

Literacy

Literacy this half term will be based around a Winter theme. The reading and writing we work on will be based on some super cool (sorry!) books (Point Blanc by Anthony Horowitz and The Snow Merchant by Sam Gayton) and on the adventures of Polar Explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. We will re-visit our understanding of diary writing and consider auto-biographies. We will also look at our non-fiction writing skills as we produce a winter themed non-chronological report. We will return to fiction towards the end of the half term with some more descriptive writing.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

These aspects of literacy will again be taught both in Literacy lessons and in separate basic skills sessions. This half term will have a particular focus on terminology such as active, passive synonym, antonym. The spelling focus will be homophones.



Year 5/6—Mr Keys Spring Term 1st Half

R.E.

The first RE topic of the new year is entitled 'Unity'. In this topic we will look at what it means to live in 'communion'. Our second topic is Sacrifice. In this topic we will consider how lent is a time of giving in preparation for the sacrifice of Jesus.

Science

In Science we will study Forces. We will conduct investigations into different forces and record our observations.

Maths

We will begin the new year by recapping the calculation side of the maths curriculum and revisit all of the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Following this, we will focus on measure (including converting between units of measurement, calculating area, perimeter, volume etc.). Moving on, we will consider data and statistics (starting with line graphs and timetables and progressing to pie charts). We will end the half term with some arithmetic practice (to increase the speed of our calculations, including times tables).

Reading

Reading will again be taught both in Literacy lessons and in dedicated reading time with a real focus on comprehension.

Geography

Mrs Gibbins will be teaching a European study of Scandinavian countries in geography this half term. Pupils will be focusing on historical landmarks; places of interest and coastal areas. and climate change.

Art / DT

Mrs Gibbins will again teach Art and Design Technology this term. The topic theme is Sky. Through studying the work of Spanish artist, El Greco (a religious painter from the 1500s) and Van Gogh, the class will work on imitating their styles. The topic will finish with some mosaic work. Mrs Gibbins will also link the art to our Antarctica theme by looking at pictures of the Aurora Borealis (The northern lights). Have you seen them before? Let us know if you have any pictures!



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Extra Curricular Opportunities

The many clubs St. Bernadette's has to offer will continue—look out for further information about this. UFA will also begin this half term.

Educational visits & Outdoor Learning

We will be visiting the Durham University Library at the beginning of term for an adventure into Antarctica.

Computing

We will look at presenting information in our computing topic this half term. The unit will show the children how to collect data to test a specific hypothesis. We will then analyse the data and present the findings in a variety of different ways.

We will also spend some time using computers and iPads to enhance our learning. This will be done through research and presentation tasks linking in with our literacy theme of Antarctica.

Homework

Homework will remain the same for Year 5 this term. It will be changing for Year 6—more details to follow.

Useful websites

<http://www.sumdog.com>

<http://www.bitesize.com>

P.E.

Volleyball will be the Sport that the whole school will be taking part in this half term. We will focus on the key skills of the sport, developing are serving and ball control skills. Progressing to taking part in competitive games.

Through looking at the Change4life scheme we will also consider healthy eating and the effects of this.