St Cuthbert's Catholic Academy
Part of the Blessed Edward Bamber Multi Catholic Academy Trust
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Email: admin@sccacademy.co.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Sarah Smith

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school. I sincerely hope you have had an enjoyable summer with your children. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them during our first two weeks together. They are a lovely, respectful class and the behaviour during the time we have spent together has been very good. I'm sure we are going to have a great year together. In the table below, I have outlined the subjects that we will be covering in the first half term.

Subject	Unit of work
Mathematics	**Number and Place Value** - Children will solve number and practical problems that involve reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to at least 1,000 including negative and numbers with up to one decimal place. Children will learn to round any number up to 10,000 to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000.
Times Tables	**Multiplication facts:** Children will be required to learn all times tables from 1-12 as part of the National Curriculum requirements. Times tables will be practised regularly in class with a variety of games and tests.
Literacy	**Sentence Structure** - For the first half term, we will be focusing strongly on sentence structure and teaching the children to construct coherent and grammatically sound single paragraphs on a variety of topics.
Reading	**Class text:** The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman is a truly enchanting fantasy novel from a different culture and contains wonderful characters and imagery.
Religious Education	**Fullness of life:** During the first half of the autumn term, our learning will focus will be the Gospel message that Jesus brings fullness of life for all people. We will revisit the 'Story of Creation' and the 'Ten Commandments' before developing an understanding of 'The Beatitudes' and how they were radical good news to the Israelites and are just as relevant today as they ever have been.
Science	**Animals Including Humans:** The children will recap their knowledge of basic nutrition and learn about the digestive system as a whole and the specific functions of its constituent parts. The children will also learn about food chains and webs and the effect on them by manmade and natural factors such as earthquakes and pollution.
Physical Education	**Athletics & Swimming:** For the first half of the spring term, PE will be every Tuesday and the unit of work is Athletics. The unit will be delivered by myself and our visiting PE coach Mr Tome. In addition, we will be attending Palatine Leisure centre every Wednesday for our weekly swimming lesson.
Geography	**Volcanoes:** Children will learn about the features of a volcano, tectonic plates, volcanic areas and what happens when a volcano erupts.
Design Technology	**Levers and Linkages:** The children will design make and evaluate a moving picture (poster / greeting card) using a variety of mechanisms made with linkages and levers.
Music	**Styles of music:** We will be using an exciting new music scheme called Charanga to introduce the children to a variety of different music styles. The children will be taught about pitch, tempo and how popular songs were written. They will also have the opportunity to sing and look at different musical instruments.
Modern foreign Languages	**French:** The children will learn about the culture and language of France and will be taught a range of new vocabulary to enable basic conversation.
PSHE	**Families and friendships:** Children will learn the importance of developing positive and lasting relationships at home, school and online.
Computing	**Digital literacy and online:** The children will be taught to understand computer networks including the Internet and how it can provide multiple services and the opportunities they offer for communication and collaboration.

Homework	**Maths, spelling and reading:** Weekly spellings will be sent home every Wednesday with the test the following Monday. Maths homework will be exclusively on-line using Sumdog. It will be set every weekend and the children will have until the following Friday morning to complete it. If internet access is an issue, they can attend a lunchtime homework club every day of the week. Your child will be expected to read from their book at least three times a week but preferably every day for upwards of ten minutes which is to be recorded in reading records.

The Year 4 Learning Support Assistant is Mrs Bird who has a wealth of experience at St Cuthbert's. She is excellent at providing pastoral care for the children and consistently provides a link between home and school when issues arise. As a team, Mrs Bird and I have high expectations for behaviour. We employ a reward system based on encouragement and positive reinforcement (I am sure your children will have told you all about it). We are both very excited about the year ahead and looking forward to liaising with you on a regular basis as partners in education.

If you have any questions or queries, I am always available after school (except Mondays) or by prior appointment in the morning (before 8.45am).

Yours sincerely,

Mr N J Webster (Year 4 Class Teacher).

Email: admin@sccaacademy.co.uk