



# Curriculum Newsletter



Year 7      January - Mid-Term      2019

## Literacy:

- Summarise key information from the non-fiction text 'Masai: Tribe of Warriors'.
- Read, discuss and respond to the extract taken from 'Drought - The Calf of the November Cloud'. Plan and write their own story ending. Edit work and make any necessary improvements using CHOPS.
- Explore poems written by Ted Hughes and understand how language is used for effect.
- To identify the main themes in a play scene and understand how dramatic tension is developed.
- Spell familiar words correctly and employ a range of strategies to spell difficult and unfamiliar words.
- Partake in the Irish News Young Readers' project (8 week project that begins mid-January).

## Tips for parents:

Encourage your child to use '**ADJECTIVES**, **ADVERBS** and '**POWER VERBS**' to make his/her creative writing interesting. **Adjectives** describe things, e.g. The lost, lonely princess.... **Adverbs** describe how you do something, and often end in -ly, e.g. He scrambled haphazardly over the mound. **Power verbs** are doing words, but more interesting than usual, so use 'screamed', 'whispered' or 'exclaimed', rather than 'said'.

## Numeracy:

- Use the language of position, movement, direction and angle.
- Explore and use a 360 degree protractor to measure given angles.
- Explore patterns and number sequences through spatial investigations.
- Recognise and use in practical situations the 8 compass directions.
- Understand that each compass point has a particular bearing reference.
- Be able to calculate duration and have an awareness of minute/seconds.

## Tips for parents:

To consolidate last term's work, help your child gain confidence in using a compass by exploring different circular patterns. Watch them measure angles using a 360 degree protractor and ensure they are using it accurately. Quiz your child on the 8 compass points and ask them to turn in different directions e.g. face north, turn 120 degrees clockwise, etc.

## World Around Us

Introduction to FLIGHT topic. Discussion of different types of flight, including man-made examples of flight such as planes, hot air balloons, drones, etc., and flight in nature, e.g. seed dispersal, birds, etc.

Listen to a talk from the Northern Ireland School of falconry about bird anatomy in the buzzard, peregrine falcon, etc.

Learn about the impact of the chemical DDT on buzzards.

Carry out research on two birds of prey and complete a compare and contrast framework.

Write a report on their chosen bird.

Take part in the 'Medics in Primary Schools' programme. Learn about the location, structure and function of body systems.

## Tips for parents:

Ask your child to explain the four forces of flight. Encourage them to relate the structure of a bird's body with the design of today's aircrafts. Help your child to research birds of prey and identify similarities and differences between two birds. Ensure they know the role of the heart, lungs, brain, kidneys, blood, skin, etc.

## ICT - UICT Task - Topic Time Flight PowerPoint Presentation

- Plan and draw out using a one cut story book what you will put in each slide.
- Search the Internet for information and graphics.
- Create your slides thinking about the layout using text, sound and still or moving images. Insert your own drawings/images
- Choose appropriate styles and effects by using slide design templates.
- Edit graphics, for example, resize, rotate, use border sharpen.
- Use text boxes, bullets, images, borders or numbering where appropriate.
- Apply transitions and sound between the slides. Save your presentation into your ICT Tasks Folder

<b>Religion</b> <p>Become familiar with the relevance, format and symbolism of the Service of Light and Commitment. Listen to the story of Pentecost and retell it from the perspective of an eye witness. Explore the symbolism of wind in relation to the Holy Spirit. Investigate and learn about the origin and importance of the Seven Sacraments. <b>Confirmation 25<sup>th</sup> March @ 4.00</b></p>	<b>PDMU</b> <p>Learn more about friends and what makes up their identities. Continue to develop listening skills and skills in oral communication. Use the <u>Zone of Relevance</u> technique to prioritise what questions to ask a friend in order to find out the required information.</p>
<b>PE</b> <p>The pupils will continue to develop their life saving skills. They will be certified with a lifesaving qualification on completion of the sessions. The final three weeks before mid-term will be spent developing a range of swimming strokes and preparing for the swimming gala in March.</p>	<b>Lifesaving skills include:</b> <p>Know how to rescue without self-danger.          Know the acronym HELP- Heat, Escape, Lessening, Position          Know how to climb in and out of the water safely.          Know how to reach in safely.          Know how to throw objects safely into the water.          Know how to tow in water from a wading position i.e. non-contact towing.</p>
<b>The Arts</b> <b>MUSIC</b> <p>Sing a variety of hymns and parts of the Mass with increasing control and confidence in preparation for the Service of Light and Confirmation.          Sing in groups; show an awareness of diction, dynamics, pitch, longer/shorter notes, rests, etc. Play a variety of tuned and/or untuned instruments (including orchestral instruments where appropriate) to accompany singing. Practise hymns at home.</p> <b>ART</b> <p>Use oil pastels and other media to design a Confirmation icon and complete relevant pages in Confirmation workbook.</p>	
<b>Focus</b> <p>In the build-up to Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, we will be focusing on keeping our children safe on-line. This year the theme is "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you". Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Information and useful tips for parents are available on <a href="https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019">https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019</a>          Children will take part in Internet safety quizzes and activities during the month of February.</p>	

### Dates for your diary:

World Book Day: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Service of Light: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Confirmation: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

P7 Swimming Gala Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 10am-12pm

P7 Photos: Miss Maguire and Mrs Mackle Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

P7 Photos: Mr Cunningham and Mrs Graham Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

St Brigid's School Mass: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February (2pm finish)