



Year 7

Curriculum News

Spring Term 2012

Welcome to the Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter. The departments that teach your child have contributed to the newsletter to give you information about what you can expect your child to be studying this term at St Mary's Catholic School.

In the Spring Term, Year 7 complete their **R.E.** ACE booklets covering Advent, Christmas & Epiphany for assessment purposes. They will then study the general background to the Bible, Biblical Skills, Bible Bookcase, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Essau, Joseph and Moses, the Ten Commandments and Lent, the Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The basis of the Year 7 **English** work this term is the Writer's Workshop scheme. Pupils will be reinforcing and learning skills of writing to imagine, explore and entertain. The two key outcomes for the half term are a play script and a short story. Gifted & Talented pupils will be able to attend Creative Writing Club on Wednesday lunchtimes.

In Year 7 **Maths** the pupils will be working on a variety of topics this term including the following: angles, changing units of measure, area and perimeter, surveys, integers, powers and roots, ratio, decimal and percentages. Assessment points at the end of each half term will indicate current level and progression.

This term in Year 7 **Science** pupils will be following a new rotation of lessons based upon the OxBox Science Works scheme. Topics studied will cover Elements and Compounds, Space, Reproduction, Genetics and Variation. Assessment this term will be based on a number of key homework pieces and they will also have a test on all topics covered so far.

Year 7 **Art** pupils are currently working on a cross-curricular project with English. Our topic is 'A Christmas Carol' and we are illustrating the story to capture the characters personalities. This project encourages independent research, creativity and building technical confidence. Also fundamental observational drawing skills have been reinforced by sketchbook work.

For enthusiastic Art pupils we will be running a Key Stage 3 Club afterschool on Tuesdays.

In **Design and Technology** all Year 7 pupils are continuing to develop their current projects. The projects being attempted by pupils will be from a range that includes an egg holder, a bottle opener, a money box or a draw string bag in Textiles. Some pupils will be working on a food project this term. Unfinished projects can be completed after school on Mondays for any pupils who wish to attend.

Drama in Year 7 – Circus. The aims are to:

- understand how meaning can be communicated without dialogue, through movement and mime
- know and understand the conventions of mime and apply these in performance
- find and use information on the origins of the circus.

By the end of this project, pupils are expected to:

- have gained knowledge of mime and circus
- be able to perform in front of the class using mime
- be able to evaluate their work and that of others
- be able to listen to other people's views and use the information to develop their own work
- be able to work in a variety of groupings.

Drama in Year 7 – Text. The aims are to:

- show how a variety of texts and objects can be used as stimuli for drama
- use text as a stimulus for improvisation
- help pupils understand how a script is laid out
- develop rehearsal and performance skills
- give pupils an opportunity to experience different texts.

By the end of this project, Drama pupils are expected to:

- have developed rehearsal and performance skills
- have created a variety of different characters
- be able to work in a variety of groupings
- understand how to use text or script as the basis of improvisation.

The Year 7 **French** pupils are carrying on with the topic of the Family, extending their ability to write in full sentences and looking at the correct order of the words. This will be followed by a topic describing pets. All pupils are encouraged to use the zut.org.uk website to practise their listening and writing skills and consolidate the grammar concepts covered in class. We offer further support every day at lunchtime within the department.

In **Geography** Year 7 pupils have worked on developing their map skills and their knowledge of the geography of the British Isles. They are currently working on issues to do with settlements, looking at where people live and the reasons why places developed into today's towns and cities.

In **History** all Year 7 pupils have started Britain 1066-1500. They begin with the famous Battle of Hastings and move through time to study the Feudal system, the Murder of Beckett, the Plague and much more.

In **ICT** this term our Year 7 pupils are following Unit 7.3 of the Modified National Strategy ICT Scheme. This is a 7 week project on the subject of "A right to learn". Pupils create a leaflet on the global right to education and learning to learn. They use DTP software (Microsoft publisher) to create a leaflet, Graphic manipulation (Adobe fireworks) to manipulate images and create their own logo, an online blog to investigate how they and others learn best. The project develops into the concept of cooperate identity and why organisations maintain this image in their publications. They identify evaluation criteria for their publications and peer and self assess their final product. Pupils will, therefore, learn the benefits of consistency in corporate publications, to share their ideas about good learning and teaching and explore global aspects which relate to how children in other countries learn and some of the issues which may affect how they learn.

Year 7 **Music** pupils look at winter as a theme for composing programme music in the style of Vivaldi's winter concerto and Howard Blake's Snowman. In addition to these pieces they appraise Sleigh Ride, Troika and other winter themed music. After half term pupils follow a topic based on animals. They perform and appraise animal themed music and compose their own music to mimic the wide variety of animal qualities.

The following extra-curricular clubs are available:

Monday after school - Rock School

Lunch time:

Monday – Chamber choir

Tuesday – Junior Choir

Wednesday – Concert Band (all wind players and percussionists)

Thursday – Senior Choir

Friday - Orchestra

In **PE** Key Stage 3 pupils will be developing their skills, knowledge and understanding of Netball, Football and Badminton. The department will also be arranging netball, football and basketball fixtures with schools across the district and county which parents are more than welcome to support. There are also numerous extra curricular activities for netball, football and basketball, badminton, girl's rugby and Sports Excellence is continuing this term and open to all pupils.

Additional Literacy Support

Pupils receiving additional literacy support will find LS on their timetable once a week with Mrs Vickers (Head of Learning Support). These lessons are primarily to improve pupils' reading, writing and spelling. Homework is alternative weeks of reading and spelling. All pupils in ALS have access to an IT programme "Wordshark" to help practise their spellings. They also can bring problems with homework to the LS Base each lunchtime. Additional reading and telling the time programmes are run at various points in the year.

Able, Gifted and Talented News

This year we are continuing to focus on how provision can be developed further, on a daily basis, in the lessons. In their Schemes of Work, all departments have included challenging enrichment activities which aim to develop the pupils' thinking skills as well as encourage them to become more independent learners. We have an outreach programme which enables us to liaise also with higher/ further education institutions. These give us the opportunity to send some of our pupils to local schools, Master classes, lectures and activity days.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding the curriculum at St Mary's Catholic School, please do not hesitate to contact, Mr H Jones Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum & Attainment)

