## English

Our first focus text is Holes by Louis Sachar and we will finish the half term with a focus on Charles Dickens, writing a biography about his life and literature. After half term, our focus text will be A Boy in the Girl's Bathroom also written by Louis Sachar, who is our author of the half term. Throughout all English lessons, we will be focusing on the effective composition of writing and how we can utilise all of the grammatical skills and literary techniques we have learned in order to create a particular affect upon the reader. We will focus on building up a bank of independent writing to showcase our skills.

Guided reading sessions will continue to focus on key reading skills; vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summary but there will be an emphasis on SATs style questions, practicing how to answer these effectively.

# Religious Education

We will begin by exploring Christmas and similarities and differences between the Gospel accounts of this event.

We will then learn about prayers in the lives of Christ's followers as well as some associated signs and symbols. This will remind children that Mass is the central prayer of the Catholic Church. Before half term, the children will have the opportunity to learn about Judaism through a range of practical activities.

We will explore the passion of Jesus in detail during our focus on Lent.

In addition, there will be a great emphasis on preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and following in the footsteps of out chosen Saint.

#### Science

In our first topic, children will be learning about variation and adaptation and exploring the contributions of Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace with their theories of evolution.

After half term, we will focus on Animals including Humans including different systems within the body. We will research the parts and functions of the circulatory system and explore on how nutrients are transported around the human body. Children will explore how a healthy lifestyle supports the body to function and how different types of drugs affect the body.

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### Computing

Pupils will explore what is necessary for effective communication and the importance of agreed protocols during our communication unit. Children will also be introduced to data packets, consider how people can work together when they are not in the same location and evaluate which methods of communication suit particular purposes.

#### Art

The children will explore photography and how to create an effective photomontage as well as exploring abstract art through photography. They will make decisions about cropping, editing and presenting photographic images in the style of Edward Weston.

### Maths

This half term, we will focus on decimals, percentages and algebra followed by different methods of measurement including area and perimeter and then some work around ratio and proportion.

All of our Maths work will explore different approaches to answering questions to determine the most effective way to answer them.

We will continue to develop our fluency, problem solving and reasoning with daily questions to target specific skills and recap previous learning. The four operations will continue to be a focus throughout all units so that children can utilise their knowledge to approach a multi step problem with confidence.

### PE

Badminton and hockey are our focus topics for this half term where we will focus on the skills and strategies needed to play collaboratively as a team and effectively as an individual.

We will then focus on tennis and fitness, learning a range of ralley techniques and exploring how we can keep ourselves healthy by improving our speed, stamina, strength, coordination and balance.

Homework and spellings will be given out on Friday and are due back the following Friday. PE lessons take place on Thursday and Fridays. Children need their reading record signed and in school on Fridays.

### Topic

In History, children will learn about where the ancient Kingdom of Benin was located and how it came to thrive, what the people there believed in and how they showed this in their artwork

In Geography, children will investigate Naples and the impact of its proximity to Mount Vesuvius. They will also explore the reason ists are attracted to the Amalfi Coast.

