

## Literacy

This half term our work will be focused on the Rainforest and will be linked to our theme of Justice. We will cover the following:

- Persuasion—children will use Talk For Writing techniques to create their persuasive letter about the injustices caused to the rainforest. We will focus on using the conventions of this theme (such as emotive language, rhetorical questions, conjunctions) and the typical organisational devices such organising paragraphs around a theme. We will also look at extending sentences using a range of conjunctions, look at using a range of sentence types for effect. In line with our British Values Curriculum, we will debate the issue of deforestation.
- Newspaper— we will look at the organisation and layout of newspapers, the features and formal language associated with this genre of writing.

## Reading

There are daily reading activities in class in which we focus upon discussing and defining new vocabulary. They will deduce and infer information about the text, discussing and asking questions to improve their understanding. They will predict what might happen from details stated and implied. Children will need to check that the text makes sense, discussing and explaining the meaning of words in context.

## R.E.

This half term we will complete our Giving and Receiving topic. Children will use religious vocabulary to describe the actions and symbols related to the Communion Rite, and finally **give reasons** for specific actions and symbols used during the Communion Rite.



## YEAR 3/4 - Spring 2

### Justice

## Spelling

The teaching of the weekly spelling focus will be covered in our Basic Skills lessons. The set spellings will also be sent home on a Thursday to be tested the following Friday. We will begin by looking at some statutory words for years 3 and 4 according to the national curriculum.

## Science

This half term will be completing a biology unit about Plants. Children will identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem, leaves and flowers. They will explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant. We will also investigate the way in which water is transported within plants and explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal. Pupils will be working scientifically by comparing the effect of different factors on plant growth and observing changes over time.

## Numeracy

Children will measure, compare, add and subtract: lengths (m/cm/mm); mass (kg/g); volume/capacity (l/ml). They will also convert between different units of measure [for example, kilometre to metre; hour to minute]

We will estimate, compare and calculate different measures, including money in pounds and pence, solve problems involving measures and money. We will then move on to statistics. Children will interpret and present discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs.

We will solve comparison and difference problems using information presented in bar charts and tables.

We will then complete the half term studying fractions, children will count up and down in tenths; recognise that tenths arise from dividing an object or number into 10. Study equivalent fractions and also recognise, find and write fractions of a discrete set of shapes and then numbers.

## Grammar and Punctuation

SPAG will be covered in our basic skills lessons. We will continually increase the legibility, consistency and quality of handwriting. We will also be continuing to learn the skills of using a dictionary. In addition, we will continue to focus on the use of conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause. We will then look at using and punctuating direct speech.

## History / Geography

This half term the children will look at the mysteries of tropical rainforests. They will locate the world's rainforests, discover its animal inhabitants and explore the unique climate found in the rainforests in Madagascar. Children will compare a British forest with a rainforest. Linking to our Justice topic, children will begin to explore some of the conservation issues surrounding the destruction of rainforest habitats.

## French

### Unit 4- Les Animaux

Children will study animals this term, they will respond to simple classroom commands; use spoken French to meet and greet others and learn about the weather; begin to recognise, read and pronounce set phrases about animals and pets.



## **P.E.**

In outdoor PE on a Tuesday, the children will continue to apply basic skills suitable for attacking, defending, shooting and dribbling through hockey. At the end of this term the children will complete an intensive 1 week of swimming lessons at Hadrian Leisure. They will learn to swim competently, confidently and proficiently using a range of strokes (e.g. front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke).

## **Computing**

To tie in with our E-Safety Week, we will begin this half term with a Digital Literacy and E-Safety unit. Children will understand the importance and security of passwords. We will then explore the concept of the online community and how people connect online. After that, we will examine product websites and understand their purpose is to persuade people to buy a product. Finally, we will look at how to be respectful online, focusing on how to write respectful messages and effective emails.

## **YEAR 3/4 - Spring 2**

### Justice

## **Extra Curricular Opportunities**

There are a variety of extra curricular activities for children at St Bernadette's. Please see an up to date list of what is currently being offered on our website.

## **PSHCE**

We are covering the topic of 'Relationships' in PSHCE this half term. Our PSHCE work will also be linked to our Justice topic and work will often be completed in our class floor book.

## **Art/DT**

This term our Art lessons will be linked to our Geography topic of Rainforests. Children will need to make design decisions that take account of the availability of resources. They will share and clarify ideas through discussion and will need to generate realistic ideas. Whilst making their project, they will need to measure, mark out, cut and shape materials and components with some accuracy. Then they will assemble, join and combine materials and components with some accuracy.

## **Homework**

One piece of maths or English homework will be sent home on a Thursday to be returned the following Tuesday. In addition to this, it would be greatly beneficial for your children to practice and learn multiplication and division facts for times tables to help with future fraction work and to practise telling the time.

## **Educational visits and outdoor learning**

Further Educational visits are yet to be confirmed. Information will be passed on to parents/carers when all lower key stage two trips are organised.

## **Useful websites**

### English:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling\\_grammar/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/)

### Rainforests

<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/kids>  
<http://kids.mongabay.com/>

### Science:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zy66fg8>

### Staying Safe Online

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8\\_10/cybercafe/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/cybercafe/)