

ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR 5/6 | AUTUMN TERM 1 | HALF-TERM LEARNING LEAFLET

What we are learning • What we will know • How you can support learning at home

★ OUR LEARNING THIS HALF TERM

This half term, children will build secure subject knowledge, make connections with previous learning and apply what they know with increasing confidence and independence. This leaflet provides families with an overview of the curriculum and the key learning taking place across each subject.

† RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our learning focuses on Creation and Covenant. Children will explore God's call of Moses, His covenant with His people, the Ten Commandments and Jesus' summary of the Law. By the end of the topic, children will be able to describe God's covenant with Moses, make links between the Ten Commandments and Jesus' teaching, and explain how sin, choices and virtues influence the way we live. They will be encouraged to understand Catholic teaching, discern how it can guide our decisions and respond by considering how they can put it into action in their own lives. They will also reflect on how God's love and guidance can help them grow in faith and make positive choices each day.

🔬 SCIENCE

The first unit is on life cycles and reproduction. They will learn how different living things grow and reproduce, including the life cycles of plants, mammals, birds, amphibians and insects. Children will compare life cycles, notice similarities and differences, and understand key features such as the reproductive stage in plants.

As part of their scientific enquiry, pupils will observe and compare different flowers, research the life cycles of mammals, and ask questions to investigate the life cycles of birds. They will also use data to spot relationships, make predictions and represent root growth over time on a line graph. Through these activities, children will develop both their scientific knowledge and their skills in working scientifically.

÷ MATHEMATICS

Pupils will continue to develop fluency, reasoning and problem-solving, making connections between mathematical ideas and selecting efficient strategies with increasing independence.

Year 5 will focus on place value, including Roman numerals, representing, comparing, partitioning, rounding, and reading and writing numbers up to 1,000,000. Children will develop their understanding of addition and subtraction through mental strategies, inverse operations, rounding to check answers, and solving multi-step problems. **Year 6** will deepen their understanding of number through reading, comparing, ordering, rounding and estimating. They will develop accuracy and fluency in the four operations using mental and formal written methods. Both year groups will complete weekly times-table practice and arithmetic lessons to strengthen recall, efficiency, accuracy and problem-solving skills.

🕒 HISTORY

In History this half term, we will be looking at the question 'What does the census tell us about our local area?'. The children will have the opportunity to read and interpret a range of censuses from over the decades and begin to make links between historical events and changes in census data, including why some women refused to complete the census and what changed in 1921. They will take a look into the rich history of Leeds and develop their understanding of the area around us. They will use evidence from the census to investigate how people's lives and communities have changed over time and develop their skills as historical detectives.

📖 ENGLISH

In English, the children will be writing a narrative retell inspired by the picture book *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. Through this powerful story of migration, children will explore what it might feel like to leave a familiar home and begin a new life in an unknown place. This will help them develop empathy by encouraging them to consider the experiences, challenges and emotions of people who migrate. Throughout the unit, children will complete a range of shorter build-up writing activities, including letters, character descriptions, diary entries and posters. These activities will help them develop their vocabulary, ideas and understanding of characters before producing their final narrative retell. **Year 5** will focus on formal vocabulary, expanded noun phrases, modal verbs and adverbs, and relative clauses. **Year 6** will focus on using language effectively, including formal vocabulary, subjunctive forms, passive verbs, expanded noun phrases, modal verbs and adverbs, and relative clauses.

📖 READING

Our whole class novels...



"Love one another as I have loved you"

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ART & DESIGN

This half term, children will be exploring sculpture and 3D art, inspired by our History topic about what the census can tell us about our local area, Leeds. The children will use information from the Leeds census to create a collaborative artwork called "The People of Leeds." Working in groups, they will turn facts and figures about our local community into creative 3D sculptures using everyday and recycled materials. They will experiment with different materials and techniques, exploring shape, texture, form, scale and space. They will also learn about artists who create interactive installations and think about how artwork can change a space and encourage people to explore and interact with it.

SPANISH (KS2)

This term, children will explore the topic "This Is Me!", developing their confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish. They will revisit how to give personal information and talk about their feelings, before learning adjectives to describe their personality. Children will also revise how to describe their physical appearance, including hair and eye colour. They will bring their learning together by reading and writing a short poem about themselves, using Spanish vocabulary and sentence structures independently. Towards the end of the term, children will explore dreams and aspirations for the future, learning new vocabulary through songs and activities. Throughout the unit, children will develop their pronunciation, vocabulary and ability to use a bilingual dictionary.

Aa VOCABULARY AT ST NICHOLAS

Core vocabulary is the essential subject language pupils need to understand and use confidently. **Exposure vocabulary** broadens pupils' language and enriches their understanding.

Core Vocabulary Mats will be sent home each half term, providing key subject vocabulary for families to revisit and discuss together.

COMPUTING

In Computing this half term, the children will explore stop motion animation, learning how a series of still images can be combined to create the illusion of movement. They will begin by creating simple animations and then develop their own short stories, breaking their ideas into smaller steps and creating storyboards with characters and scenes. The children will make small, careful changes to their models to create smooth movement, remove unnecessary frames and add features such as titles and effects. They will also learn to identify and correct problems within their animations and give constructive feedback to other groups. We will develop children's understanding of programming, sequencing, decomposition, logical thinking, debugging and creating digital content for a specific purpose.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Please note: children should now come to school on their PE days dressed in their full PE kit.

This term our outdoor PE will be Hockey, where the children will develop their dribbling, passing, receiving and shooting skills. They will work on maintaining possession, finding space and making decisions during games, building towards applying these skills effectively in competitive matches as part of a team. Our indoor PE will be Basketball, where the children will develop their dribbling, passing, receiving and shooting skills. They will practise controlling the ball, finding space, working as part of a team and making decisions during games, building towards applying these skills effectively in competitive matches.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- Read regularly together and talk about what has been read.
- Encourage your child to complete their homework independently and to not be afraid to make mistakes.
- Ask your child to tell you about something they have learned at school.
- Use the Core Vocabulary Mats to revisit and discuss key words together.
- Talk about the learning shown in this leaflet and encourage your child to explain their ideas using subject-specific vocabulary.

PSHE

This term, our PSHE focus is RSE. Our first unit 'Created and Loved by God,' helps children explore who they are and understand that they are made in the image and likeness of God, with each person being unique, valued and loved. Pupils will learn that recognising their own worth is an important foundation for building healthy and respectful relationships with others. Children will study the Gospel story of the Calming of the Storm from Matthew, Mark and Luke. Through this, they will reflect on change, growth and development, and consider the trust that can be placed in Jesus during times of difficulty and uncertainty.

Pupils will explore the importance of celebrating differences and understanding that diversity strengthens communities. They will also learn that true self-confidence comes from knowing they are loved by God, helping them to develop a positive sense of self and respect for others.

MUSIC

This half term, pupils focus on the topic, Music in Nature: Chords and Melodies. Inspired by the natural world, children will compose short pieces that reflect different moods and scenes, including the sky, clouds and the Northern Lights. They will learn to recognise and describe changes in dynamics, such as crescendo and diminuendo, and use these to create effective soundscapes.

Pupils will also turn descriptive phrases into rhythms, explore contrasting chords and develop simple melodies. By the end of the unit, they will combine melody, drone and chords to create imaginative compositions inspired by nature.

KEY REMINDERS

- School day: 8.40am-3.30pm.
- **PE Days for Year 5/6 are Monday and Thursday**
- Please ensure pumps are always in school.
- Label uniform, coats, pumps and PE kits.
- Bring a water bottle each day.

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