Year 4 Autumn Topic Web 2026

Religious Education

Branch 1 - Creation and Covenant

This term, Year 4 will explore the foundational stories of Abraham and Joseph from the Old Testament, focusing on the theme of 'Covenant' as a special and lasting relationship with God. The children will learn about Abraham's extraordinary journey of faith, his hospitality to strangers, and how God's promises to him are ultimately fulfilled through the life of Jesus. We will also study the story of Joseph, reflecting on themes of jealousy and the power of forgiveness. The children will even look at how these ancient stories are retold today through art and music, such as Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, to understand how the Bible continues to inspire us.

In addition to these narratives, pupils will delve into the three 'theological virtues' of faith, hope, and love. By studying the lives and prayers of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. John Henry Newman, the children will discover how to trust in God's plan even when the path is unclear. We will reflect on how these virtues can transform our own lives and communities, encouraging us to be 'good neighbours' through charitable outreach and daily acts of kindness. Through these lessons, the children will see that following God involves both costs and great blessings.

Branch 2 - Prophecy and Promise

This term, Year 4 will explore the theme of "Prophecy and Promise," beginning with an investigation into the Feast of Christ the King and the concept of "servant leadership." The children will delve into the ancestry of Jesus through the tradition of the Jesse Tree, discovering how key figures from the Old Testament—such as Abraham, Sarah, and King David—link to the birth of Christ. They will learn that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's ancient promises and reflect on how his "kingship" of love and justice differs from that of earthly rulers.

The children will also study the role of prophets, focusing on the lives of Elijah and John the Baptist. We will explore how Elijah trusted in God's guidance during difficult times and heard His voice in a "gentle whisper," and compare how different Gospel writers portray John the Baptist as the messenger sent to prepare the way for the Lord. As we enter the season of Advent, pupils will use these stories to reflect on their own spiritual preparation, seeking ways to act with repentance, kindness, and hope as they get their hearts ready for the birth of Jesus.

At St Wilfrid's, we are very proud to be a part of the Building the Kingdom programme, the aim of which is to embed distinctive Catholic curriculum design for the transformation of society.

Through Building the Kingdom, we explore the big questions of purpose and meaning that arise throughout the Liturgical year, and then create lessons and events which engage students with the skills needed to be agents for a Spirit-fuelled transformation of society.

The Big Questions for this Half Term:

September - Who are the important women in our lives?

October - How can we care for God's world?

November - Is death the end or a new beginning?

December – Is the incarnation wasted on people today?

English	Maths	Humanities
Development of writing through: **Fiction, Non–fiction and Poetry writing;** Children will be asked to develop, recall and understand the language and organisational features of a range of text-types including: Narratives, Information texts and poetry using figurative language. - **Grammar/Phonics:** English lessons will have a clear grammar and spelling element within them. This terms grammar focus includes: Fronted Adverbials, Apostrophes for possession and Pronouns. Spelling will be taught using Spelling Shed to cover Y4 spelling rules.	**Place Value** Children begin to explore numbers over 1,000 Examples have been chosen to ensure that children look at representing and interpreting numbers that have no tens or no ones, to reinforce the idea of using zero as a placeholder. Base 10 and place value counters are used throughout. **Addition and Subtraction** Children recap this learning and extend their understanding to dealing with 4-digit numbers and adding and subtracting multiples of 1,000. The focus is on mental rather than written strategies, which are covered later in the block. **Area** Children explore different ways of working out the area of a shape, and it is important that children recognise that some ways are better than others. **Multiplication and division A** Children explore the link between counting in 3s 6s and 9s and the 3, 6, 9 times-table. They use familiar representations such as number tracks and hundred squares to represent these. They explore how to recognise if a number is a multiple of 3, 6 or 9 by finding its digit sum.	**History – Ancient Greece** Children will learn about the development of Athenian Democracy and will contrast the values held by the citizens of the Athens with those of the war focused Spartans. Children will see how long held hatred between enemies can be put aside when an outside threat, King Darius and his Persian Army, required the city-states to unite to defend Greece from invasion. **Geography – Special Sense** Children will learn that lines of latitude are lines that measure the north-south position between the poles. They will also learn that lines of longitude measure the position east or west of the Prime Meridian line. This unit will also revisit grid references, this time taking children on to using four and six figure grid references

Science 1	Art
The Human Body Building on their disciplinary knowledge children will learn that some scientists study things under a microscope to see things in more detail than our eyes can see. This unit introduces cells as the building blocks that all living things are made of. Children will learn that cells inside our bodies make up tissue (e.g. muscle), which make up organs, which function in systems within our bodies. This unit explains digestion in much more detail than previously learned, but holds the understanding of cells alongside this, so that children can begin to understand there is much going on at microscopic level. The concept of nutrients within foods will be better understood when children know that there are very tiny things we cannot see around us.	**Light** The children then look at the work of Vermeer, another master of light, considering how he used extremes of light to create a calm realism. They compare this with the drama of the work of Caravaggio. Over the course of four lessons the children then develop their skills using acrylics to paint a still life using tone to create form. They learn how painters traditionally used a 'ground' and 'underpainting' as a basis for their paintings and use the same techniques.

Computing	Technology
Computing is taught discretely through BGFL 365. Computing also takes a pivotal role throughout core and foundation subjects, where children are provided the opportunity to retrieve, record and publish work on computers. Children are taught to use computers and access the internet safely and appropriately through E-Safety lessons and during Safer Internet Day.	**Functional and Fancy Fabrics** This project teaches children about home furnishings and the significant designer William Morris. They learn techniques for decorating fabric, including block printing, hemming and embroidery and use them to design and make a fabric sample.

The Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.