

## **St Mary's C of E Primary School Curriculum Newsletter**

Class – Normanby Term – Autumn 2, 2023

Welcome to Normanby's Curriculum Newsletter for the second half of the autumn term. I hope you find the following information useful to understand the areas which we will be covering and how some of that links into our topic for the term: The Victorians.

### **English**

In English, we will be focusing on a more mature text: *Street Child*, by Berlie Doherty. This is an unforgettable tale of an orphan in Victorian London, based on the boy whose plight inspired Dr Barnardo to found his famous children's homes. When his mother dies, Jim Jarvis is left all alone in London. He is sent to the workhouse but quickly escapes, choosing a hard life on the streets of the city over the confines of the workhouse walls. Struggling to survive, Jim finally finds some friends... only to be snatched away and made to work for the remorselessly cruel Grimy Nick, constantly guarded by his vicious dog, Snipe. Will Jim ever manage to be free? We will use our developing understanding to do some great non-fiction writing.

### **History**

We will be exploring these themes further in our History lessons. We will explore Victorian London with an emphasis on the experiences of poor children to gain an understanding of the impact of poverty in the increasingly crowded Victorian cities and changes in the nature of childhood since that time.

### **Science**

In Science, we will be learning about electricity. One of the great changes of the late Victorian era was the transition from **gaslights to electric lights**, both in the streets and in the home. Pupils will learn about circuit design before embarking on a challenge - create an electric art installation for a sensory garden exhibition. They will base it on a specific theme, while following the brief to use motors, switches, bulbs and buzzers to make the art the stand-out choice for display.

### **Mathematics**

This term in mathematics will be using our knowledge of place value to develop our understanding of fractions. After exploring improper fractions and mixed numbers, we will then move onto decimals and percentages and think about how these are all telling the same story but in a slightly different language. Year 6 will begin to learn about ratio and algebra.

### **Foundation Learning**

In Art, we will create our own pieces based on the repeated patterns of William Morris and Victorian Architectural drawing. In RE, we are thinking about incarnation and the big questions is: Was Jesus the Messiah? In PSHE, we are celebrating difference, considering how different people live and are appreciated in the world. In Spanish, we are learning vocabulary based on how we look. In Music, we are continuing to learn about musical notation and improvisation.

**Physical Education**

In this half term we will be splitting our PE session between Netball and Gymnastics.

**Memorable Experiences**

This term we will be hosting our own Victorian Day. We will be dressing up in clothes from the era and will try to immerse ourselves in the atmosphere of the time, polishing our shoes, learning the Kings and Queens of England and eating gruel!

**Home Learning**

It is our expectation that you will continue reading for 20 minutes four times a week (minimum) and that you will record this in your reading record book. We shall be continuing with a class reader of the week, the winner of which could be someone who has made good progress or someone who has tried really hard with their reading that week. English and maths homework will come home on alternate weeks also.

Many thanks, Mr Day, Mrs Black and Mrs Sankey