



Loved, Valued, Challenged

Welcome to the Advent Term



Welcome to Class 3 Year 3!

I hope you all had a fantastic summer and a really good and restful break. I am really looking forward to the new school year and getting to know you all.

All Newsletters and letters will be added to the **new school website** under the following tabs:
Curriculum/Class Pages/Class 3/Newsletters

You can also click on the link below to take you straight to the Advent newsletter:

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/curriculum/class-pages/class-page-2-2-2-2/#1644578389373-226a4ede-6c15>

Please ensure that you find some time to navigate yourself around the new school website so you can familiarise yourself with it.

Please see the outline for each subject for the Advent Term.

We will also make cross-curricular links to other areas of learning such as art, D&T, PE and ensure that we have a knowledge-rich and ambitious curriculum which teaches the children the depth and breadth of a topic to embed their skills and knowledge in their learning.



Our **Come and See** topics this term are 'Homes', 'Promises' and 'Visitors'. We shall also be spending a week finding out about another faith. This term we shall be finding out about Judaism.

In 'Homes', we shall be learning about what the title means, what family means to you, how we can create a happy home and how we can look to the Holy Family and Jesus' teachings to guide us. In our 'Promises' topic, our work will include

learning about the different promises that we make, identifying and discussing the stages of Baptism and retelling the story of the Baptism of Jesus. In 'Visitors' we will learn about different visitors that are important in the Bible and thinking about how we might prepare for them. This will include Isaiah's preparation for God's visit and how the church might prepare for the celebration of Jesus's birth.

In **English** we shall be reading and linking our writing to our history topic of The Stone Age. This term, we will learn to recognise some of the features of narrative writing; a non chronological text and some poetry.

We will also focus on our writing by ensuring that all sentences are punctuated accordingly and joining our letters cursively. We shall also be looking at how to improve our writing by using adjectives, a wide range of punctuation, and develop our editing and redrafting skills. We will also learn to write in different styles; letters, information, poetry, story and focus on ways to make our writing interesting.

We will continue to work on our spellings with some revision of year 2 common exception words and working our way onto learning the year 3 words. When learning our spellings, we will be learning some of the different spelling patterns to help us.

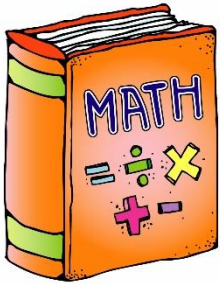


**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.**
-Dr. Seuss

We shall be using our reading **VIPERS** – Vocabulary Infer Predict Explain Retrieve Sequence - to analyse, improve and support our understanding when reading specific texts in detail.

The children will be exposed to daily reading from the teacher during story and read as a whole class. They will also be reading 1:1, at least once a week to a grown-up too. I will be sending reading books home (coloured book band books).

Please ensure that your child spends at least 10 minutes reading to you each day, and that your child brings their reading books, yellow reading diary and book bags, to school every day.



In **Maths** we shall follow the New National Curriculum but will have lots of fun putting our learning into the context of our topic. Children will be set weekly maths challenges which will be completed in school on a Friday morning which are vital to support their development of speed and fluency in all aspects of math. This is called the Friday Maths Challenge (FMC) and the children are already familiar with this. This will also support their knowledge and understanding and ensure that what they have learnt has been embedded in their long-term memory. We will learn number facts which need to be learnt by heart (for example, recognising and ordering numbers up to 1,000 and the 3, 4 and 8 times table) and the inverse (opposite calculations to check your answers) too. It is extremely important that you support your child with these math concepts at home as these facts will underpin much of the maths this year which they will find much easier to access if they know these facts by heart and quickly, but also if they know how to apply these skills concretely (using objects), pictorially (drawing and writing) and abstractly (off by heart and know how and why you came to the answer). This in turn will then support them with their reasoning and problem-solving skills.

In **History**, we shall be learning about pre-history and what it means for something to be pre-historic. We will be looking at the different eras included in pre-historic times, with particular focus on the Stone Age. We will discover who used to live in these times and what life was like for them.



In **Geography**, our topic is Cities of the UK. We will learn that there are lots of cities in the UK which make up our country and begin to know the differences between urban and rural areas. We will be improving our geography skills by looking at maps (OS and Google) to compare areas, recognise features and use six-figure referencing.

In **Science** we shall be learning about the different types of rocks and how they have been made. We will compare their features and uses as materials. As a part of our rocks topic we will also be looking at fossils, learning how they are made, what can become a fossil and how they are discovered.

Please ensure that if your child is having a packed lunch, that they include healthy snacks such as fruit or dried fruit, rather than sweet treats such as chocolate and crisps every day.



In **PE** we shall be learning lots of new strategies to help us in our games. We will begin learning different gymnastics moves such as stretching, curling and arching as well as learning how to play net and wall games. We will learn how to improve our hand-eye coordination and hitting skills as well as learning the rules to the games.

Note: Please ensure that you do not wear earrings on PE days.

Our PE days will be every Thursday.

Please could children come to school on their PE days in their PE kits. Please ensure that they are wearing no tracksuits with logos but plain navy jumpers and joggers, or their school jumper/cardigan is also fine and a plain white t-shirt. Thank you.

We will be following our Charanga scheme of music, learning about pitch, tone, tempo, beat using our voices and musical instruments too. We will also be listening to lots of different songs too. We will also be having singing lessons every Friday.



We will also be taking in singing lessons on a weekly basis, some of which will be shared with parents/carers in December at a Carol Concert at Nottingham Cathedral, see date in the diary dates section below.

Forest Schools will be taught by Mrs Hudson on a Wednesday morning on alternate weeks.

Please make a note of our Forest Schools sessions for this term in your diary:

7th September

21st September

5th October

2nd November

16th November

30th November

14th December

Remember to wear your PE kits and suitable clothing for being outside.

Please bring a pair of plimsolls to change into when you come back into the classroom.



Curriculum Letters

As we are trying to save paper and help the environment by reducing waste, our Curriculum Letter, which will give you an insight to all of the topics we will cover this term, will no longer be printed for you unless you send me a message via Class Dojo to request a paper copy. They will then be added at the beginning of each term electronically on our class page on the school

website; Lent (Spring) and Pentecost (Summer) letters, under the following tab:

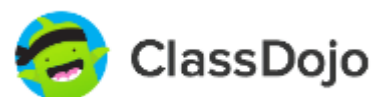
Curriculum tab/ClassPages/Class3/ Newsletters. I will also add any trip letters here too.

Please ensure that you keep up-to-date with homework, spellings, news, events and dates for your diary by checking our class page and Class Dojo regularly so you don't miss any. I will be updating these on a regular basis. Thank you.

Our School Website

Please check out our school website regularly to keep up to date with news and events on the following link <https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/>

I will also be using Class Dojo to communicate with all parents. If you have any questions or queries, please send me a message via Class Dojo. This allows you to contact me directly rather than emailing/contacting the office/head teacher. I will try to respond as quickly as possible to any messages that I receive.



Labels

Please ensure you write your child's name on all their items of clothing as I'm sure you understand all look the same. I have a permanent marker if you would like to borrow this.

Plimsolls

Please could you ensure that your child has a pair of plimsolls in school. Please ensure that they are clearly labelled with your child's name.



Water bottles

Please could you ensure that your child has a water bottle in school at all times with their names clearly labelled on it. Water bottles will be sent home every night to be returned the next day. Please ensure that water bottles are filled with water when they are returned and I will ensure that the children know how to fill these in class once it becomes empty.

Fruit

The Government no longer provides fruit for children after KS1. If you would like a snack at break time you will need bring it with you in your bag. We are a healthy school and would like to promote healthy eating so please can you ensure your snack is a healthy one.



All homework and spellings will be added to the homework or spellings tab on the class page on the school website in Class 3s tab.

The children will be given a few types of homework this year. Please see the list of weekly homework tasks:

- 1) **Read at least 4 times a week**, at least 10 minutes each time, write a note in their orange diary of how they read and signed by the grown-up they have read to.
- 2) **Reading** - The children will be given reading books and an orange reading diary which needs to be kept in their book bags and brought to school each day.

Please read with your child at least 4 times a week and we will read once individually in school. If your child reads 5 times a week, they will receive a stamp on the charter on the inside cover of their reading diary. One stamp equals 5 reads and for every 25 reads, they will receive a certificate.

- 3) **Learn your weekly spellings** ready for spelling test on Friday. All of the words that have been sent home are words which the children should be able to read, write and apply correctly to their writing by the end of Year 3.

Spellings will be handed out at the beginning of a half-term which will outline the spellings for each week for that half-term. You will notice that as you move down the spellings grid, words will be repeated. These will be tested in a spelling book which will be kept in school and the scores will be shared with you via an email on Class Dojo. Spellings will be added to the class page on the school website at the beginning of each half-term under the Spellings tab.

- 4) **Log onto Spelling Shed** to play the games that I have assigned. These may link to our year 3 spellings or retrieval practice from Year 2.

- 5) **Come and See Explore Homework** - **once a month** - I will send a piece of paper with our Come and See homework to mark our new topic. Come and See is our Religious Education Programme of study. This will be sent on a Friday to be returned the following Monday.

Please ensure that your child writes their name on the back of their work.

- 6) **Times Table Rock Stars** – please log on and practise your times tables. This is a fun way to learn your math facts.

- 7) **Knowledge Organisers** – **KOs** – these will be added to the class page on the school website under the Knowledge Organisers tab at the beginning of each half-term. It will consist of an A4 sheet of paper of information, words or facts about a topic we are learning this term/half-term which will form part of your weekly homework.

Knowledge Organisers include basic knowledge of a topic that we would like your child to learn and embed in their long-term memory to enable them to use the skills/vocabulary in lessons and out of school. We will be using these knowledge organisers in lessons to help us learn about certain topics.



Spelling Shed

Each week, I will specify which section of the knowledge organiser to learn via a note of Class Dojo.

It might seem like I have set a lot of homework tasks but some types of homework will be weekly tasks that are on-going such as completing Spelling Shed games, Times Table Rock Stars, reading and learning spellings every week and some, only once a month.

Diary Dates – A few dates for your diary 😊

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon – Friday 30th September 2022

October half-term - 2 weeks – break up on Friday 14th October and back to school on Monday 31st October 2022

Whole School Individual Photos – Tuesday 4th October 2022

Harvest Festival – Friday 7th October 2022

World Mental Health Day – WMHD – This is always on the 10th October every year and there will be activities in class linked to this.

Parents Meeting – Monday 10th October 2022. This will be for those who would like a face to face meeting.

Parents Meeting – Wednesday 12th October 2022. This will be for those who would like a meeting on teams.



Please check our school calendar or link your mobile to it via the school's website to the most current dates of things happening in school.

I look forward to working with you to ensure a happy and productive time for the children who are the centre of all we do as we strive to give your child the best possible education as they progress through Holy Cross School.

I look forward to working with you all this year. Thank you in advance for your help and support.

Miss Gibbens