

**What we are learning  
this term in M1**



## **Literacy**

English lessons this term will have a focus on expanding reading and enriching writing. Handwriting will continue on a regular basis to help pupils grow in confidence forming letters correctly and legibly; and pupils will be encouraged to write more extended pieces. Confidence reading a wider range of texts will be supported and we encourage pupils to read as much as possible; so please help your child to read and share stories at home. We will also be introducing pupils to Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet comparing it to West Side Story and giving opportunities for drama. The second half of the term will conclude with a nonfiction topic on food writing.

## **Numeracy**

In Maths this term we will be consolidating work on integers, powers and roots in preparation for the introduction of algebra. This will then change to working with fractions, decimals and percentages after the half term break with the consolidation of number work from earlier in the year to encourage confidence with bigger numbers. For those less confident we will be supporting them by using visual prompts and reminders of place value and the language of maths. We will also develop their early skills in algebra. Please help your child by encouraging them to use maths in everyday situations such as telling the time and using money; also it will be of great help if they are confident with their times tables.

## **Science**

The topic in chemistry for the Spring term will be human reproduction. Topics covered will include the reproductive system, fertilisation, fetal development, birth and child development, and the development of the body into adolescence. It is important to cover this topic at this stage in pupils education, as it provides insight into stages of development that they will be experiencing over the coming years.

## **Religious Education**

As an important part of Derrymount's values pupils will be encouraged to show tolerance to other people; their views, culture and beliefs; to respect others and celebrate diversity. In RE this term pupils will continue learning about Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. In addition, students will learn about festivals and celebrations from world religions as they occur throughout the term including Chinese New Year, Easter, Baisakhi, Passover and Guru Nanak's birthday. When studying RE, the students will be encouraged to know about and understand a range of religions and world views; express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of these views and develop knowledge about religion and belief in relation to British values.

## **PSVE/TITAN**

PSVE this term will include sessions leading on from the autumn term to improve life skills and keeping safe. There will be opportunities to progress through personal, social and vocational education, careers, citizenship, independent skills and TITAN as a route to encouraging pupils to become more independent learners. TITAN will continue with its programme of building confidence in travelling and other PSVE lessons will help pupils develop their confidence and responsibility in making the most of their abilities.

In humanities this term we will be starting off looking at changes in society, the economy and culture of England in the period between 1509 and 1745. After half term pupils will study the geography of Asia comparing it with what they discovered about Africa. They will have the opportunity to identify the location, cities, features, landscapes, characteristics, economics and environment of the continent. One country, chosen by the pupil, will be studied in more depth. As part of Derrymount values we will be encouraging pupils to show respect and tolerance for other societies and cultures.

## **PE**

This term pupils will continue to work on teamwork and sportsmanship as well as build on and embed both their basic PE skills and also continue to develop their tactical awareness across a variety of sport such as team sports like Handball and Football. Pupils will continue to develop their skill levels in more individual areas within PE such as badminton. Parents can support pupils by sending them in every week with a clean PE kit (eg a change of t-shirt and jumper and either shorts or tracksuit bottoms as well as trainers).

## **Computing**

This term, students will develop their programming skills and how to write sequences of instructions and debug simple programs that have errors in them. They will also use digital manipulation tools such as graphics, desk top publishing and video editing tools. You can help your child at home by encouraging their creativity and skills when using computers/tablets.

## **Music**

In music this half term we are going to create our own compositions. This involves learning some scales, and how to write music using standard notation.

## **Art**

Pupils this term will be investigating some varied styles and movements from 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art, and inspiration will be sourced from researching artists who have made a substantial difference in the art world. Pupils will be making their mark in a variety of styles ranging from abstraction to graffiti that will develop their skills in design, painting and the theory of colour.

## **German**

The students are currently working on the topic "Travel". The topic includes talking about different modes of transport, describing traveling destinations and sightseeing. The students have opportunity to expand their vocabulary gain experience using the present and the past tense.

## **Humanities**

Students will be learning about the continent of Africa. They will develop map reading skills and use a variety of sources to research and increase their knowledge about the people, culture, animals and environment of Africa. Learning can be reinforced by access to the geography section of BBC bitesize at home.

## **Design and Technology**

Pupils this term will be concentrating on cooking by exploring some different aspects of pastry. From designing their own jam tarts, experimenting with shape and filling to then cover the savoury pallet with cheese pastry triangles. Pupils will also be given the opportunity to be creative working with salt dough where they can develop their modelling skills.