



Saint Norbert's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Curriculum Newsletter

Advent Term 2026 – Year 1/2

Subject	Curriculum	Overview
RE	Creation & Covenant Prophecy and Promise Other faiths	In this unit, the children will explore the story of Noah and God's promise (covenant) to Noah and all living things, represented by the rainbow. They will think about how people's choices can affect their relationship with God and with others, and consider what it means to care for God's wonderful creation. The children will learn about the Bible, including the difference between the Old and New Testaments, and explore psalms as prayers of praise. They will also develop their understanding of Baptism as a sacrament which welcomes people into the Christian family. Through discussion, prayer, art and reflection, the children will consider how they can be good stewards of creation and make choices that show care for our world and for one another. In this unit, the children will explore the stories surrounding the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus, including the Annunciation and the Visitation. They will learn about prophets and how they communicate God's message, discovering how the prophet Isaiah's words point towards Jesus as the light in the darkness and 'God-with-us'. The children will learn about Mary as the mother of Jesus and explore her prayer, the Magnificat, as an example of praising God and longing for a fairer world. As they learn about Advent, the children will consider how Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. They will explore the meaning of Advent wreaths and candles and discover how different cultures celebrate this special season. They will also consider how they can 'share the light' by showing kindness and care for others. Judaism
English	• Sentence construction and punctuation • Handwriting and letter formation • Nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs • Conjunctions and expanded noun phrases • Sequencing and tense • Phonics, spelling rules and CEWs • Editing and improving writing	We will continue to teach phonics systematically, supporting children to apply their sounds when reading and spelling. Year 1 will focus on the foundations of writing, learning to orally rehearse and construct sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. Year 2 will build on these foundations by extending sentences and developing greater independence in their writing. We will explore a range of high-quality texts, beginning with Beegu, to develop vocabulary, comprehension and a love of reading. We will learn to identify and use nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, progressing to conjunctions and expanded noun phrases. We will learn to sequence and retell events, describe characters and settings, and explore characters' thoughts and feelings. We will write for different purposes, including descriptions, narratives, recounts, instructions and letters. We will develop spelling, handwriting, dictation and editing skills through regular practice. We will learn to retrieve information, make inferences and discuss vocabulary when reading.
Maths	This term in Maths: We will begin by developing our understanding of place value, including reading, writing, representing, comparing and ordering numbers. Year 1 will focus particularly on numbers within 10 and 20, while Year 2 will extend their understanding to numbers within 100. We will then develop our addition and subtraction skills. Children will learn to use practical equipment, pictures and number sentences to help them calculate, while developing their confidence and fluency with key number facts.	

	Later in the term, we will explore shape. Children will learn to recognise, name and describe a range of 2-D and 3-D shapes and investigate their different properties. Throughout the term, we will encourage children to explain their mathematical thinking, solve problems and develop their reasoning skills, building confident and independent mathematicians.	
Science	Living things and their habitats Animals, including humans	As biologists, we will begin to recognise living things and their habitats. We will learn about: • What is alive and what is not? • What do all living things have in common? • Where do plants and animals live? • What plants and animals live in our local environment? • What are food chains? How are they connected? • Why do plants and animals need each other? As biologists, we will learn about animals and recognise this includes humans. We will learn about: • What is an animal? • How do animals change as they mature? • How do we change as we mature? • What do all animals need to stay alive? • Keeping healthy – why do we exercise? • Keeping healthy – why do we eat different types of foods?
Art	Drawing Painting	We will explore drawing by using a range of mark makers to create a variety of effects which are dependent on the surface on which they are placed. The children will explore the skills through the exploration of a piece of artwork called 'Waves' by Beth Krommes. We will also explore how we can make marks in response to different music. The children will learn about the work of the artist Wassily Kandinsky. Once again, music will be used as we explore line, colour and space using paint as our medium.
DT	Textiles Food and Nutrition	We will learn how to use a template to create a simple patchwork by repurposing clothing to create something practical and useful. The children will explore the skills of cutting, joining and sewing through the exploration of a quilt created by the designer Frank Havrah 'Kaffe' Fassett. We will recognise what being healthy means and that eating a variety of vegetables provides the body with the nutrients it needs. We will make a 'Jam Jar Salad' using a range of vegetables and minimally processed foods. Making this product will help us learn how to safely prepare a range of salad vegetables.
Music	Rock and Reggae	This term, children will explore two contrasting musical styles: Rock and Reggae. They will listen and respond to music, learning to describe what they hear using musical vocabulary. Children will develop their singing and instrumental skills, including reading simple notation and playing tuned and untuned percussion. They will explore rhythm, off-beats, call and response and improvisation, as well as composing their own short rhythmic patterns. The term will culminate in rehearsing, performing, recording and evaluating pieces that combine their singing, playing and compositions.
PE	Bench ball (Invasion Games) Personal Best (Athletics)	This term in P.E., we will develop our skills through Bench Ball and Personal Best. In Bench Ball (Invasion Games), children will develop their throwing, catching, passing and movement skills. We will learn how to move into space, work effectively as part of a team and begin to think about simple attacking and defending tactics. Children will also develop an understanding of rules, teamwork and fair play. In Personal Best (Athletics), children will focus on improving their own performance through a range of running, jumping and throwing activities. We will practise different techniques, measure our achievements and challenge ourselves to improve our personal best, developing determination, resilience and confidence along the way.
Geography	Local Area – Human and Physical Features	Through this topic we will begin to recognise what human and physical features are within the built and natural environment. We will explore human and physical features within our local environment.
History	Events beyond living memory	We are going to learn about 'The Great Fire of London'. Through this topic, we will learn: • When and where it happened? • What happened?

		• We will explore how we know it happened and what we have learned from this past experience – how did this incident help to improve what we do today.
--	--	--