



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

*Sharing our learning*

## Academic Year 2013-2014

- Year: 4
- Term: 5

## Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mrs D Evans
- Ms C Kiernan
- Miss Pendlebury
- Mr Hawley
- Mrs Dewsnap

Dear parents and carers,

In Term 5 we begin a new whole-school Curriculum Theme and I am delighted at how our new curriculum is engaging our children. I was really sad that I could not attend the exhibition which was organised to celebrate the learning that had taken place during our first 'Marvellous Machines' theme. I was extremely pleased with the positive feedback that we received about the theme and exhibition.

I am satisfied at the way we are balancing the importance for a dynamic, inclusive and exciting curriculum with the need to maintain a relentless focus on improving standards and accelerating levels pupil progress. Achieving this balance is key to securing the learning ethos I want for St John Fisher. Our challenge is to develop a curriculum that engages all children and empowers them to be the inquisitive, confident and independent learners who enjoy learning and achieve well consistently.

Please read the overview and contact us if you have something you can offer to enhance our children's learning experience. Perhaps you have a collection of artefacts or some experiences or stories to share. Perhaps you have some expertise in a related field or some useful contacts. We would really love to hear from you if you are interested in getting involved.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

## R.E. Topic 1:

Children will be learning about Pentecost and how we can serve other.

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- Talking about the stories and events of the Pentecost.
- Discussing how we can serve others through our Christian journey.
- Thinking together about the lives and journeys of the early Christians.

## R.E. Topic 2:

Children will be learning about Reconciliation.

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- Talking about the sacrament of reconciliation and how God grants us absolution.
- Discussing how our feelings and beliefs about reconciliation affect our behaviour.
- Thinking together about why believers ask for forgiveness of others and forgive those who hurt them.

## English: Daily Reading & Phonics Skills

### **Guided Reading**

All children will have daily reading activities to boost their levels of confidence and enjoyment as well as their comprehension skills. This term, this will take the form of a mixture of whole class reading sessions based around a class text, and small group sessions around shorter, comprehension activities. In addition, we have a daily spelling session during which children learn and practise spelling rules taken from the new National Curriculum.





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## **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- Talking to your child about the book they are reading on a daily basis if possible, as well as enjoying all sorts of other books and reading materials together.
- Using the reading questions we shared at parents evening to ask children questions about their book which will encourage them to deepen their thinking. If you did not receive a copy of these questions and would like one, please let Miss Kiernan or Mrs Evans know.
- Supporting your child to learn and practise their weekly spelling rules.

## **English: Basic Skills**

All children will benefit from having daily handwriting and spelling practise and regular grammar and punctuation sessions focused on their *individual* needs.

## **Mathematics: Daily Number & Calculation Skills**

We will focus on:

- Developing understanding of place value, to include reading and writing larger numbers and decimals and fractions.
- Further developing mental and written methods for addition and subtraction and multiplication and division.
- Understanding and calculating with fractions, decimals and percentages.
- Focussing on learning times tables quickly and fluently, and being able to say the related division facts.

## **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- Learning and practising times tables, including the related division facts – we will be doing weekly tests and send home the times table each child is currently working on.
- Working on the specific mathematics targets on your child's PAM sheet.

## **Theme 1 Introduction: Goal!**

In Year 4, we will be looking at this whole school theme from the perspective of the World Cup and Commonwealth Games. We will move into a focus on New Zealand, including an in-depth study into the geography and history of the country.

## **English: Creative Writing**

Children will be exploring traditional myths and legends from New Zealand, including some different creation stories. They will create and write their own version of a creation story.

In non-fiction writing, we will look at discussion texts, writing to include different points of view. This will be based on learning about settlements and how decisions are/were made about where to settle.

## **Mathematics within the Theme**

We will focus on:

- Measures, particularly through practical applications in athletics competitions.
- Shape – properties of 2D shapes such as right angles, parallel lines, numbers of sides etc.

## **Science**

In the context of rivers and mountains, and the water cycle, we will be learning about the processes involved in 'changing state' e.g. from solid to liquid, liquid to gas and vice versa. At home, you could notice and talk about when we see these changes in everyday life, for example condensation on the car window, what we observe when the kettle boils etc.





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## Geography/History

This term we focus on learning about the geography of rivers and mountains. We are going to use the context of a study of New Zealand to investigate these different features and we will also be doing work around using and understanding maps and compass points.

We will be looking at the concept of settlement, thinking about reasons why people choose (and have chosen in the past) to settle in particular places.

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *Engaging with and talking about the different international sporting events that are taking place over the next few months, in particular noting the different countries involved and looking at where these countries are located.*

## Art and Design & Technology

We will be making 3D static models to both deepen and demonstrate children's learning about rivers and mountains. This will probably happen after half term, in Term 6.

## P.E.

P.E. is on Tuesday afternoon each week. Sessions are led by specialist P.E. coaches. This term they will cover dance and athletics, both indoors and out.

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *Doing lots of physical activity regularly e.g. playing games in the garden, going to the park, swimming lessons.*
- *By watching cricket and athletics on the television or via clips on the internet.*

## Music:

Music will be taught by Miss Pendlebury, our specialist music teacher.

