



# Holy Cross Foundation Stage Two (Reception)

## Curriculum Newsletter and Useful Information



### Lent - Term 2

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025. We hope you've all had a great Christmas and New Year. The children had a fantastic and busy first term at school; learning the school routine, school rules, name writing, listening to stories, getting on and sharing with others, learning about other cultures, and decorating our Christmas tree. The children amazed us with their beautiful singing and filled us with the true spirit of Advent.

Here is an overview of the children's learning over this next term.

Thank you for being so supportive, please spare some time to read through this Newsletter carefully and click the links for further information.

I will also be sharing information via Class Dojo.

### Religious Education – Branch Three Galilee to Jerusalem

Here are our learning intentions - to be covered over 6 weeks:

I know the Wise Men visited Jesus

I know the Wise Men gave Jesus gifts.

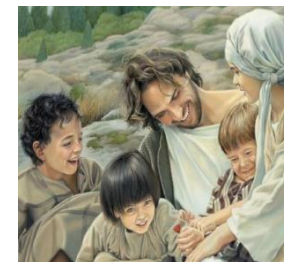
I know that Jesus welcomes everyone.

I know that Jesus takes care of everyone.

I know that Jesus wants us to care for other people.

Jesus teaches us that we should share what we have with others.

Holy Cross Class Prayers - [click me](#)



#### Phonics

In phonics, we have learnt all single sounds in the alphabet and have begun to find out that two letters make one sound, ff, ll, ss, zz. We will now embed the sounds, ensuring that children can know the sounds and begin to apply them to their

#### Reading

Thank you for reading at least 4 times at home with your child. Please ensure that all reading books and reading diaries are always kept in your child's book bag and brought to school each day. Please read with your child at least 4 times a week,

#### Mathematics

We will be following White Rose Maths

- Introducing zero.
- Comparing numbers to 5
- Compositing of 4 and 5

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

We will be learning about how to share with others and take turns.

To build up respectful relationship and understand how to resolve a conflict.

reading, written and verbal ability.

We will then move on to reading and writing words with 4 sounds in them. This is more challenging for the children, and they will need more practice to read and blend longer words.

The children have been assigned activities on Spelling Shed which link to their weekly phonics. Please try to access the games at least twice a week.

You may also wish to visit [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk). There are lots of free games on here which the children enjoy.



**Although Hucknall Library is currently closed. Please visit the library website to find out what is happening in Hucknall and some of the wonderful things ahead when they reopen.**

More information can be found here [click me](#).

Also if you have a library card you are able to access thousands of audio and eBooks  
[Libby - Welcome](#)

as we will read once individually in school. Each week I will update your child's reading chart. Some children have already reached their 100 reads goal and received a prize.

Thank you to those children who also completed the Christmas tree reading challenge too. Thank you.



A great website with lots of useful information regarding your child's learning, and development and how you can support them further.

[Oxford Owl](#)



If you have any questions about reading with your child, I am happy to meet you after school.

- Compare Mass
- Compare capacity
- Growing in 6, 7, 8
- Making pairs
- Combining 2 groups
- Time
- Length and height



### Numbots Game

Play numbots with your child taking turns to answer the quickfire questions.

### At the kitchen table

Count small objects. Count how many grapes are on the plate. Ask your child -

How many would there be if I gave you one more? How many would there be if you ate one?

Make 2 small groups with snack like raisins or crackers. Put the two groups together and ask your child to count how many snacks there are in total.

You could also allow your child some time to explore fun mathematics games. Follow the link below.

[Early Years Maths - Topmarks Search](#)

As we prepare to go on trips the children need to know how to walk safely on the pavement, holding hands and crossing the road carefully.

We will learn about the different factors that support their overall wellbeing – sensible amounts of 'screen time' having a good sleep routine.

We will be finding out how to welcome and value praise for what we have done.

To know how to be confident to speak to others about own needs, wants, interests and opinions and to know how to describe themselves in positive terms and talk about own abilities.

It's important for your child to feel good about their achievements.

This term I will be sending home a WOW moments activity where you can share some stand out moments and progression in development. We would love to see what your child has been getting up to at home.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Understanding of the World</b></p> <p>Past and Present - We will be finding out about toys from the past. We will be comparing old and new toys. During the topic we will think about the materials used to make old toys, like wood, metal and pottery. We will compare this to the modern plastic and electrical toys we see regularly today.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">If you have any toys or books that you would like to send in to enrich our topic, I would be very grateful. We will take good care of the things you send in and ensure they are returned to you safely.</p> <p>The Natural World – We will be finding out about floating and sinking. We will make predictions, test objects, and perform experiments.</p> <p>We will also be finding out about the Chinese New Year. This year is the year of the snake. We will find out about Chinese traditions and celebrations we will also hear the story of the Chinese Zodiac.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fine Motor Skills</b></p> <p>The children still need lots of support with fine motor activities at home. Please support them to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a knife and fork correctly.</li> <li>• Fasten their coats, zips and buttons.</li> <li>• Use child friendly scissors to cut around curved shapes.</li> <li>• Use a pincer grip when mark making at home.</li> </ul> <p>Please encourage your child to mark make at home. Ask them to write for a purpose like writing a card to a family member or helping with a shopping list.</p> <p><a href="#">Teach Handwriting at home</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gross Motor Skills</b></p> <p>This term the children will enjoy a unit of gymnastics and a unit on dance. After the half term they will have a unit of learning on games using hoops and quoits, then a unit on dance.</p> <p>The children will also access large play outside like bikes, using the trim trail and playing playground games.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communication and Language</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The children will be listening to stories, rhymes and songs in sessions over this term. They will also be listening to adults read nonfiction books about toys from the past.</p> <p>The children will be developing their language by giving the toys a voice. They will use the toys as characters and build up story lines. We will try to move the children on from making animal noises or banging toys together. Please support us with this at home by playing with your child and using a storyteller’s voice.</p> <p>The children will be creating their own stories, working in pairs or small groups. As the topic progresses, the children will be learning how to tell their ‘made-up’ stories in front of the whole class!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Expressive Arts and Design</b></p> <p>We will be enjoying many different painting experiences like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finger painting</li> <li>• Making paintbrushes from natural materials.</li> <li>• Outdoor painting</li> </ul> <p>We will also be finding out about collage and transient art.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">After the holidays we will be learning about different fruits and vegetables. We will design and make soup. Then we will design our own Holy Cross Soup packaging.</p>

### Emergency Contact Numbers

If you change your contact number please inform the office ASAP. If grandparents, friends or relatives are collecting your children on a regular basis we must also have their contact details. Please ensure you check your phone throughout the day, on a regular basis. We will phone you in an emergency. We will leave a voice message if possible and send a class dojo message.

I am also able to add an additional parent to the class dojo profile of your child. If you currently have only one parent on dojo and you would like to add another parent, then please send me a message with the email address of the person you would like to add. It can be helpful to add an additional adult as I will be posting important videos and messages on class story.

Please also ensure that there are at least 2 or 3 contact numbers on Arbor. This can include, parents, grandparents, wider family or a trusted adult who may collect your child. You can update this yourself on the app but if you are having any difficulties please contact the school office for support.

### Foundation Stage Uniform

In Reception the children are asked to wear a navy jogging suit, blue t-shirt and black, navy or white unbranded trainers.

Long hair must be tied up with hair bands in school colours.

It is still very cold in Class Reception. I would like to advise wearing a base layer, thermal vest or leggings.

Children will also need a hat, scarf, and gloves. Please ensure your child's name is on all items.

You are welcome to purchase school-branded items - but this is not compulsory.

[Holy Cross Primary Catholic Uniform Shop  
\(pbuniform-online.co.uk\)](http://pbuniform-online.co.uk)



Please put your child name on all items.

In EYFS we do **NOT** wear, skirts, summer dresses, shirts, ties, grey trousers or smart shoes as this is not practical for playing and learning in the Forest Kingdom.

### Dates for your diary...

**6<sup>th</sup> January Return to school**

**16<sup>th</sup> January - Keeping Safe and Healthy Assembly – EYFS 2:45pm**  
Parents and families are welcome.

**31<sup>st</sup> January 8:40am – 10:00am – Stay and Play**

**10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February - Termly learning meetings (parent's evening).**

**14<sup>th</sup> February – INSET Day. School will be closed to children.**

**28<sup>th</sup> February - 8:40am – 10:00am – Stay and Play**

### Homework

Thank you for all the homework you have helped your child to complete so far. Please ensure that your child's name is written on the back of homework sheets and returned on a Monday.

### Cool Milk



Your child will continue to receive **free** milk until they turn 5. Once they turn 5, you will have to pay for milk if your child wishes to continue drinking it. Please do this by logging onto [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

### **Water bottle**

Please ensure your child has a water bottle with their name clearly labelled on it. They must have a water bottle every day. Please clean and refill the bottle at home. It is important that the children stay hydrated throughout the day.

### **Parent/grandparent volunteers**

I would be eager to hear about anyone who would like to volunteer. Please contact me if you would like to listen to readers or join the board game club. If you feel you have a particular skill that would support us, please send me a message via Dojo.

The school will complete a DBS check for you.

### **Finally,**

*Thank you for reading this Newsletter - please find the time to click on all the links - this document is full of information, ideas and advice that will support you and therefore support your child.*

Your child's happiness is our number one priority - if you have any questions regarding your child's development, learning, well-being, or concerns or worries, please do not hesitate to ask. You can message me via Class Dojo, I am happy to call you or meet with you.

If you experience any changes to your circumstances, such as moving house, separation, new babies, death of a loved one or pet, employment changes, childcare changes, or anything that may impact your child please let me know.

We will do whatever we can to help and ensure you and your child are given the correct support if needed.

**Mrs. Bruce and the EYFS team.**



