



Dear parents and carers,

We are very much looking forward to teaching your children for the Advent Term and we have loads of exciting new things planned! Before I tell you about our exciting creative curriculum for the upcoming term, please take a few moments to read a few housekeeping notes!

PE/Swimming

This term, Class 4 will be having swimming on Thursdays and PE on Fridays. We are still requesting that pupils come into school on PE and swimming days in their PE kits. These should be a plain white t-shirt and a plain navy blue or black tracksuit.

Labelling of uniform

Please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled so that children and lost items can be easily reunited.

Water Bottles

Pupils **MUST** have a water bottle in school every day. Ideally these should be sports capped or straw topped bottles to prevent spillage and clearly labelled with your child's name.

Spellings, times tables and reading homework

Each week, the children will have spellings, times tables and reading to complete at home.

Spellings will follow the spelling pyramid format issued at the start of each half term, comprising spellings from their History/Geography topic focus, RE lessons, weekly spelling pattern lessons from Spelling Shed and the Statutory Y3/4 spelling list. The children are expected to learn/practise these spellings each week at home, and will be tested on Fridays.

The children will also be given a times table/division focus for the week and will be tested throughout the week. TTRS and Spelling Shed games will be expected to be completed regularly each week and are a great way of learning, practising and consolidating

It is still important to hear your child read at home. Your child will complete a reading assessment early on in September and will be issued with a reading book at an appropriate level. We also invite them to choose an additional book to read for pleasure. Please encourage reading of any kind (magazines, newspapers, e books) as it will all give your child a reading experience and add to your child's creativity. Reading diaries will be checked on Mondays, with the expectation that children will have read at least 3 times at home with a parent or carer, evidenced with a feedback comment in the diary. It's really useful for us to know what discussion took place, what they did well as well as what they struggled with,

Curriculum

RE

Our first unit is called 'Creation and Covenant', which explores the foundations of our faith and God's covenant with Abraham. Just before half term, we will encounter and better understand Judaism in 'Other Faiths Week'. We then move onto 'Prophecy and Promise', which explores the importance of prophets like John the Baptist and Isaiah, as well as some of our Advent traditions.

English

This term we will begin by building upon our understanding of punctuation and grammar from Year 3. We will then link a lot of our reading and writing tasks to 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Evans in Advent 1, then 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson. All of our books this year have been chosen specifically to reflect and promote our curriculum themes of:

- Social Justice
- Community
- Keeping Safe and Healthy
- Conservation
- Movement of People
- Cultural similarities and differences
- Farming

We will be completing daily VIPERS sessions that will introduce the children to culturally diverse and classic literature, as well as developing their understanding and implementation of more complex punctuation and grammatical structures.

Maths

We will be looking at the following White Rose Maths units in Autumn term:

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Autumn	Number Place value				Number Addition and subtraction			Measurement Area	Number Multiplication and division A			Consolidation

Every lesson will start with a 'Flashback' which will focus on questions based on learning from the previous lesson, week, month and year. Every Friday, we will be completing the Friday Arithmetic Challenge to ensure that we are keeping all our maths skills alive.

The children will be completing the Multiplication Table Check (MTC) set by the Government in June, therefore we will be continuing to have a big focus on the speed and accuracy of times tables and division fact recall. TTRS is an excellent tool to support the retrieval of these facts, however I should emphasise that children should be encouraged to use a variety of strategies to learn them first! Here are some reasons why learning them is so important and how this can be achieved:

<https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/teach-times-tables-pupils-learn-instantrecall-ks1-ks2/>

Science

Our first science unit is a physics unit exploring sound.

During the second half of the term we will be looking at living things and their habitats.

Art and DT

We will be linking our art to our historical investigation by investigating the different types of Greek art, specifically sculpting our own Greek pottery.

Music

In music this term we will be receiving whole class music tuition from Mr Burton, who some children may already know from their piano/singing lessons. This will take place on a Thursday. We will also continue to have singing lessons on Fridays from Mr Davis.

PE/Swimming

The children will be swimming on Thursday mornings and will have PE on Fridays.

History and Geography

We will be learning about the Ancient Greeks, which obviously have significantly influenced the world as we see and experience it today.

In Geography in the second part of the term we will be learning about Climate and Weather.

Computing

This term, we will continue to build on our knowledge of computer networks and systems before moving on to creating media and photo editing.

French

In French this term, we will concentrate on phonetics and presenting our personal details effectively.

If you have any questions about anything contained in this letter or any questions throughout the term please don't hesitate to ask. The start of the year is often a time of anxiety for children (parents and teachers too!) so please remember that we have a wealth of suggestions on our website <https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/parents/mental-health-and-wellbeing/> which may be helpful. Parent's Consultation Meetings will be scheduled in the first term, with the option to meet online or face-to-face, where I will chat to you all about targets and areas for focus. However, in the meantime, your child will be given mini targets through marking and verbal discussions.

We are looking forward to this exciting year!

Mrs Oates

Dates for your diary

W/b 09.09.24 – History/Art week
13.09.24 – Holy Cross feast day with Mass at Church (pm)
27.09.24 – Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
01.10.24 – Individual school photos
04.10.24 – Harvest Festival (led by Y5)
w/b 14.10.24 – Other faiths week (Judaism)
14/16.10.24 – Termly learning meetings
16.10.24 – Y4 Bikeability (details tbc)
04.11.24 - INSET
05-08.11.24 – Geography/other faiths week (Sikhism)
w/b 11.11.24 – Art/DT week
12.11.24 – Anti-bullying day activities

15.11.24 – Non-uniform day in exchange for an item of chocolate for our Christmas Fayre

22.11.24 - Non-uniform day in exchange for a bottle for our Christmas Fayre

29.11.24 – Whole school Advent Mass

W/b 02.12.24 – Assessment week

06.12.14 – Christmas Fayre

12.12.24 – Christmas jumper day/Christmas dinner
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13.12.24 – Christmas pantomime

19.12.24 – KS2 Christmas Carol Concert at Church
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