knowledge to problem solving. They will practise independently responding to written maths questions as morning work at the start of the day.



Your child will receive Arithmetic homework to complete in their Maths Homework Book on a Thursday evening and this should be returned by the following Monday. This homework is to prepare for the weekly arithmetic lesson and test. Optional Maths Reasoning Homework Challenges

will also be provided.

Science



The children will begin the year by learning about 'Living Things and their Habitats'. The children will be able to describe how living things can be classified into broad groups according to observable characteristics by looking at the classification system in more detail. They will learn that the broad groupings of plants, animals and microorganisms can be subdivided. The children will classify animals into commonly found invertebrates (such as insects, spiders, snails and worms) and vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals). The children will recall that plants can be divided broadly into two main groups: flowering plants and non-flowering plants. They will also learn about simple plant classification. The children will use classification keys to identify some animals and plants in the school environment and those in other environments, such as on mountains. They will also learn to create their own branching keys/databases.

They will then learn about 'Evolution and Inheritance'. The children will learn that all living things produce offspring of the same kind (species) with offspring inheriting particular characteristics from their parents. They will also understand that (as a result of sexual reproduction) the offspring normally vary and are not identical to their parents. The children will understand that variation in offspring over time can make living things more or less able to survive in particular environments. This idea is supported by exploring the characteristics of different foxes and the environments in which they live. Children will also learn about changes in the peppered moth during the industrial revolution and since. Children will explore a range of examples of how animals and plants are adapted to surviving in their environments (such as cacti and camels in desert environments), including examples from mountain environments. The children will learn about the work of Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution. They will recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.

Computing



Beginning with Mrs McIntosh's and Mrs Carrick's class, the children will have the opportunity to develop their Computing skills as part of the 'Enhanced Curriculum'. Communicating (through presentation software), connecting (blogs and e-mails) and coding will be the main focus areas. Children will learn to use the internet effectively and safely with online safety remaining a focus throughout the year.

Religious Education



During the Autumn Term, work in RE will be based on 'Understanding Christianity - Kingdom of God'. We will be focussing on a key question – 'What kind of king is Jesus?'. We will discuss how we can relate Christian teachings to issues in our own community and children will also look at a range of Biblical texts. We will discuss a range of parables and share our own interpretations of these as well as discussing what Christians believe these are teaching us. We will also listen to a range of Christian songs. Children will have the opportunity to compare Christianity with other religions during this unit.

Design and Technology



Starting with Miss Hodgson's class, the children will take part in Cooking and Nutrition lessons as part of the 'Enhanced Curriculum', including learning more about a balanced diet and adapting recipes in lessons about life skills.

(Our Design and Technology projects will be carried out in the Spring and Summer Terms.)

Geography



Our work will be based around mountains and mountain environments. The children will learn about what mountains are, compare geographical representations of mountains, investigate links between mountains and climate, learn about human activities on mountains and consider the effect of these on the physical features of a mountain. They will also learn how three main types of mountains are formed. They will find out about the location and physical features of Hiemaey (including the last

volcanic eruption on the island) and develop their understanding of the formation and eruption of volcanoes. Finally, the children will learn about why and where earthquakes occur, how they are measured and about technology used to try to limit their impact.

Art and Design



We will begin by looking at the work of both Katsushika Hokusai and David Hockney with a focus on mountain landscapes. The children will investigate and explore the effects of using lines in different ways and with different tools and materials, with a focus on understanding the properties of watercolour and acrylic paints. They will plan and produce their own artwork of a mountain landscape incorporating some of these effects.

Music



Music lessons will begin with a focus on playing the recorder. The children will learn a range of notes on the recorder, describe pieces of music and compose and transcribe their own music for the recorder. The second half of the term will focus on the genre of jazz, with children choosing appropriate effects when composing. They will develop confidence in transcribing music with a particular time signature and the correct number of beats per bar. They will analyse how the musical techniques can evoke an emotional response in the listener and use this to improve their own performances. The children will have the opportunity to develop their singing and instrumental skills and will be encouraged to evaluate their own work effectively.

Modern Foreign Language

The children will cover various topics this term and they will develop their confidence when speaking, reading and writing different phrases and sentences. The children will look at the correct form of verbs in French, telling the time and daily routines. They will learn how to share their opinion in French, describe rooms in their house and look at places in their town.

The children will develop their understanding of masculine and feminine forms throughout the term as well as learning how to use the dictionary to look up the meaning of verbs French – English to improve their reading comprehension skills.



Physical Education

Outdoor PE lessons will take place on a Friday morning. These lessons will begin with a focus on tennis skills. The children will develop their technique in using the forehand and backhand groundstrokes. They will also learn how to volley and when to use this in a game situation. The children will develop the accuracy of their underarm serve and use the official scoring system to play against an opponent. In the second half of the term, the children will move on to learning skills in hockey (including playing small-sided games).

Please could the children come to school in their outdoor school PE kit on Fridays.



Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

Children will explore the theme of 'Relationships' through a focus on feelings and emotions. They will develop their understanding of healthy relationships and appreciate valuing differences. The children develop their understanding that people have different kinds of relationships in their lives, including romantic or intimate relationships. They will learn that people who are attracted to and love each other can be of any gender, ethnicity or faith. They will learn about the way couples care for one another and understand that adults can choose to be part of a committed relationship or not, including marriage or civil partnership. They will learn that marriage should be wanted equally by both people and understand that forcing someone to marry against their will is a crime.

Beginning with Miss Hodgson's class, another theme for PSHE work is 'Health and Wellbeing' and the work covered will include the topics of 'Keeping Safe', 'Healthy Lifestyles' and 'Growing and Changing'. The children will learn how mental and physical health are linked. They will learn how positive friendships and being involved in activities (such as clubs and community groups) support their wellbeing. They will also develop their skills in making choices that support a healthy lifestyle and they will explore strategies for managing risk. The children will develop their understanding that

habits can be healthy or unhealthy and develop strategies to help change or break an unhealthy habit or take up a new healthy one. They will learn more about how drugs (legal and illegal) can affect health and how to manage situations involving them. The children will learn how to recognise early signs of physical or mental ill-health and what to do about this, including who to speak to in and outside school. They will also develop their understanding that health problems, including mental health problems, can build up if they are not recognised, managed, or if help is not sought early on. They will learn that anyone can experience mental ill-health and that it is important to discuss concerns with a trusted adult. The children will learn that mental health difficulties can usually be resolved or managed with the right strategies and support. There will also be an opportunity to reflect on how they feel about growing up.

Thank you for taking time to read this information.