ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nazareth Class (Year 4/5) – Mrs Sewell & Miss Smith









Spring 2 Term 2026 Newsletter

Curriculum Overview

Monday 23rd February – Thursday 26th March

Being kindhearted and fair



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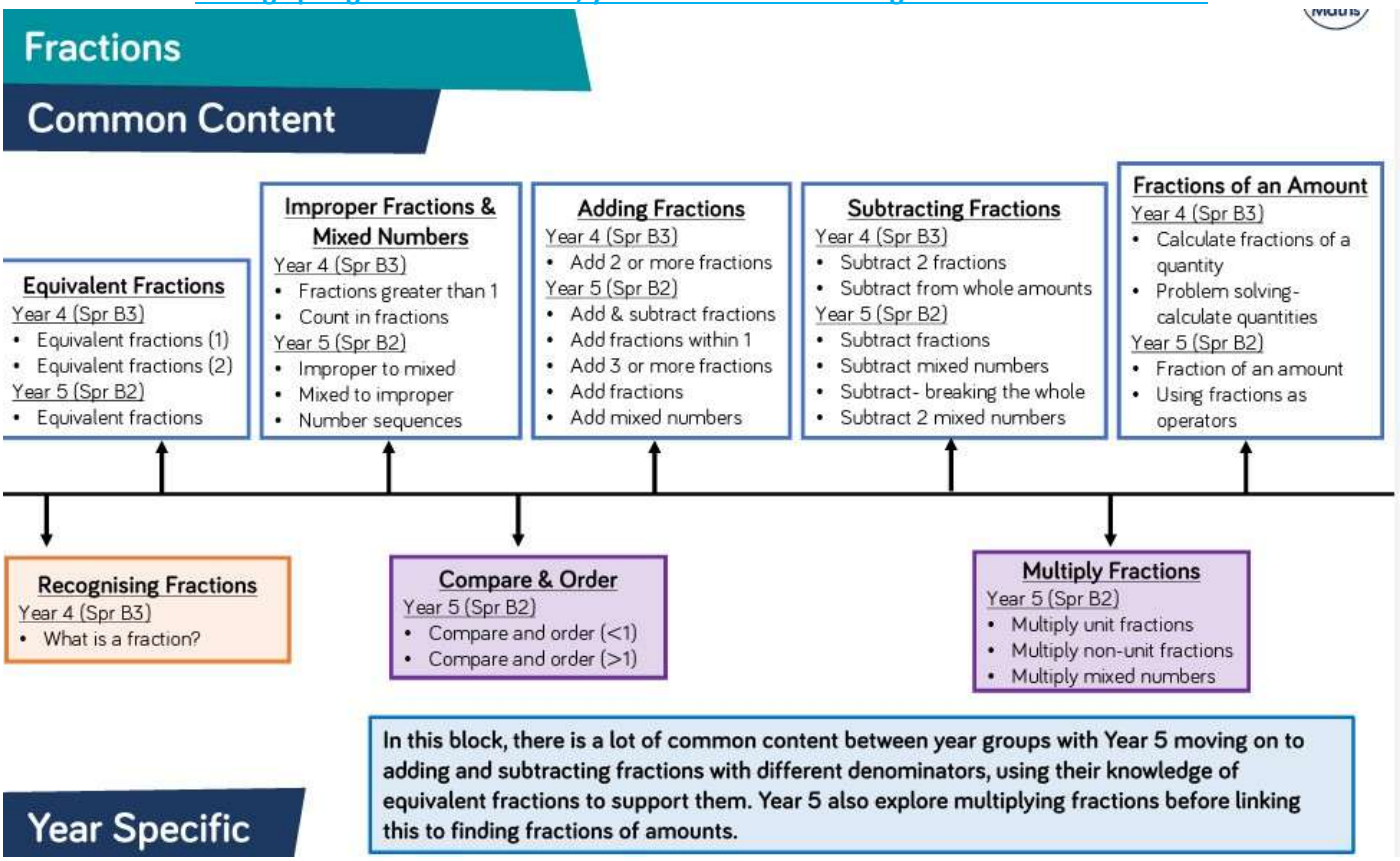
During Spring 2 in mathematics, your child will be learning how to handle fractions:



English: Fiction – Boy 87

This half term will be continuing to read *Boy 87* by Ele Fountain.



The story follows a young boy who is forced to flee his home country in Africa after his village is attacked. Separated from his family, he must travel across dangerous landscapes, face hunger and hardship, and survive in unfamiliar places. Along the way, he shows incredible bravery, resilience and hope as he searches for safety and a better future.

The novel explores themes of friendship, courage, identity and belonging. It also gently introduces children to the experiences of refugees in an age-appropriate way, encouraging empathy and understanding of others around the world.

Through this powerful story, pupils will develop their comprehension skills while also reflecting on important values such as kindness, perseverance and compassion.

Religious Education this half term: Desert to Garden

- The experience of the People of God in the desert after the Exodus, learning to trust in God.
- How God provides, guides, and remains faithful to His covenant.
- The imagery of desert and garden in Scripture as symbols of testing, hope, and renewal.
- How this theme is fulfilled in the life and mission of Jesus Christ, especially through His time in the wilderness and the promise of new life.
- Making links to the Church's journey through Lent towards Easter.

The children reflect on how times of difficulty can lead to growth, how God brings new life from challenging situations, and how Christians today are called to trust God and help transform the world from "desert" places into "gardens" of hope.

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Our Science this term is: Reproduction

We will continue the children's work on puberty by studying 'Animals including Humans' and the children will be learning about fertilisation, reproduction and life cycles.

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Important Information:

Water Bottles: Please ensure your children brings in their water bottle each day. The children are allowed access to water throughout the day; it is something we encourage, however if they don't come to school with a bottle, this becomes an issue, especially during teaching time.

Swimming will be on Thursdays: The children will continue to attend swimming weekly. The children to be prepared each week with their kit including trunks/costume and a swimming towel. If their hair is long enough to cover their eyes, then they need a swimming cap. Any child with long hair it is recommended that hair is plaited as this make it easier for swimming caps to go on and they don't need to brush it when they come out.

PE will be on Thursdays: If you child has their ears pierced and if it is possible, please remove the studs on the days stated or the child must be capable of removing the earrings themselves. If your child is unable to do PE, a written note should be handed in and this should not go on longer than two weeks. As the weather remains colder, please ensure your child has warmer clothes to wear with their PE kit as we will be doing outdoor PE where possible.

Homework: This will continue to be **Tuesday and Fridays**. Tuesdays as English, with a focus this term on reading comprehension and Fridays as Maths, which may be paper or My Maths (logins are in their reading record). In Piano Class, I have a homework chart to record homework and there is a weekly winner who gets chosen from the raffle tickets based on how much they have done (5 minimum pieces is 5 ticks = reading 3 times and 2 pieces of homework). It's been great to see the children practicing spellings and using TTRS or reading more than 3 times; this has meant more ticks on the homework chart, therefore more raffle tickets! In addition, to this we have Cake and Shake Fridays for those who complete the minimum expectation of **reading at least 3 times**. I wish we had time for the children to listen one to one in school, but the curriculum is very demanding, and this isn't something we get the chance to do, so please complete this, with discussion about the book and vocabulary to support your child's progress with reading and understanding.

Key Dates:

How are we halfway through the school year? Another busy half term upcoming:

- Lenten Liturgy Parent Workshop – 2nd March
- Class Mass 10am at St Mary's – 4th March
- World Book Day – 6th March
- Pilgrimage Trip to Ladyewell – 13th March
- Stations of the Cross – Wednesday 25th March (hall open until 3:45pm for parents to come and see after school)
- BIG Lent Walk – Thursday 26th (sponsorship form will be out soon)

Parents Evening 18th April - as usual the form will go out closer to the date and you may book a timing to suit you. If you struggle to book, you can phone the office and they can do it for you.

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Reminders

I see the education and development of children as a partnership with parents and carers. To support your child at home, please ensure that:

- **You sign, comment and date your child's reading book; therefore, it can be changed when required. Reading to an adult at least three times a week is the minimum expectation.**
- **Encourage and support your child when learning their weekly spellings. Spellings will be sent home on a Friday, ready to be tested the following Friday. They are given on a sheet with space to practise.**
- **Homework will be given out on a Friday and returned by/on Tuesday. The second lot of homework will be given out on a Tuesday and returned by/on Friday. If homework isn't completed, they'll be given the opportunity in school to catch up.**
- **Continue to encourage and provide opportunities for your child to practise their times tables – remember to use TTRS or Hit the button on a phone, tablet or computer to improve their knowledge and speed of recognising times table facts. I have put on the class page, under class information, parental information and a useful website for Year 4s to practice.**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that I am here to support, advise and work with you, so please ensure you speak with me if you have any concerns or worries by making an appointment at the office or message me via dojo.
Many thanks, Mrs Sewell