



Loved, Valued, Challenged

Welcome to the Lent Term



Welcome to Class 3 Year 3!

I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and a really good and restful break. I am really looking forward to continuing to get to know you all and learning lots more fun stuff.

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 Lent newsletter:

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

Please see the outline for each subject for the Lent 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 'Journeys', 'Listening and Sharing' and 'Giving all'.

In 'Journeys', we shall be learning about the Catholic journey as we go through the liturgical year. We shall begin by looking at the liturgical calendar, identifying and exploring why we have the different seasons and celebrations throughout the year. In our 'Listening and sharing' topic we will be taking a closer look at

Mass, finding out the different aspects that make up the service, why each part is so important and how this brings us closer to God. In 'Giving all' we will be thinking about why we should give to others and how we can give to other people through the period of Lent.

In **English** we shall be reading and linking our writing to our history topic of The Egyptians. This term, we will learn to recognise some of the features of a playscript, narrative character descriptions, persuasive writing and letter writing.



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 grammar 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.

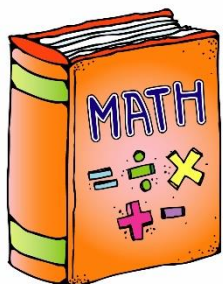
We will continue to work on our spellings, focusing on the year 3 common exception words and year 3 spelling patterns. A big focus will also be on using our spelling knowledge in our writing.

**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. I will be sending reading books home (coloured book band books). Books will be changed on a Wednesday but the children can change their books throughout the week if they have finished the selection that they took home.

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. We will begin our multiplication and division topic so we will be concentrating on learning our timestables and how we can use this in number calculations. Towards the end of the term we will also begin our length and perimeter topic. 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 the Egyptians and the importance of the River Nile. We will be learning about when the Egyptian civilisations began to appear in strength, their beliefs about the afterlife and the social hierarchy of the civilisation. This links nicely to our Stone Age topic from last term as the Ancient Egyptians began to stabilise around the Neolithic period.



In **Geography**, our topic is Landmarks of the World.

We will learn that there are certain places that are protected by World Heritage Sites and where and what some of the world's most famous landmarks are. We will continue to develop our understanding of maps and atlases by locating these in the different countries.

In **Science** we shall be learning about how we need light to be able to see things and that the absence of light is darkness. We will learn that light comes from both natural and man made sources and we will experiment with different objects to find their affect on shadows.

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 travelling with a change of front and direction as well as learning how to play invasion games, looking at passing and receiving balls with hands, feet and sticks.

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.

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:

11th January

25th January

8th February

1st March

15th March

29th March



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.

Children are expected to complete a minimum of 30 minutes practise on TTRS each week and 2 games on SpellingShed from the assigned word lists. This will be checked on Fridays. Children who have been unable to complete this (for whatever reason) will be expected to attend Homework Club on Friday lunchtimes at 12.30 to support them with these skills.

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. 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 😊

February half-term - 1 week – break up on Friday 10th February and back to school on Monday 20th February 2023

World book day – 2nd March 2022

Parents Meeting – Monday 6th February 2023. This will be for those who would like a meeting on teams.

Parents Meeting – Wednesday 8th February 2023. This will be for those who would like a face to face meeting.

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

