

This half term Year 5/6 are learning about:



English

In English, Year 5 are beginning to learn how to structure a non-chronological report. During this unit, we will be including: modal verbs, parenthesis, colons to introduce a list and bullet points. This unit will link to our current history topic of Ancient Benin. After this, we will begin a unit on a 'Conquering the Monster' text. During this unit, children will begin to use relative clauses within their writing. This unit will continue after half term.

To begin the half term, Year 6 will revisit the features of non-chronological reports and apply their skills to write a report on World War Two. After this, they will be reading 'The Giant's Necklace' by Michael Morpurgo. They will explore different grammatical features whilst reading the text and will revisit the features of diary entries and formal letters before they write their own. They will finish reading the text and then explore the different techniques used by the author to create characters, settings and dialogue. The children will then explore the structure of this 'Warning Tale' before then planning, writing and proof-reading their own short stories inspired by this text.

Maths



This half term, Year 5 are continuing to learn about fractions. We will be looking at the properties of a fraction, what makes an improper fraction and mixed numbers. After this, we are going to learn how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. After this, our next topic will be decimals. The children will learn how to read and write decimal numbers, how to order and compare them, and finally how to add and subtract decimal numbers.

Year 6 will begin this half term learning about decimals, calculating using them. They will then complete a unit of work on measurement before then moving onto percentages. Children will find percentages of numbers and quantities and solve percentage word problems. Just before half term, the children will move onto Geometry. They will begin by learning about vertically opposite angles, angles at a point and on a straight line. They will also solve problems involving angles and investigate angles within triangles, quadrilaterals and circles.

Daily Morning Work sessions will provide children in both Year 5 and Year 6 with time to further develop their arithmetic skills.

Science/Topic: Geography and History

This term, we are learning all about Ancient Benin. The children will be learning to locate Ancient Benin on a map, the history of Ancient Benin – including the art of Benin, life in Ancient Benin and how the kingdom ended. The children will also learn about how this fits into history by plotting events on a timeline that students have already encountered throughout their time at Holy Cross.

In Science, our topic will be Properties and Changes in Materials. We will be focussing on an investigation including hot chocolate. We will be investigating the different factors that affect how hot chocolate dissolves. The children will be working independently in their groups to decide how they can make it a fair test. After, the children will share their findings with the rest of their class.

Art/DI



In Art this half term, Year 5 and 6 will be learning about textiles and developing their skills in order to create an African-style bag. They will explore a variety of African Ankara prints and different styles of bags, thinking about the properties of the materials needed. Children will then design and create their own small drawstring bag. They will then evaluate the success of their designs.

PE



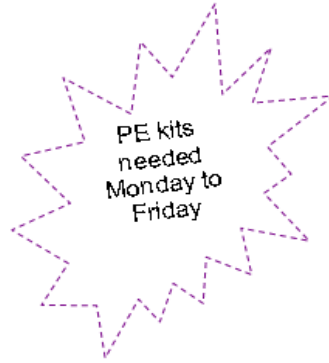
The Year 5 and 6 PE topics this half term will be: dance and tennis.

In dance, the children will have the opportunity to work independently, with a partner and in small groups to create sequences of movements in time to the music.

In tennis, the children will develop their hitting skills – including the different strokes needed for playing tennis. They will also explore when different shots are best as well as following and creating rules for games.

Things to do at home

- Regular reading with your child. When they have finished the book, ask them questions about what they have read.
- Learn times tables.
- Practise telling the time with your child.
- Encourage them to complete their homework and hand it in each week.



Key Vocabulary

This term, Year 5 are learning the following words:

- ancient
- stitch
- stir
- investigation
- cocoa
- decide

This term, Year 6 are learning the following words:

- determined
- desperate
- appreciate/ion
- occupy/pied
- rhythmic
- recognised

RE/PSHE

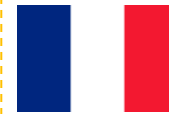


Year 5 will begin the term with a topic called Mission: learning about the mission of inspirational leaders and, in particular how the Diocese continues the work and the mission of Jesus.

Year 6 will begin the term with their topic of 'Local Church – Community: Sources'. They will explore the books in the Bible and will explore scriptures and will create an information text about the Bible.

Both year groups will also spend some time learning about another faith: Hinduism. Year 5 will focus on beliefs and festivals including the importance of Brahman (the supreme Hindu God). Year 6 will focus on how Hindus live their lives and their care for Creation.

Music/ Computing/ French



This half term, Year 5 will complete their databases unit in computing. After this, the children will begin their French unit 'Je Me Presente' and 'At the Café'. During these units, the children will continue to focus on the core vocabulary of months of the year, multiples of 10 and numbers up to 20.

Year 6 will be focusing on the unit 'Music and Me' in which children will have the opportunities to listen to, reflect and respond to music from British female contemporary artists. As part of this unit, the children will be invited to try out different ways of making their own music.