

Year 4 Advent 1 Newsletter

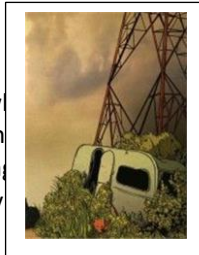
Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely summer break; I am Mrs Brassington and I am really looking forward to being a part of the St Charles' family.

English

This half term as writers, we will be focusing on:

The Caravan –

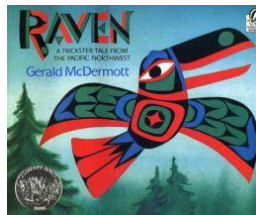
An atmospheric warning story about two boys who were told not to play near the pylon but of course – they did. A reminder about staying safe and not disobeying whilst developing descriptive language and story.



Raven -

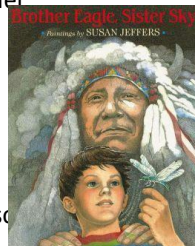
Raven the trickster wants to give people the gift of light. But can he sneak into the house of the Sky Chief and find out where light is hidden? It seems impossible, but if anyone can find a way to bring light to the world, wise and clever Raven can!

This story is a trickster tale from the Pacific Northwest.



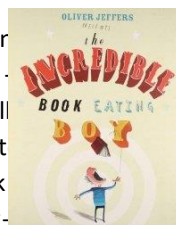
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky -

Chief Settle was a respected and peaceful leader of one of the Northwest Indian Nations. In the mid 1850's, the government in Washington wanted to buy the land of the Native Tribes. Chief Settle, spoke in his native tongue and many believe his 'speech' was one of the first environmental awareness speeches ever transcribed. His main message was to inspire, and that the earth is sacred.



The Incredible Book Eating Boy -

Henry discovers his unusual taste by mistake and is soon swept up in his new-found passion for every delicious book in sight! And better still, Henry realises that the more books he eats, the smarter he gets. Henry dreams of becoming the Incredible Book Boy; the smartest boy in the world! But a book-diet isn't the healthiest of habits, as Henry soon finds out...



Maths



This half term, as mathematicians, we are going to be focusing on the following:

4-digit Number

This unit builds on previous learning in Year 3 about place value within 1,000. This previous learning introduced children to the concept of counting in 10s, comparing numbers, ordering numbers and using a number line to 1,000. Children will continue to use these previously learnt skills and apply them when working with 4-digit numbers. Before they start this unit, it is expected that children:

- have a solid understanding of place value within 1,000 from Year 3
- understand how to count in 10s and 100s
- can order and compare numbers to 1,000.

Addition and Subtraction

This unit builds on children's Year 3 work on adding and subtracting with 3-digit numbers. It further develops their estimation and answer-checking strategies and their problem-solving skills. This unit provides essential preparation for beginning to add and subtract numbers with more than four digits. Before they start this unit, it is expected that children:

- have a firm understanding of place value (up to 4-digit numbers)
- know a range of mental addition and subtraction strategies
- can apply these strategies to a range of contexts including measure.

RE

Our first unit of learning is based around 'People' and where people come from. We will explore families and important

Bible stories that showcase families. For all of our RE learning, we use Come and See. This helps us and

connect deeply with our faith as a Catholic school. During this unit, we will be remembering, celebrating and



Is North America all the same?

For our topic learning this half term, we are going to become geographers and be completing a comparative study of North America!

Here is an outline of our learning for this half term: In **week one, as geographers**, we will be exploring which countries make up North America.

In **week two, as geographers**, we will be identifying what States the USA has, and attempt to name them all!

In **week three, as geographers**, our focus will be on the languages that are spoken in the USA, and why.

In **week four, as geographers**, the Grand Canyon will be our focal point and we will be researching how it was made.

In **week five, as geographers**, we will be looking at the climate in America and decide if we need woolly hats or swimming costumes!

In **week six, as geographers**, our research will take us through different time zones as we explore why people in America wake up after us!

All our geography learning this half term links with the following National Curriculum strands:

Locational Knowledge

♣ identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (i night)

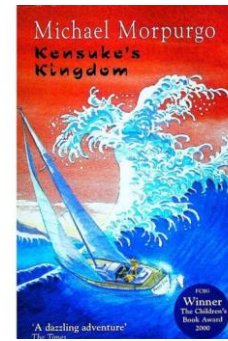
Place Knowledge

♣ understand geographical similarities and differences in the study of human and physical geography c United Kingdom, a region in a European coun within North or South America



Guided Reading

For our Guided Reading this half term, we are going to be developing our inferential and retrieval skills. As we become more confident with this, we will work towards timed exercises and more independent question answering. We use the ERIC approach to Guided Reading (Explain, Retrieval, Interpret and Choice). To build these skills this half term, we are going to be reading Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo.

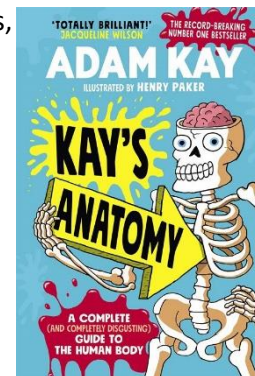


Science

I am super excited to share our first Science topic with you – because we get to carry out an experiment!

Our Enquiry Questions this half term is '**Can we eat what we want?**'

During this, we will be learning all about Animals including Humans, , teeth, and all about poo!



How can you help?

I can be contacted through the info@cha.srscmat.co.uk email address – Miss Smith will forward anything that is meant for me!

Daily reading is essential. The fluency and understanding of a text is now embedded, but we still need to work together to continuously challenge the children with their question answering, expression, tone and pace. Your child will be heard read at least 3 times a week in school by an adult, so please ensure that you listen to them read at home and record this in the Home/School diary.

This year, there will also be the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). This will take place in the Summer Term and is a statutory test for Year 4 children in England. More information will follow through the year, but there will be a real push on the times table knowledge your child has. We will use Timestables Rockstars along with other online games to help us practice.