



Loved, Valued, Challenged

Welcome to the Advent Term



Welcome to Class 2 Year 2!

Miss Duong teaching in class – Mon - Thurs

Mrs Tipton teaching in class - Friday

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

As we are trying to be as Eco-friendly as possible, all Newsletters will be added to the school website under the following tabs: Curriculum/Class Pages/Class 2/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-2-2-3/#1644578389373-226a4ede-6c15>

If you require a paper copy, please let me know and I will print a copy for you.

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



Religious Education is called **RED – Religious Education** Directory. There are 6 topics which are taught over the school year, one topic per half-term. This term, the children will learn about two topics: 'Creation and Covenant', and 'Prophecy and Promise'. We shall also be spending a week finding out about another faith. This term we shall be finding out about Judaism and Sikhism.

In 'Creation and Covenant', we shall be learning about the Bible and how it has two parts: the Old Testament and New Testament, the story of Creation, Genesis I, and Noah's Ark. We will learn that God created the world as a gift to humanity, what stewardship is and how these link to the stories from the Bible, that a covenant means a promise and how we and God make covenants. We will also learn that psalms are prayed or sung and are a different form of scripture, sacraments and that Baptism is the first sacrament and that it is a sign of Jesus' love, and the symbols used in Baptism.

In our 'Prophecy and Promise' topic, our work will include learning about a prophet communicates God's message – inspired by the Holy Spirit and that Isaiah is a prophet. We shall be learning about God speak to His people, the Israelites through prophets, John the Baptist – who he was and how he was a prophet, and his story, annunciation, know that the church teaches that Mary is the mother of God who prays for them and with them – The Magnificat, how we prepare for special times, the symbols of Advent and the preparations during Advent leading up to Christmastime, along with how our community and other cultures prepare for Advent, and the birth of Jesus from the Gospel Luke. This will include our Nativity and how Mary prepared for the birth of baby Jesus.

In **English** we shall be reading and linking our writing to our history topic of The Great Fire of London and focus on stories by Jill Murphy; Peace at Last, On the Way Home, Whatever next! and Dear Hound. This term, we will learn to recognise the features of recounts, a diary entry and an autobiographical recount. We will also be reading number of stories by the same author, learning how to recognise and write narratives along with letter writing focusing on persuasion with speech and dialogue. We will also look at fiction and non-fiction texts and identifying features of these. We will also focus on our writing by ensuring that all sentences are punctuated accordingly and learn to join our letters cursively. We shall be looking at how to improve our writing by using adjectives, a wide range of punctuation, and begin using our editing and redrafting skills.

We will also have daily phonics and handwriting sessions, ensuring that the children are starting letters with a lead to support them when joining their letters and writing cursively. Our daily phonics sessions will include different ways of spelling the same sound, along with how words should be spelt rather than phonetically. Our PVPg, Place Value of Punctuation and



Grammar, lessons will be part of our English lessons, focusing on the fundamentals and basics of writing and language, such as what common nouns, proper nouns, and verbs are, and learning about sentence structures and single clauses. I will be sending Common Exception Words (CEW) home in the form of flashcards which will support them with their weekly spellings and phonics sessions.

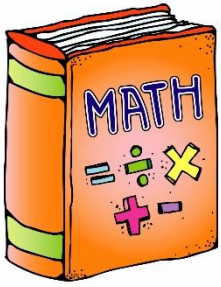
**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.**

—Dr. Seuss

We shall be using our reading **VIPERS** – **V**ocabulary **I**nfer **P**redict **E**xplain **R**etrieve **S**equences - 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.

As part of your child's weekly homework, please ensure that your child spends at least 10 minutes reading to you each day, and that your child brings their reading books, orange reading diary and book bags, to school every day.



In **Maths** we shall follow the White Rose programme of study but will have lots of fun putting our learning into the context of our topic. Children will be set daily maths retrieval challenges, as part of their maths lessons, called Flashback 4 which are vital to support their development of speed and fluency in all aspects of math. 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, all the pairs of numbers that total 5, 10 and 20, the 2, 5, 10 and 3-times table) and the inverse (opposite calculations to check your answers) too. The inverse of addition is subtraction and vice versa and the inverse of multiplication is division, to check $3 + 8 = 11$ you could do $11 - 8 = 3$. 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 life of another significant individual from the past and events beyond living memory, looking at who Samuel Pepys and Sir Christopher Wren were, what they did and why they are well-known individuals. We will be focusing on the book titled The Great Fire of London in English and learn why they were important figure in history. We will also look at how The Great Fire of London changed London, the impact of the fire, and how it was different after the fire. We will also have lots of discussions and question and answer sessions in our history lessons.



In **Geography**, we shall be looking at water and children's rights to water and sharpening up our geography skills, and then using our geographical skills to compare Hucknall to Uganda. We will recap on previous learning and location knowledge of the continents, seas and poles on an atlas. We shall also be learning how to use our map and compass skills to locate different countries and oceans, and look at the human and physical features of Hucknall and Uganda and think about the following enquiry question; is everywhere like Hucknall?

Our trip to Carsington Water this term will help to embed some of our learning this term. I will confirm the date once it has been booked.

In **Design & Technology** the children will learn to identify man-made, natural, stable and unstable structures, explore stability, how to strengthen materials and how the shape of the structure affects its strength, and then design, create and evaluate making Baby Bear's chair.

In **Art** we shall be using the media of clay to shape and join the clay to create a basic pinch pot and join one shape into the side using the scoring and slipping technique. We will also create a clay house tile that has recognisable features made by both impressing objects into the surface and by joining shapes. We will also learn to evaluate our work, thinking about how it could be changed and improved.



Our **Science** is broken into three key areas: physics, chemistry and biology. In **Chemistry**, we shall be learning about the uses of everyday materials, wood, plastic, metal, glass, brick, paper and cardboard. We will compare the suitability of everyday materials for different purposes. We will explore how objects made of some everyday materials can change shape and how the recycling process is able to reuse some everyday materials numerous times. Some of the work we do in science will link to God's world and making sure we look after it by using less and recycling. We will learn about new discoveries which have been made over time and find out about scientists such as John McAdam, John Macintosh and what they invented.



Keeping Healthy

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 will be following the Val Sabin scheme of learning. This term we will cover the following units: **Gymnastics Unit H** Parts high and parts low, **Gymnastics Unit I** Pathways, straight, zigzag and curving, **Games Unit 1** Throwing and catching (inventing games), and **Dance Unit**

1 The cat Balloons Reach for the stars. We shall be learning lots of new skills in gymnastics to perform a sequence of moves, strategies and key fundamental skills to help us when we need these skills to play ball/racket games such as hand-eye co-ordination, throwing and catching, teamwork, target practice and lots more. We will also learn to use how to move to music and use apparatus adequately and safely during our gymnastics and dance lesson this term.

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

Our PE days will be every Monday and Tuesday. PE will start week beginning Monday 16th September 2024.

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.

Mr Burton will teach our music lessons each week from the Trust's music provision. The children will be learning about pitch, tone, tempo, beat using our voices and musical instruments too. They will be listening and learning lots of different songs and thinking about the tone, beat and rhythm, along with how they express how we feel.

Mr Burton will also teach and introduce musical notes and the names of them too.



In **Computing**, we shall be putting our ICT skills into practice in all our subjects as well as following the Year 2 curriculum for computing skills. We shall be following some of the modules from NCCE – National Centre for Computing Excellence, creating media – digital photography. This will include looking at framing, lighting and the subject when using technology to take photos.

We shall also be learning how to keep safe and stay safe when using technology. We will also be using ICT to make music, which will link to some of our music lessons; how music makes us feel, rhythm and patterns, looking at how music can be used, notes and tempo, creating digital music using Chrome Music lab and then reviewing our learning.

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

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

Wednesday 11th September 2024

Wednesday 25th September 2024

Wednesday 9th October 2024

Wednesday 6th November 2024

Wednesday 20th November 2024

Wednesday 4th December 2024 – this may be the last session for the year.

I will update you via Class Dojo nearer the time.

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

Wellies - Please bring a pair of wellies into school on the Forest Schools days above, or **Plimsolls -** to change into when you come back into the classroom. These can be kept in school so that the children always have access to these.



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.



Homework

All homework and spellings will be added to the homework or spellings tab on the class page on the school website in Class 2s 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.

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. Every read that is logged in your child's reading diary will mean a cell on the reading chart is marked off. Your child can receive reading certificates for their reading.

Please see the insert in their orange reading diary for more information.

- 2) **Learn your weekly spellings** ready for the spelling test on Friday. I will send Common Exception Words – CEW – flashcards home for the children to cut up and use throughout the year to support them with the majority of their weekly spellings. All of the words that have been 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 2. There will be some topic words as well as words linked to our phonics too.

A paper copy of the spellings will be handed out at the beginning of a half-term which will outline the spellings for each week for that half-term. They will also be added to the class page on the school website under the following link:

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/curriculum/class-pages/class-page-2-2-3/#1655291078622-5ce2f157-e1c5>

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.

- 3) **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 9th September 2024.
- 4) **Times Table Rock Stars** – please log on and practise your times tables. This is a fun way to learn your math facts. **Please contact me if you require your log in details.**
- 5) **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. Please see the link below:

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/curriculum/class-pages/class-page-2-2-3/#1644579059856-c0e327da-257a>

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.

Please note that I will not be sending a paper copy out, unless requested.



Spelling Shed

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 ☺

E.M.U.S – Education Making Us Safe – Approximately a 10 week programme with Mrs Butkevicius starting on Tuesday 10th September 2024. It is designed to equip young children with the knowledge and skills to make good choices and keep safe in a number of different situations. Mrs Butkevicius may set short homework tasks each week to be returned for the following Tuesday. The last session will be on Tuesday 26th November 2024.



Holy Cross Feast Day – Mass at Church – Friday 13th September 2024 1:30pm

Year 2 Maths Parents Workshop – Monday 23rd September 2024 - 9am – 10am – This is a workshop for Parents/Carers to come into school and understand how we teach the children Maths in Year 2 and school. It will be an interactive session where I will teach some concepts and then allow you to practise with your child.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon – Friday 27th September 2024 – 2:30pm.

Whole School Individual Photos – Tuesday 1st October 2024.

Harvest Festival Assembly led by Year 5 – Friday 4th October 2024 at 9:30am.

World Mental Health Day – WMHD – Thursday 10th October 2024.

Termly Learning Meetings for Parents – Face to Face appointments – Monday 14th October 2024 starting after school. I will add more details onto Class Dojo nearer the time.

Termly Learning Meetings for Parents – online appointments via TEAMs – Wednesday 16th October 2024 starting after school. I will add more details onto Class Dojo nearer the time.

October half-term - 2 weeks – break up on Friday 25th October 2024 and back to school on Tuesday 5th November 2024.

Inset Day – Monday 4th November 2024.

Trip to Carsington Water – I am hoping for this to be on Thursday 7th November 2024, but I will confirm and provide further information once I have managed to book this.

Remembrance Day – Monday 11th November 2024.

Anti-Bullying Week – starting on Tuesday 12th November 2024 – the theme for this year is ‘Choose Respect’.

Immunisations – Tuesday 12th November 2024.

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Opening afternoon and evening – Wednesday 13th November 2024 1:30pm and 6pm-7pm.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 15th November 2024 – bring a chocolate item for the Christmas Fair.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 22nd November 2024 – bring a bottle for the bottle stall - Christmas Fair.

Whole School Advent Mass – Friday 29th November 2024 at 9:30am. All welcome to attend.

Christmas Fair – Friday 6th December 2024 at 2pm.

Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day – Thursday 12th December 2024 £1 charity CAFOD donation.

Christmas Pantomime – Friday 13th December 2024.

Year 2 Nativity – Afternoon Performance – Starting at 2:15pm - Tuesday 17th December 2024.

Year 2 Nativity – Evening Performance – Starting at 6:15pm - Tuesday 17th December 2024.

EYFS and KS1 Christmas Party – Thursday 19th December 2024. Please come to school dressed in sensible party clothes and appropriate shoes.

Letters about specific events/trips will be sent out nearer the time.

If you require any support for your child's mental health and wellbeing, there is information on our school website which you can access by clicking on the link below. Alternatively, you can come and speak to me, and I support in any way I can.

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/parents/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

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 as always.

Miss Duong