



# St John Vianney Catholic Primary School – Year 6 – Spring 1<sup>st</sup>



“Seeking Growth Together Through Jesus”

## English

As we start the spring term in Year 6, we will begin our new novel ‘Holes’ by Louis Sachar. This has been extremely popular in the past and the children always appear gripped on the plot due to the relationships they build with the characters in the text.

This term we will be reducing the teacher input and scaffolding to allow creative flair in writing. The children have now been exposed to and taught explicitly the Year 6 SPaG curriculum and we use this opportunity to see how confidently they can apply it in independent writing.

Our writing outcomes this half term will be producing a:

- Setting description – based on *Camp Green Lake*
- Leaflet – advertising *Camp Green Lake*
- Formal letter – from either *Mrs Yelnats or the judge*
- Informal letter – from *Stanley to his parents*

We will continue to work on key skills in reading (VIPERS) and these will be explicitly taught, and progress will be evident in books.

Children will be asked to continue reading

## Maths

This half term we will be moving on to thinking about more advanced concepts, such as ratio, algebra and decimals.

Children will begin the half term looking at ratio and proportion, and how this links to their prior knowledge. They will explore how and why we use ratio and proportion and will begin to identify patterns and sequences. We will use ratio to think about such concepts as comparing ingredients in recipes, comparing prices per kg when shopping etc.

We will then move on to study algebra. This is a topic which the children always enjoy – when they realise they have been doing algebra right through school! We will use algebra tiles to help us develop the skills we need, and will begin looking at the application of algebra in preparation for high school.

Towards the end of this term, we will revisit decimals – a topic children have covered before. This will allow them to consolidate their previous understanding and to build on their ability to problem solve across a range of areas, such as managing money.

As always, children are encouraged to practise the skills they have been learning at home, and if they need any support please ensure they speak to Ms Osborne/Miss O’Keeffe.

## Science

This half term the children will delve deeper into the topic ‘*Animals including humans*’ where the children will begin to identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood. This will be explored further as the children dissect a range of animal hearts to locate key parts of the circulatory system in practice.

In addition to this, the children will deepen their knowledge in recognising the impact that diet, exercise, drugs, and lifestyle can have on the way their body functions.

The children will apply this knowledge by independently planning and carrying out an investigation into the effect exercise can have on our bodies. They will choose appropriate equipment and take measurements along with formulating evaluations to support their findings. Furthermore, the children will be able to describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.

Our linked text of ‘*The Water Princess*’ (by *Georgie Bodiel and Susan Verde*) stresses the importance of water for every human being. This will allow children to reflect on why we should care more about our water usage due to its importance to all living things.

## Religious Education

In Year 6 this half term we will continue to use our driver words to maximise learning. These include:

- Give reasons and make links with detail and accuracy
- Show understanding
- Engage and respond
- Begin to explain in detail

Our topic for this half term is ‘Jesus, Bread of Life’. Through this topic, the children will engage and respond to:

- Gospel accounts of Jesus’ public ministry and teaching, including the *Sermon on the Mount, various parables, miracles and the Beatitudes*;
- Jesus’ attitudes to sinners and responsibility to choose good (*John 8:1-11*);
- Gospel accounts of how the lives of men and women were changed by their encounters with Jesus. These include: *Lazarus, Zaccheus and Saul*.

Our focus this half term is to learn the following prayers and Mass responses:

- *Glory to God...*
- *The Prayer of St Teresa of Avila*
- *The Prayer of St Francis of Assisi*



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## “Seeking Growth Together Through Jesus”

### History

We will be continuing with our History topics, including:

- *The Vikings*
- *WWII*
- *The Mayans*

We will look in further detail at some of the main events in these periods of History, and how these events have shaped modern times. We will also compare these historical periods with those we have previously covered and look at similarities and differences. Across each topic, children will learn to communicate geographically using techniques and explicitly taught vocabulary.

### Art

This half term children will be thinking about the concept of ‘Activism’. They will explore the idea that artists can use art as a way to express their opinions, using their skills to speak for sectors of society.

Children will also think about in which ways carefully chosen images can be powerful tools of communication, as they are able to cross boundaries of language and can be direct.

We will look at the work of Luba Lukova and then create our own artwork about something we care about.

### Music

All the learning is focused around one song from Benjamin Britten’s Friday Afternoons: A New Year Carol.

Children will think about the style indicators they can hear in the song, what instruments are played, and the mood and story told. They will learn to sing the original version of the song, and the Urban Gospel version.

Children will also be given the opportunity to research Benjamin Britten in more detail; finding out about his life and listening to more of his works.

### Physical Education

In PE this half term, the children will develop their ball skills further through the topic of ‘Creative Games’. This will include dribbling the ball, passing, receiving and decision making. They will also have to apply appropriate tactics when playing different invasion games as well as solve a tactical problem through designing a unique invasion game. They may need to adapt an invasion game to include positions and attacking/ defending options. This half term the children will be partaking in many sporting, teambuilding activities by developing their communication, listening, and recording skills and recognise the importance of teamwork.

### ICT and Computing

This unit explores the concept of variables in programming through games in Scratch. First, learners find out what variables are and relate them to real-world examples of values that can be set and changed. Then they use variables to create a simulation of a scoreboard. During this unit, learners experiment with variables in an existing project, then modify them, before they create their own project.

In later lessons, learners focus on design and finally, learners will apply their knowledge of variables and design to improve their games in Scratch.

### French

In French this half term, the children will be exploring vocabulary relating to time and events through the topic of ‘Le Week-end’.

The children will consolidate vocabulary relating to time by asking what time it is and telling the time accurately in French.

In addition to this, the children will also learn how to say what they do at the weekend in French, along with integrating connectives into their work. To apply their knowledge and summarise their learning, the children will present an account of what they do and at what time at the weekend.

### Relationships & Health Education (RHE)

Through Unit 2 – Personal Relationships- it aims to equip children with strategies for more complex experiences of relationships and conflict.

This includes sessions that help children to identify and understand how to respond to spoken and unspoken pressure, the concept of consent and some practical demonstrations of this and further teaching on how our thoughts and feelings have an impact on how we act.

RHE lessons are delivered through the ‘TenTen Programme’.

### Seeking Growth Together

During ‘Seeking Growth Together’ time we will focus on learning about:

- Gospel Values
- Mutual respect (*British Values*)
- Global Learning (SDG)
- Respect for Life and Dignity (*Equality Act*)
- Health and Well-being
- Rule of Law (*British Values*)

Our creative approach to teaching Seeking Growth Together will be led by our school ‘drivers’ including: *oracy, metacognition, P4C and journaling.*