



Welcome to Holy Cross Foundation Stage One

Curriculum Newsletter and Useful Information

Lots of useful links are included - just click the links

Lent Term in Foundation Stage One

We hope you have had a peaceful Christmas - Happy New year to you all.

Welcome back to term two, we are pleased to welcome three new children to our nursery this term. Eli, Elisha and Mary.

Here is an overview of the children's learning over this half term.

We will spend this half-term in the portable classroom, so things will be a little different for all of us, but we will do our best to ensure that the children are happy and settled. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to send me a message via Class Dojo, or telephone the office and leave a message if it is urgent.

Thank you for your support.



Come and See – Celebrating

We will be finding out about [Holy Cross church](#) this term. In class, we will be thinking about what a celebration is, the elements of celebration and how people celebrate.

The children will listen to the 'Presentation Story' of Jesus and learn all about Anna and Simeon. The children will also learn how the Parish celebrates.

Click here for the [Knowledge Organiser](#)

Understanding of the World

This half term our main topic is [The History of Toys](#). We will be finding out about which toys children played with a long time ago. We will also be thinking about the materials that were used to make the toys and comparing them to what toys are like today. We will be using websites, books and library resources to enrich our learning.



Class Dojo - Portfolios

I will be setting a task for you and your child on Class Dojo. It would be wonderful to hear from your child's grandparents and great-grandparents - if possible. Perhaps they could share photographs of themselves as children playing with toys, maybe they have kept toys that they could show your children. It would be very exciting for the children to watch a video made by grandparents or great-

grandparents on Class Dojo. Please keep checking Class Dojo for more information.

We will also be finding out about freezing and melting. We will make close observations of the changes we can see. We will use an iPad to take photos of the changes.

Our second topic will be all about floating and sinking. We will make predictions and think about why some materials float while others sink. There will be lots of time to explore materials and carry out experiments.

Literacy

In phonics, we will perform songs with actions, identify body sounds, use our voices to make sounds and move our bodies in response to an instrument. We will also continue to build upon our listening skills. The children will continue to take part in fine motor skills activities so that they can gain control when writing and drawing. They will bring two books home each week, one a library book for you to share and the other a school reading book. [Click me](#) for more information. We ask that you share them with your children and return them weekly in their book bags so we can change them. We will encourage the children to continue looking through the books and describing what they see and what may be happening. We will be reading a variety of fact and fiction books this half-term. Some will be linked to our topics, others

How can you help?

- ✓ Children will take a Library Book home each week please read and discuss the story with your child.
- ✓ After asking questions about the story, ask your child what they saw, what happened, and what could happen next.
- ✓ Helping your child to form letter shapes from their name. To control the pencil using a tripod grip.
- ✓ Encouraging them to notice colours, shapes, features and things that match.
- ✓ Talking about amounts, sizes and comparing.



Mathematics

- Noticing - Making them aware of the maths around them.
- Commenting on features and shapes.
- Naming and matching items.
- Sorting objects, into chosen groups and groups of the children's choosing.
- Comparing amounts
- Comparing sizes.
- Recognising numbers
- Repeating patterns



Physical Development

- Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters and bikes) and ball skills.
- Using a pencil and other tools effectively.
- Considering ways to keep healthy and safe, eat healthy foods and look after our bodies.
- Developing how to manage basic hygiene and personal care needs for themselves, including dressing and going to

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Being a good friend.
- Turn taking and sharing.
- Using our manners.
- Being good at tidying up and looking after our environment.
- How to stay safe and healthy.



Communication and Language

- Listening and responding to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.
- Listening attentively to stories, anticipating key events and commenting on what they have heard.
- Maintaining attention, concentration and sitting quietly during small group carpet time.
- Developing narrative and vocabulary through play.

will be children's choices.



[Click me](#) for a list of books you may want to take out at the library

A great website with lots of useful information regarding your child's learning, and development and how you can support them further.

[Oxford Owl](#)



the toilet.



Hang Up Stuff



Expressive Art and Design

- How to use paintbrushes, pencils, pens and modelling materials effectively.
- Using various materials to make, draw and paint.
- Mixing colours.
- Rhythm in music and dance.
- Singing - nursery rhymes
- Role-play during free play.



Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

The children will have continuous access to daily fine motor activities and they will also take part in dough disco, Squiggle whilst you Wiggle and Funky Fingers activities.

Gross Motor Skills

Children will develop their gross motor skills through outdoor play; running, climbing, balancing, crawling etc. They will develop their ability to move safely too, developing core muscle strength, stability, coordination and balance. We will have weekly yoga activities and will be focusing on ball skills this half-term.

Other Useful Information

Cold Weather, Clothing and Outdoor Learning

A large part of our curriculum is conducted outdoors, so please can you ensure that your child has a coat every day, which is ideally warm and waterproof. Please make sure that all coats, gloves, scarves and hats are named. Check your

Book Bags

We recommend that your child has a named Holy Cross book bag. If each child has a book bag, we can ensure that they go home with their library books, artwork and any leaflets each day. Please can you ensure you

Dates for your diary...

January

4th - Children's Rights Week

February

6th - Children's Mental Health Week

6th - Termly Learning Meetings (Parents' meetings time and dates to be confirmed)

Homework

- ✓ Read at least 4 times a week
 - ✓ [Numbots](#)
- ✓ Singing - please sing nursery rhymes with your child - [Click me](#)
- ✓ Explore Homework - see Class Dojo - will be sent home
- ✓ Please see our Class

child's jumper and write over any fading names. We do go out all weather and want your children to be able to learn and explore the outdoors as much as possible. If they wear welly boots to Nursery they will also require their school shoes this day for indoor play.



do not put drinks or toys in their book bag.

Encourage your child to put their own coat and other personal items away each morning, as this will help improve their independence.

We also recommend **one** keyring, to easily identify your child's bag.

Change of Clothing

Please send a bag with one set of cleaning clothing, this will remain in school - just in case we need to change your child's clothing. Make sure your child's name is on the bag.



Buy some printed name labels to stick onto clothing - use the family surname, and then you can use them for all of your children.

7th Safer Internet Day
10th Inset Day - School closed

13th Half-term - school will re-open Monday 20th February

20th - Fairtrade Fortnight
22nd Ash Wednesday

March

31st Last day of Lent Term
School Re-opens Monday 17th April

*This list is not conclusive - please continue to check the [school website](#), Class Dojo and read school text messages.

page for more click ['useful links'](#)

Finally,

Your child's happiness is our number one priority - if you have any questions regarding your child's development, learning, well-being, or concerns or worries, please do not hesitate to ask. You can message me via Class Dojo, I am happy to call you or meet with you.

Also, if you experience any changes to your personal circumstances, that may impact your child's well-being, please let us.

We will do whatever we can to help.

Thank you!

Mrs Khalil