



St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see your children settle back into school life over the past week; they have returned from the Summer break full of enthusiasm and are ready to learn. We have discussed the expectations for learning in Key Stage 2 and they are getting used to some of the changes. We are lucky to have Mr Wilkie to support us in class this year. We are all looking forward to working with your children and watching them grow.

This term, Year 3's first topic is The Stone Age, which will be followed by Volcanoes and Earthquakes after the half-term break. Please see the topic plan attached for more information about the curriculum.

Homework will be set on Fridays and each week it will consist of Spellings, Maths on Mathletics and Times Table Rock Stars, and responding to reading in their Reading Record. Please ensure that the tasks are completed by Thursday each week. If you do not have access to a computer or iPad, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can arrange for your child to complete their tasks in school.

Reading with your child is crucial at this stage in their development. Please take the time to listen to them read aloud every day but also do read a story to them – perhaps one that they cannot yet read themselves. After we have recapped the x2, x5 and x10 tables this half term, the children will need to learn the 4 times table facts fluently in the second half of the term, so please practise these with them, whenever you can.

P.E lessons will be on Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure your child brings in their P.E kit on a Monday in preparation for the lessons that week, and takes it home on a Friday to be washed over the weekend. Please make sure that P.E kits and school uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

I am very grateful that the return to school has been so positive and I look forward to working with you and your children throughout the year. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office or directly at vhazelton@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Vicky Hazelton

Class Teacher
St William of York

English

During the first half term, we will use two texts, *'The First Drawing'* by Mordicai Gerstein and *'Stone Age Boy'* by Satoshi Kitamura, as a stimulus for writing. We will explore the books in a variety of ways with opportunities for art and drama to encourage writing. The children will practise a range of writing including non-chronological texts, poems, letters, setting descriptions and diary entries based on the themes and content of the books. New for Year 3 are daily Guided Reading lessons, which will help to develop reading skills across a variety of different text types and genres. We will consolidate Y2 grammar and punctuation and close any gaps from last year. We will also begin to look at how speech is punctuated. The children will learn how to use prefixes to change the meaning of words as well as identifying how to use prepositions in sentences. In spelling initially, we will focus on spelling topic and high frequency words, revising Year 2 words where necessary. When it is useful, we will look at mnemonics and other strategies to help remember spelling, in addition to a continued focus on phonics. Children should be reminded that reading at home every day is a requirement, not optional, in order to develop the speed, fluency and comprehension that the trickier books in Key Stage 2 demand.

Geography/History

The children will travel back in time to 2.6 million years ago to discover the beginning of the Stone Age. They will discover how early man developed and learned all the way through to the Iron Age and the Celts. It will be a whistle stop tour with such a massive period to cover.

After half term they will discover how the earth was formed and how countries and land masses have taken shape. In particular, we will look at volcanoes and earthquakes, all of which ties in nicely with our Science topic.

Year Group: Year 3

Teacher: Mrs Vicky Hazelton

Autumn 1: Stones 'n' bones

Autumn 2: Shake, Rattle and Roll



R.E.

Our topics are Home and Family, followed by a close look at Baptism and the start of our Christian journey as we approach Christmas.

RSE

In RSE, we will be learning about the uniqueness of every individual and the gift of God's creations.

Art/D&T

Now that they are in KS2, the children will develop ideas in their own sketchbooks. They will have the opportunity to find out about the cave paintings in Lascaux, France and try their hand at observational drawings of animals as well as work from a distance to produce their own cave painting scene.

In the second half of the term, they will look at artists who have painted landscapes with volcanoes.

We will also use art in other areas of the curriculum to support learning.

Science

This term, we will begin by learning about food and our bodies. We will look at nutrition and the structure of the human body. Later this term we will learn about rocks. We will compare, sort and group together different types of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties.

P.E.

The children will have two PE sessions, one of which will be gymnastics and the other will be football. The children will have indoor P.E on Wednesday and outdoor P.E on Fridays.

Computing

Children will collect and analyse data, create their own opinion poll, seek responses, and then analyse the results. They will also programme an animation by creating an animated cartoon using characters of their own design. They will use paint tools and translate a storyboard into a series of animations.

Maths

We will continue to develop Maths Mastery with the children. We aim to build strong and secure foundations focusing on a deep understanding of number. This term, the children will explore three-digit numbers up to 1000 and will count, compare and order three-digit numbers. They will develop their knowledge of place value, emphasising the value of each digit in three-digit numbers. They will explore strategies for addition and subtraction, continuing to use models to support learning. In addition to consolidating their 2, 5- and 10-times tables, they will also develop strategies for learning the 3 and 4- times tables. We will use inverse operations to check answers to number sentences as well as cover the measurement areas of length and mass. In all lessons, children will be expected to use their mathematical vocabulary to explain their methods and answers as this will deepen their understanding of the subject.