

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Harrogate

a Voluntary Academy



Curriculum Newsletter for Autumn 1, 2026

Year 2

Teachers: Mrs Dalby, Mrs Clarke

Teaching Assistant: Miss Hasson

Maths

This half term in maths, we'll be focusing on *place value* and *addition and subtraction*. In place value, the children will explore how numbers are made up of hundreds, tens and ones. They'll practise partitioning numbers in different ways – for example, 127 can be broken into $100 + 20 + 7$ or more flexibly as $110 + 12 + 5$. We'll also compare numbers using terms like *greater than* and *less than* to help develop a strong understanding of number.



In addition and subtraction, we'll revisit number bonds to 10, 20 and 100, work on related fact families, and practise adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers. We'll also be exploring how to find 10 more or 10 less than a given number to strengthen mental strategies.

Help your child at home:

To help at home, please continue to practise number bonds regularly. A great resource for this is *Hit the Button*, which children really enjoy: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

English

In our English lessons this half term, we will be exploring the texts *Leo and the Octopus* by Isabelle Marinov and *The Search for Carmella* by Chloe Savage.

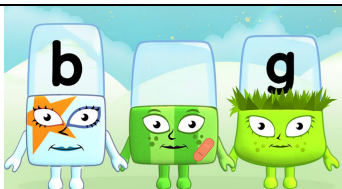
Through *Leo and the Octopus*, the children will explore the theme of friendship and use the narrative as inspiration to create and write their own friendship stories. We will also explore *The Search for Carmella*, which will inspire the children to develop their descriptive and imaginative writing skills through the creation of an explorer's log.

We will continue to practise our spelling, punctuation and grammar skills through daily practise.

Objectives for reading will be addressed through reading practise activities, comprehension and inference tasks.

Help your child at home.

Please practise reading daily and weekly spellings at home. You may find the links below useful to practise phonics, spelling, and grammar skills at home.



This half term, select the punctuation tab and choose the full stop and capital letter activities



RE

This term in RE, our topic is *Creation and Covenant*. The children will be learning about different parts of the Bible, with a special focus on the story of Noah. They'll explore the idea of a covenant – a special promise – and how God made a promise to Noah and all living things never to destroy creation again. The story helps us reflect on how, even when people turn away from God or stop caring for the world and each other, God still brings hope. The children will think

Science

This term in science, we'll be exploring two separate topics: what animals need to survive and how humans stay healthy. In our first topic, the children will learn that all animals need air, water, food, and shelter to survive. We'll also revisit key vocabulary such as *carnivore*, *herbivore*, and *omnivore* to help the children understand different dietary needs. Later in the term, we'll move on to learning about humans, with a focus on how to keep our bodies healthy.

about what it means to take responsibility for the world as a gift from God. Later in the term, we'll also learn about the sacrament of Baptism, another important covenant, and how it shows God's saving love and goodness.	The children will investigate how different types of exercise affect their heart rate, making predictions and observing changes to understand how exercise helps to keep us fit.
Geography This autumn term, the children will be developing their geographical knowledge by learning to name and locate the seven continents, as well as the North Pole, South Pole and Equator, on a world map. They will explore the similarities and differences between the United Kingdom and Kenya and investigate weather and climate, using key geographical vocabulary to describe different types of weather and understand whether places are hot or cold.	Computing This half term in Computing, the children will be finding out what information technology (IT) is and spotting examples of it in the world around them. They'll be thinking about where they've seen IT in school and in everyday places like shops, hospitals, and libraries. We'll also be exploring how IT helps to make life easier and better in many ways, and having important discussions about how to use it safely and responsibly.
Art Children will discover how some artists explore the world around them to help them find inspiration. They will explore composition by arranging natural objects and complete observational drawings using a range of drawing media and look closely at line and texture.	Music This term in music, the children will be exploring <i>call and response</i> through animal-themed sound patterns. They'll start by chanting different call and response rhythms, then move on to creating their own patterns using untuned percussion instruments. Along the way, they'll practise keeping a steady pulse and develop their listening skills as they echo and respond to each other, building a great sense of musical teamwork and communication.
PE (Monday / Thursday) PE sessions will take place twice a week—on Mondays with Mrs Dalby and Thursdays with Mr Gibson. This term, the children will be enjoying football and gymnastics, developing their coordination, teamwork, and physical skills through these fun and active lessons.	Catholic Life Whole School Mass – 18th September 2026 Class Mass – 24th September 2026 Class Mass – 8th October 2026 Y2 Assembly – 13th November 2026
Personal Development <u>Character Education and Virtues to live by</u> This half term, the virtues we will be focusing on are love of learning and citizenship. Children will have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on how they can apply these virtues in their own lives. <u>PSHE</u> This half term the children will learn about the importance of routines and habits for maintaining good physical and mental health. They will explore why sleep and rest are important and why we need we need routines for brushing teeth and visiting the dentist. The children will also explore how to describe and share a range of feelings and how to manage 'big feelings'. They will know when and how to ask for help, and how to help others. The children will also learn about Fairtrade and take part in activities during Fairtrade Fortnight. <u>RHE</u> The children will begin to explore the theme 'Created and Loved by God'. <u>Picture News</u> We will use Picture News resources to prompt discussion about current news and topics. <u>Enrichment</u>	

Fairtrade Fortnight – 21st September 2026
McMillan Coffee Afternoon – 23rd September 2026

Homework.

Reading Books x 2 weekly

We will hear the children read and change their reading book twice a week. Please ensure your child has their reading diary and reading book on their reading day (this will be on a label on their reading record). Please sign your child's reading diary to show they have practised reading their book at home or please make a note of which pages you have read at home so we can continue to practise the book at school.

Spellings x 1 weekly

Spellings will be sent home on **Fridays** for the children to learn and we will then have a spelling test each week. The children will use the back of their spelling book for the test so could we please ask that they don't practise their spellings in their spelling book as there isn't a lot of space. Thank you.

Maths x 1 weekly

Maths homework will be set every **Friday** and will relate to that week's learning. We will send a Marvellous Me message each week to let you know which page(s) in the homework book your child needs to complete. Please ensure that maths homework is returned by the following **Thursday**.

Recommended Reads



George's Marvellous Medicine

Roald Dahl & Quentin Blake



The Rainbow Bear

Michael Morpurgo & Michael Foreman



Mooncat and Me

Lydia Corry