

YEAR 4 CURRICULUM 2024-25

Autumn Term - RE	Rationale
RE Autumn 1 - The Bible – to know the Bible is an account of God’s relationship with His people, how He talks to us in the Bible and His call to people in the OT.	We want our pupils to be familiar and confident with using our Holy Book, the Bible. For them to understand what makes it up, how they can use it including finding Bible verses from a reference and to have knowledge of the kind of stories, lessons and content it contains.
RE Autumn 2 – Trust in God – to understand the importance of trusting in God, about promises he has made to significant individuals in the history of the People of God. To know why God sent Jesus to earth.	For our children to be familiar with significant individuals in the story of God’s people who put their trust in God and were rewarded for it. We want our children to learn from these examples and understand how putting their trust in God can help them throughout their lives.
Autumn Term – Topics	Rationale
History – Invasion - life in Britain after the Roman withdrawal. Children will learn about Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions up to the Norman conquest.	We want our children to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding British history and its settlement by Vikings, Anglo-Saxons and up to the Norman invasion. To develop children’s understanding of how our country has changed over time with influences from invaders.
Science – Animals including Humans - children learn about the human digestive system. They explore the main parts, starting with the mouth and teeth, identifying teeth types and their functions. They link this learning to animals' diets and construct food chains to show the flow of energy.	For children to understand how our bodies process food, to understand how this keeps their bodies healthy and how it can be unhealthy. To allow our children to make healthy choices for their dental, digestive and wider health. For children to understand how this is similar and different in other animals and wider their knowledge of the animal world. We want our children to make informed and active decisions about looking after their health and their body.
Science - Sound – children learn about sound and how sounds are made and travel as vibrations through a medium to the ear. They learn about pitch and volume and find out how both can be changed.	For children to explore how sounds are made, travel and change through exploring, talking about, testing and developing ideas about sound. They will learn to ask their own questions about what they observe and make decisions about which types of scientific enquiry are likely to be the best ways of answering them, draw conclusions and use scientific language.
Geography – Interconnected World – children will learn about compass points and four and six-figure grid references. They learn about the tropics and the countries, climates and culture of North and South America. Children identify physical features in the United Kingdom and learn about the National Rail and canal networks. They conduct an enquiry to prove a hypothesis, gathering data from maps and surveys before drawing conclusions.	We want our pupils to be inquisitive about their national and global communities, understanding their similarities and differences. Map reading skills are essential for them to be able to explore these communities digitally from school and we hope they will be able to apply these skills practically in later life. Through this project, they will also learn to be independent and active in using these skills.

Art & Design – Contrast and Complement - children learn about colour theory by studying the colour wheel and colour mixing. It includes an exploration of tertiary colours, warm and cool colours, complementary colours and analogous colours, and how artists use colour in their artwork. Art & Design – Warp and Weft – children learn about the art form of weaving and how it has developed over time, including the materials and techniques required to create woven patterns and products.	Children at St Bernard’s will learn to use colour effectively, therefore developing their personal creativity and exploratory techniques. We believe knowledge of colour theory, tone, line and shape underpins all artistic study and practice. Without a clear understanding of these areas, pupils struggle to both analyse and interpret work of artists they study and therefore we believe these skills are fundamental for our children. Throughout this project, pupils will develop their own freedom within art through experimentation. They will develop a deeper understanding of the importance of colour in art, its impact on mood and emotion and will therefore, enrich their cultural understanding, by gaining knowledge how colour is used by other artists. Our children live in an increasingly digital world and this project engages them with a traditional skill that develops fine motor skills, motor planning, making practical adjustments and developing a physical skill. This will allow them to explore materials in a new way and find value in handmade and organic products.
Design & Technology – Fresh Food, Good Food – children learn about food decay and preservation. They discover key inventions in food preservation and packaging, then make examples. The children prepare, package and evaluate a healthy snack.	Our children need to have a good understanding of the benefits of fresh, healthy foods and snacks as part of their regular diet to help them make healthy choices now and set them up for a long term healthy lifestyle. This project will help them understand why foods need to be fresh and well preserved and help them be independent in how they can do this.
Computing – Digital Citizenship - Understand computer networks including the internet; how they can provide multiple services, such as the world wide web; and the opportunities they offer for communication and collaboration Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact. Computing – Digital Literacy - Select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information.	Children need to examine the consequences of their online activity–both good and bad. When teaching Digital Citizenship it is vital that we thoroughly embed the principles of staying safe online and then move onto web content and how they interact with it. It is important to use real world examples with our children to ensure that their learning is relevant to their life experiences. The essential component of digital literacy when it comes to the field of pedagogy is deep learning; of which there are six core skills: Collaboration; Creativity; Critical thinking; Citizenship; Character Traits such as grit, tenacity, perseverance, and resilience; alongside a desire to make learning an integral part of living. Communication.

French Autumn 1 – All Around Town – children will learn to develop their intercultural understanding by being introduced to the sights of some typical French cities. They will also learn to describe places in a town, count to 100 and give their address in French. French Autumn 2 – On the Move – children will learn to develop their conversational skills via some new topics: transport, direction and movement. They will learn to conjugate the high-frequency verb 'to go' and use it in context.	Pupils at St Bernard's will develop positive attitudes towards foreign languages and other cultures across the world. They will become active learners with improved memory and performance skills, which we believe are key skills throughout life. Foreign languages open up career opportunities and broaden horizons to enable our pupils to succeed in their future aspirations. To develop their confidence in the wider world and equip them with the skills to communicate when travelling abroad. It also enables them to develop future careers.
Music Autumn 1 – Sparkyard Music Children be will exploring the essential musicianship dimensions through active and enjoyable activities to gain confidence in performing together. This includes: understanding structures of music through listening and analysing, developing and expressing creative musical skills to compose their own music. Music Autumn 2 – Christmas Singing Skills	The Sparkyard Music Curriculum provides children with a clear sequence of musical activities to develop their confidence in Music within the classroom. With fabulous Out of the Ark songs at its heart, it uses a skills-based approach where key musical concepts and themes are developed and revisited across the year groups, building on knowledge and understanding at every stage.
Spring - RE	Rationale
RE Spring 1 – Jesus the Teacher – children will learn about significant events of Jesus' childhood and early life. They will know that Jesus called people to follow Him and how he taught them through parables and example.	The children will learn about Jesus' childhood and be able to draw comparisons with their own. They will be able to explore significant parables in detail and relate their meanings to modern society and to their own lives, developing their moral values.
RE Spring 2 – Jesus the Saviour – children will study the story of Holy Week and the Easter story with increasing detail.	The children will learn about the events of Jesus' life that made him truly God and those that showed he was truly human. They will learn more detail about the events of Holy Week and the Easter story and the significance this tremendous sacrifice has for us.
Spring – Topics	Rationale
Geography – Misty Mountain, Winding River – this project teaches children about the characteristics and features of rivers and mountain ranges around the world, including a detailed exploration of the ecosystems and processes that shape them and the land around them.	For our children to deepen their understanding and develop their curiosity about the natural world around them. Learning how the land around them is shaped by ecosystems and processes will show them how we can positively and negatively affect our environment and why this is such an important issue in our world today.
Science – States of Matter - children will learn about solids, liquids and gases and their characteristic features. They observe how materials change state as they are heated and cooled, and learn key terminology associated with these processes. Science – Living Things and Their Habitats – children will learn about the grouping of living things, known as classification. They study local	Understanding the various states of matter is one of the key concepts kids need for exploring chemistry and physics. These states of matter activities help them learn the physical changes that take place as matter converts from solid to liquid to gas. This topic will show children how animals live in tune with their environment and how important their natural surroundings are. This will show our

and wider habitats and use classification keys to identify living things. Children also learn about the impact of human influences on habitats and their living things.	children how intricate and complicated environments are and how important human influences are.
Art & Design – Vista - children learn about the techniques that artists use when composing landscape images, such as colour and atmosphere. Art & Design – Animal – children learn about the historical and cultural portrayal of animals in art. They study the visual qualities of animals through sketching, printmaking and clay modelling.	This topic gives children opportunities to apply their learning from the 'Contrast and Complement' topic. Throughout this project, pupils will develop their own freedom within art through experimentation. They will develop a deeper understanding of the importance of colour in art, its impact on mood and emotion and will therefore, enrich their cultural understanding, by gaining knowledge how colour is used by other artists. Children will engage in discussions about historical, religious and cultural representations of animals. They will develop their physical skills using clay and clay tools and learn to evaluate their work.
Design & Technology – Functional and Fancy Fabrics – children learn about home furnishings and the significant designer William Morris. They learn techniques for decorating fabric, including block printing, hemming and embroidery and use them to design and make a fabric sample.	Children experience and develop a variety of fabric skills and decide which to use on their final design for functional and decorative reasons. Children will know about the important and influential designer, William Morris, in terms of his contributions to design history and his social beliefs.
Computing – Computer Science – Children will learn to understand computer networks including the internet; how they can provide multiple services, such as the world wide web; and the opportunities they offer for communication and collaboration. They will learn to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.	Computer science teaches students design, logical reasoning, problem solving and resilience - all valuable well beyond the computer science classroom. The ability to create and adapt new technologies distinguishes computer science from computer literacy, which focuses more on using existing technologies (e.g. word processing, spreadsheets).
French Spring 1 – Going Shopping – children will learn about the shopping experience in France. Children will learn specific vocabulary of fruit, vegetables and clothes. They will learn key phrases for asking the questions needed when going shopping. The unit concludes with a role play lesson, where children will take on the roles of shoppers and shopkeepers. French Spring 2 – Where in the World – children will learn key vocabulary related to countries/continents and animals. They will learn specific vocabulary of countries of the United Kingdom, continents and animals from different continents and a country's position related to the equator. They will learn key phrases connected to the themes.	Pupils at St Bernard's will develop positive attitudes towards foreign languages and other cultures across the world. They will become active learners with improved memory and performance skills, which we believe are key skills throughout life. Foreign languages open up career opportunities and broaden horizons to enable our pupils to succeed in their future aspirations. To develop their confidence in the wider world and equip them with the skills to communicate when travelling abroad. It also enables them to develop future careers.
Music Spring 1 & 2 – Sparkyard Music Children be will exploring the essential musicianship dimensions through active and	The Sparkyard Music Curriculum provides children with a clear sequence of musical activities to develop their confidence in Music

enjoyable activities to gain confidence in performing together. This includes: understanding structures of music through listening and analysing, developing and expressing creative musical skills to compose their own music.	within the classroom. With fabulous Out of the Ark songs at its heart, it uses a skills-based approach where key musical concepts and themes are developed and revisited across the year groups, building on knowledge and understanding at every stage.
Summer - RE	Rationale
RE Spring 1 – The Early Christians – children will learn about how the Church started with the first Apostles, the story of Pentecost and the experiences of the early Saints.	Children will understand the story and the struggles of the early church and how that has impact on our faith today. They will learn to research, learn about and discuss the significance of sainthood, martyrdom and why this is an important belief for Catholics.
RE Spring 2 – The Church – children will learn about how the Church is set up in our world today, including seasons, hierarchy, beliefs and significant figures.	The children will deepen their understanding of their place in the Church and that of others. They will be able to discuss the traditions, practices and values that make us Catholic at a deeper level.
Summer – Topics	Rationale
History - Ancient Civilisations - children will learn about the history of three of the world's first ancient civilisations: ancient Sumer, ancient Egypt and the Indus Valley civilisation. Children will learn about the rise, life, achievements and eventual end of each civilisation.	Children will learn about these earliest civilisations and compare their successes and legacy. They will be able to develop analytical and comparison skills in the context of History. They will learn how societies can develop and change and develop their own opinions about these based on evidence they have learned.
Science – Electricity - children will learn about electrical appliances and safety. They construct simple series circuits and name their parts and functions, including switches, wires and cells. They investigate electrical conductors and insulators and identify common features of conductors.	Children will learn about how electricity works and importantly the dangers it can present and how to use it in a safe way. This includes how conductors and insulators can be applied in useful ways and this understanding will help them to develop their understanding of safety around electricity.
Art & Design – Islamic Art – This project teaches children about the features of Islamic art. They make geometric patterns and motifs on paper, with fabric and in clay. They use their learning to create a high relief clay tile, decorated with geometric patterns.	Bolton is a culturally diverse town with a high percentage of Muslim inhabitants. St Bernard's has many Muslim pupils. This topic will celebrate the importance of art in Islamic culture and history and help all our pupils understand this important part of the world around them.
Design & Technology – Tomb Builders – children about simple machines, including wheels, axles, inclined planes, pulleys and levers, exploring how they helped ancient builders to lift and move heavy loads.	This project will develop children's skills and knowledge in design, structures, mechanisms, and a range of materials. It encourages children's creativity and encourages them to think about resourcefully, innovatively and analytically about a design will real life application and purpose.
Computing Summer 1 – Information Technology - Understand computer networks including the internet; how they can provide multiple services, such as the world wide web; and the opportunities they offer for	This is how we interface with technology using existing hardware. We need to teach children how to navigate around a variety of devices, type, save work, find and move files. Also they need to understand the internet and the web, use

communication and collaboration. Use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content Computing Summer 2 – Mastery Project – this half term is designated for a mastery project to develop children’s skills in one of the previous topics either for further skills development or independent mastery.	search engines, understand networks and generally be efficient and independent users of a range of technologies. This gives the children opportunity for consolidation of previous teaching by recapping and revising areas of weakness. Alternatively, it could be used to complete a mastery project in one of the topics that children show particular strength / interest in.
French Summer 1 – What’s the Time? – children will learn how to tell the time: o’clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. They will learn how to read timetables and TV schedules and answer simple questions about these. The unit is drawn together with a final lesson which is a mathematics lesson, calculating the difference between two times. French Summer 2 – Holidays and Hobbies – children will learn key vocabulary related to holidays, weather and seasons, sports and hobbies. They will learn specific vocabulary of how to say what the weather is like, temperatures, names of different sports and hobbies. They will learn key phrases connected to the themes.	Pupils at St Bernard’s will develop positive attitudes towards foreign languages and other cultures across the world. They will become active learners with improved memory and performance skills, which we believe are key skills throughout life. Foreign languages open up career opportunities and broaden horizons to enable our pupils to succeed in their future aspirations. To develop their confidence in the wider world and equip them with the skills to communicate when travelling abroad. It also enables them to develop future careers.
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