

Year 3 & 4 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 1

Our topic this half term: Animals, Animals, everywhere!

Our book this half term: The Last Bear

English	There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months. But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her life. In this unit, we will the exciting story by Hannah Gold to help us write our own poetry, be looking at writing our own poetry based on litter that may found on our beaches. We will also be looking at the use of formal language to help write a formal letter to Mrs Barnes about the environment. We will also be looking to build on our diary entry and narrative writing skills before finally making a pledge which can help the environment.	(ABC)
Maths (Year 3)	In Year 3, children will build a strong foundation in number, beginning with a deep dive into Place Value. They will expand their understanding of numbers up to 1,000, exploring the value of each digit and learning to compare and order numbers. Following this, the focus will shift to Addition and Subtraction, where children will develop their mental strategies and be introduced to the formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction. Throughout this period, they will also apply their skills to a variety of problem-solving contexts, ensuring a secure and confident start to their Year 3 mathematics journey.	$2+3=5$
Maths (Year 4)	In Year 4, children will deepen their understanding of number and shape. The initial focus is on Place Value, where they will work with numbers up to 10,000, learn to count in multiples of 25 and 1,000, and explore negative numbers and Roman numerals. This is followed by a unit on Addition and Subtraction where they will use formal written methods to solve problems with four-digit numbers. Finally, they will be introduced to Area, a new concept, where they will learn to find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares. This block will also touch upon the beginnings of Multiplication and Division, which will be the main focus later in the term.	
Science	In the "Animals Including Humans" unit, children will explore the fascinating world of living creatures. Children will learn to classify animals into groups such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Students will investigate what animals need to survive, including a balanced diet and water. They will also delve into human biology by identifying the basic parts of the body and understanding how they relate to the five senses. As the unit progresses, they'll learn about the human life cycle, the importance of a healthy lifestyle, and the functions of the skeleton, muscles, and digestive system. Through these activities, children will develop their scientific skills by observing, questioning, and presenting their finding.	
HRSE	Created and Loved by God module focuses on helping children understand and celebrate themselves as unique individuals, created in the image and likeness of God. It encourages students to appreciate their own worth as a foundation for building positive relationships with others. The curriculum covers a range of topics, including respecting their bodies, understanding their feelings, and learning about the physical and emotional changes that occur as they grow. Ultimately, the module's goal is to instill a sense of self-worth and thankfulness, showing children that they are deeply and unconditionally loved by God just as they are.	
RE	In our RE unit this half term, students will focus on the theme of "Creation and Covenant." The learning is centered on the story of Abraham, exploring his life and the covenant (special agreement) he made with God. Through studying biblical texts, including the call of Abram and the promise of a son, students will understand how Abraham's life serves as a model of faith, hope, and love. The unit also connects these virtues to the lives of Christians today, encouraging students to reflect on how they can live out these values in their own community and the wider world, and concludes by exploring how these virtues have been demonstrated in the life of modern-day figures like Jenny Garzón.	
PE	In our PE units this half term, we will be completing two units of study. The first one will be a dance unit linked to "Superheroes". The children will use various dance routines to interpret a narrative with a variety of characters. They will do this by working in small groups and coming up with simple choreography to relay this. In the second unit, we will be looking at invasion games with a focus on ball skills. The children will be looking at how and when to use a bounce pass, chest pass and varying tactics to be successful in game situations.	
History	This half term in History, we will investigate the central enquiry question, "Why was the development of transport important for the people of Preston?" We will begin by looking at how Preston has changed since the 18th century. We will then examine how early transport methods held back developments in the locality and why improvements were eventually made. Finally, we will explore the profound impact of the Preston Dock on the city's landscape and the lives of its inhabitants.	
Computing	Our first unit is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of digital devices and computer networks. The unit begins by exploring the concepts of inputs, processes, and outputs, allowing students to understand how a digital device functions. It then moves on to comparing digital and non-digital tools before introducing the idea of a computer network and the benefits of connecting devices. Students learn about key components that make up a network's infrastructure, such as switches, servers, and wireless access points, and often get the chance to identify these physical parts within their own school environment to solidify their learning. The overall aim is to equip children with the knowledge to explain how and why computers are joined together to form systems for sharing information and resources.	

Art

In our art unit this half term, we will be looking at telling stories through drawing + making. We will do this by using a variety of different disciplines such as; drawing, painting, sculpting and sketching. The children will build on their skills from the previous year groups.



Our enrichment this half term: Music Lessons at Our Lady's High School