



Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy



September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Class 1! I hope you have all rested and thoroughly enjoyed the summer break and are now ready for the start of the new academic year. Below, is a list of topics that will be covered during the Advent Term as well as other information about help with their academics at home.

Come and See

Domestic Church - Family

During our Come and See topic 'Families', we consider the love we receive from our families and also reflect on God's love for us all.

Our learning focuses will be:

My family loves me. God loves all of us. The psalms tell us about God's love and care. What we can learn about God's love in the Bible. God takes care of everyone. God loves and cares for us. Jesus grew up in a family who loved and cared for him.



English

In Year 1 the children will learn English skills that range from reading phonics sounds and blending, to composing sentences using basic punctuation. We will also focus on a range of speaking and listening skills, behaviours and language necessary for effective communication and collaboration.

Phonics will be taught twice a day and the children will practice their handwriting skills daily.

Spellings

Learn your weekly spellings ready for the spelling test on Friday. Our first lot of spellings will be given during week commencing 18th September 2023 and the test will be on Friday 22nd September 2023. I will send Common Exception Words - CEW - flashcards home for the children to cut up and use throughout the year to support with the majority of their weekly spellings. All of the words that will be sent home are words which the children should be able to read, spell/write and apply correctly to their writing by the end of Year 1.



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, and a paper copy given to your child, at the beginning of each half-term under the Spellings tab.

Log onto Spelling Shed to play the games that I have assigned. These may link to our phonics learning or retrieval practice from Year 1. I will start to assign games from Monday 18th September 2023.

Reading

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.

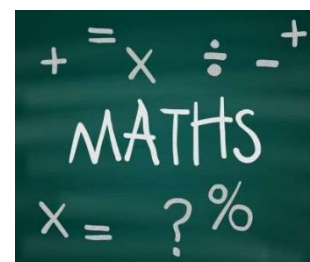
Reading - The children will be given reading books and an orange reading diary which needs to be kept in their book bags and brought to school each day.



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 which will be provided by the end of week commencing 18th September 2023. One stamp equals 5 reads and for every 25 reads, they will receive a certificate.

Maths

This term we will be looking at Place Value. The children will be counting forwards and backwards, finding one more than and one less than. Counting, sorting and comparing objects and numbers. We will then move onto addition and subtraction using Part Whole Model, Fact Families and Number Bonds within 10.



Science

For Science, we will be learning about everyday materials. We will be comparing what the materials that transport from the past and transport of today are made from and exploring why certain materials have been used. The children will be identifying and naming a variety of everyday materials. They will learn how to describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials. We will also be comparing and grouping together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties. The

children will be working scientifically through exploration and experiments with a variety of materials.

History

What is transport, and how has it changed over time?

The children will be exploring the history of transport and how this has changed over time.

Questions we will explore:

What is transport?

What is a timeline, and how does it show us something about the past?

What were the earliest forms of transport?

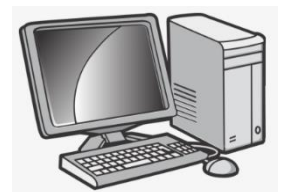
Art and DT

Over this half term the children will have the opportunity to make vehicles through the use of construction toys and box modelling. The children will learn how to draw a self-portrait and we will look at portraits created by Frida Kahlo.



Computing- Technology Around Us

The children will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them. They will become more familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills, and also start to consider how to use technology responsibly.



Music

We will explore the song Hey You!

Hey You, is written in an Old-School Hip Hop style for children to learn about the differences between pulse, rhythm and pitch and to learn how to rap and enjoy it in its original form.



P.E.

The children will be learning about keeping fit and exploring how their body moves. P.E days this year fall on Mondays and Tuesdays of each week, please make sure the children come in with their full P.E kit on in the mornings before coming into school. Our P.E uniform policy is white t-shirts, navy shorts and navy/black trainers.

Forest School with Mrs Hudson

What is Forest Schools?

Forest School is a holistic sensory approach to learning. It is fully inclusive, it aids with neurological development, it gets children ignited, inspired and motivated, it promotes positive relationships between everyone involved, and it encourages problem solving and creativity through observing and engaging with the environment all year round.

The forest school dates until the October half term fall fortnightly on 13th September, 27th September and the 11th October. Please make sure children come in on these Forest School days in their P.E kits. On colder days, children can come in appropriate clothing- navy hoodies, jumpers and wellies.

PSHE

Difference and Diversity

The children will be encouraged to recognise and celebrate diversity at school and in their community. We will focus on the positive benefits of living in a diverse society.

Homework

As well as reading and spellings mentioned above in the newsletter;

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 on Class Dojo.

Portfolio to do on Class Dojo - Every now and then, some tasks will be set on your child's Portfolio and I will request how I would like the response type, e.g. photo or video.

Phonics- There will be tasks set where I might ask the children to engage in an interactive game at home that will help embed their learning in phonics specifying in particular sounds.

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, reading and learning spellings every week and some, only once a month.



I hope you are all excited for the new academic year as much as I am and if there are any queries, please check the website for new and updated information or please get in touch.

Thank you for all your help and support.

Mr Hammond.