












St John's Church of England Academy- Topic Curriculum Overview

Year group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Reception	<p><i>Learning through play is an important part of our Early Years approach. Using children's interests as a starting point, we provide children with stimulating, active play experiences in which they can explore and develop their learning to help them make sense of the world.</i></p>  <p>Twinkle, twinkle, we are stars!</p> <p>On entry to Reception, our first topic values the children as individuals and introduces them to 'The St. John's way'. It allows them to develop and explore their individual learning styles through our school values.</p>	<p>I need a hero</p>  <p>The Christmas holiday is a fun time for children in our school. Our first topic after the holiday allows the children time to reflect on all they are thankful for. They will talk and write about their families and friends and also think about what a superhero is. They will find out more about people in our area and how they help us in different ways.</p> <p><i>The rest of the topics in the Spring term will be linked to the children's interests.</i></p>	<p>Let's Explore</p>  <p>During the Easter Holidays the teachers have found a map of our school. We believe the map leads to a buried treasure chest and we begin our quest to find out more... We will be exploring different environments, habitats and life cycles. We will be thinking about survival skills.</p> <p><i>The rest of the topics in the Summer term will be linked to the children's interests.</i></p>
1	<p>Coventry, St. John's and Me!</p>  <p>Who am I and where do I live?</p> <p>Children at St John's are unique and special and through our values, we recognise the importance of developing strong identity and character. This topic allows children to explore themselves as a person and how they fit within their family, the school and the local area, celebrating individuality and diversity. Get ready to shine!</p>	<p>Time Travel</p>  <p>How has London changed over time?</p> <p>Now that children in Year 1 have a clear understanding of themselves and the local area, they will be broadening their knowledge of the UK and it's capital cities, with a particular focus on London. They will travel back in time to compare London in the past with London now. Buckle your seatbelts and look out for Pudding Lane.</p>	<p>Exploring the World</p>  <p>What is in the world and how do we know?</p> <p>The world is full of awe and wonder. As explorers, the children will begin to learn about different countries and continents in the world. Through the study of famous explorers, they will find out more about the world including what was found historically, what is happening currently and why it is all important. Grab your binoculars!</p>
2	<p>Zoom! Soar! Whizz!</p>  <p>What was invented in Coventry?</p> <p>Thinking about the City of Coventry, the children will investigate significant, local individuals and how they have made a positive difference to their lives and the lives of others in Coventry and beyond. Grab your helmet and get ready for the ride!</p>	<p>Saving the World</p>  <p>How can I make a positive difference?</p> <p>Through our school values, the children will develop their understanding of changing environments-both in the UK and beyond- building on their knowledge and experiences from Year 1. They will consider reasons for these changes and reflect on the man-made impact. By making their own considered choices and by working as part of a team, they will realise that they can make a positive difference.</p>	<p>Happy Holidays</p>  <p>Where can we go and what is like?</p> <p>Building on their knowledge of our amazing world, the children will further develop their understanding of the countries, oceans and continents, paying particular attention to the physical and human features and how they have changed over time. This topic will build on links already established with our chosen global charity and the children will make links to their previous topic 'Zoom! Soar! Whizz!'. They will examine how holidays have changed over time, thinking about where people travel to- how and why? Pack your suitcases!</p>

<p>3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Set in Stone</u></p>  <p>What happened from the Stone Age to the Iron Age? On entering Year 3, children will develop their historical knowledge further by stepping back in time to the savage Stone Age. They will look at what made these periods in history special, exploring the discoveries and inventions. They will also investigate what cave men were really like and discover what it would've been like to live in those times.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Going Global</u></p>  <p>Why do we need to save Rainforests? We recognise and value the importance of the environment. Children will develop their knowledge and understanding of rainforests- their climates, people and creatures. They will also investigate deforestation and its global impact whilst considering how fair trade provides a positive way forward. Are you hungry to discover more?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Egyptian Discovery</u></p>  <p>Who were the Egyptians and why were they important? Building on their pre-historic knowledge from earlier in Year 3, the children will explore the secrets of Ancient Egypt- investigating the importance of the River Nile as a trade link, exploring the awe-inspiring wonder of the pyramids and discovering the mysteries surrounding the Pharaohs, Gods and Mummies. Let's travel back in time and unravel the secrets...</p>
<p>4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>White Water Adventure</u></p>  <p>Where does water come from and why is water important? Water is the most precious resource we have. The children will explore the importance of water around the world and learn how rivers, mountains and seas play a part in the water cycle. They also make links between Geography and DT to design and make their own bridges, linking with a field study to the local stream as well as the broader context of building bridges- linked to Coventry as a city of peace and reconciliation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>1 Minute to Midnight</u></p>  <p>How is climate change affecting our world and what can I do to make a difference? We recognise and value the importance of our world. Children will develop their knowledge and understanding of climate change, and how it affects us and our environment. They will be investigating the impact of deforestation, global warming and plastic pollution, and considering how we can make a positive difference to help look after our world. Are you willing to take on the challenge?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Under Attack!</u></p>  <p>What did the Romans do for us? Children will begin this topic by learning about what life was like for the Romans. They will find out about important inventions and how they link to life in Coventry and the U.K. today. As part of their Roman experience, they will become Roman soldiers, learning about their life and preparing for battle, following the orders of their leaders. "Semper Optimum!"</p>
<p>5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Back to the dark ages...</u></p>  <p>Who were the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and what did they do? Following previous learning about the Romans, children will travel back to the dark ages, the times of the 'Battling Saxons' and the 'Vicious Vikings'. They will discover what happened after the fall of the Roman Empire and how the Saxon village of Coventry grew. Through drama and role-play, they will explore each group and examine where they came from, how they lived, what they traded and whom they feared. Have your weapons ready!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>On your marks, get set, go!</u></p>  <p>Why are physical and mental health both important? At St. John's, we realise the importance of children's fitness and wellbeing. Through this topic, the children will develop their understanding of the benefits of physical activities- making links to how competitive sports began in Ancient Greece. They will also begin to understand how to maintain positive mental health, with strategies to help them when things don't go to plan. As part of this topic, the children will also receive basic first aid training #iwillshine</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Building our Future</u></p>  <p>What is in our environment and should we preserve it? This is a hands- on practical topic. As ecologists, children will build on their previously acquired geographical knowledge by practically exploring a local 'green' area. They will learn to name and identify human, physical and topographical features and develop the skills needed to identify them on a range of maps. This will be enriched through a real-life project with the children having the opportunity to gather and evaluate different viewpoints around land-use. The time is ticking...</p>

6

Catastrophe!



Is the world a dangerous place?

At the start of Year 6, we will be introducing the wilder side of Planet Earth through an in-depth look into the world of Earthquakes, Volcanoes and other natural and man-made disasters. The children will further embed their geographical knowledge and challenge themselves further through a range of current conflicts and debates. It's time to find out what's bubbling under the surface...

Operation: Moonlight Sonata



What impact did World War 2 have on the City of Coventry and beyond?

If there is to be reconciliation, first there must be truth! This topic will lead the children on a journey of discovery and self-reflection. They will look at how, when and where World War 2 began. We strongly value the importance of our local history and heritage so this is followed by an in-depth study into the impact on Coventry and the surrounding areas. The Coventry Blitz will be a key focus with links to how Coventry was re-built, through the world-wide acknowledgement of peace and reconciliation.

I will shine!



What have I become and where am I going?

As the children come to the end of their St. John's journey, the emphasis for this topic focuses on them as individuals and how they can contribute effectively as part of a team within school and across the wider community, both now and in the future. Through performing arts and creative projects, the children will become playwrights, actors, set designers, stage managers and marketing directors. They will use strategies they have developed throughout their time at school to solve problems, self-regulate their learning and develop their ideas further. Steven Spielberg- watch out!