



Dear parents and carers,

We are very much looking forward to teaching your children for the Lent 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 first half term, Class 4 will be continuing to have 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. **This will change after February half term.**

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 Galilee to Jerusalem. This unit in Year 4 RED (Religious Education) explores the key events of Jesus' life, focusing on his journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. It begins by examining Jesus' early ministry in Galilee, where he taught, healed, and performed miracles, emphasizing his message of love, compassion, and the Kingdom of God. The unit highlights the calling of his disciples and his interactions with various groups, including the poor, sinners, and religious leaders.

As the narrative progresses, students learn about Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem, where he faces increasing opposition. The unit culminates in his entry into Jerusalem, his final teachings, the Last Supper, his arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. These events are explored through scripture, stories, and discussions to help students understand the significance of Jesus' mission and how it shapes the Christian faith.

After February half term, we explore Desert to Garden. The Desert to Garden unit focuses on the biblical story of creation, the fall of humanity, and God's plan for restoration. It begins with the account of the Garden of Eden, where God created a perfect world for Adam and Eve, full of peace and harmony. However, the story takes a turn when Adam and Eve disobey God, resulting in their expulsion from the garden and the beginning of humanity's struggle in a fallen world.

The unit explores the consequences of sin and the need for redemption, highlighting key moments in the Bible where God promises restoration, such as through the covenants with Noah, Abraham, and the people of Israel. The desert represents the challenges and trials of life, while the garden symbolizes God's ultimate plan to bring humanity back into a restored relationship with Him.

Through this narrative, students learn about God's love, forgiveness, and the hope of a new creation, as promised in Scripture. The "Desert to Garden" unit encourages reflection on the journey from sin to salvation, teaching the importance of trust, repentance, and hope in God's promises for the future.

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 'Escape from Boudica's Army' in Lent 1, then 'Escape from Pompeii' in Lent 2. 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:

Spring term	Number Multiplication and division B VIEW	Measurement Length and perimeter VIEW	Number Fractions VIEW	Number Decimals A VIEW

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 electricity.

During the second half of the term we will be learning more about the states of solids, liquids and gases.

Art and DT

We will be linking our DT lessons to our scientific investigation by using our knowledge of electrical circuits to create a working torch.

In Lent 2, we will be practising our drawing and print-making skills in a unit exploring natural shapes and symbols.

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. This will change after February half term.

History and Geography

We will be beginning with a History topic, learning about the Romans and Roman Britain. This will link with our learning in other subjects and we shall begin our topic with a workshop led by 'Portals to the Past'.

In Geography in the second part of the term we will be learning about 'Tectonic Plates, Volcanoes and Earthquakes linking to our class text, 'Escape from Pompeii'.

Computing

This term, we will continue to build on our knowledge of programming and repetition in shapes, using Scratch and programmes similar to Logo.

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 soon before half 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 term!

Mrs Oates

Dates for your diary

06.01.25 – Return to school
08.01.25 – Roman workshop in school
10.02.25 – Safer Internet Day
11.02.25 – OLOL Feast Day activities
12.02.25 – Children's Rights Day
14.02.25 – INSET Day – School closed
15.02.25 – 23.02.25 – Half term
24.02.25 – Return to school
w/b 24.02.25 – SEND reviews
26.02.25 – Wellbeing workshop
03.03.25 – Fairtrade Fortnight
03.03.25 – Governors' Monitoring Day
05.03.25 – Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word
06.03.25 – World Book Day
08.03.25 – International Women's Day
14.03.25 – CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day
27.03.25 – KS2 School Disco 6.30pm – 8pm
01.04.25 – Class 3/4 Easter Production for school
02.04.25 – Reconciliation Service. Individual confession available for children in Y4-6.
03.04.25 – Y3/4 Easter play for parents/carers 2.30pm
04.04.25 – Break up for Easter