



September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after the summer break. We hope you have had an enjoyable time and that you and your child are ready for the start of school and the last year with us at Holy Cross. We hope to make this a very memorable year for your child, whilst preparing them for their new adventures at secondary school. Please find below a list of the topics that we will be covering during the coming Advent term.

RE

Our topics in RE for this term are 'Creation and Covenant' and 'Prophecy and Promise.' In our first topic we will study the second account of Creation and Laudato Si.' We will also study St John's gospel and explore some Christian beliefs about the sacrament of Baptism. During our second RE topic, we will look at the Old Testament scripture that shows the importance of women in salvation history. We will also look at examples of women today who are responding to God's call in their own life.



English

During this term, the children will be studying a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. We are beginning the Advent term reading the wonderful text 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. Set in Victorian Britain, this text will support our learning for our first History topic – 'The Industrial Revolution and The Victorians.' The children will build on their English skills by learning a range of writing techniques and develop their reading skills through a variety of comprehension activities including the use of VIPERS. During our reading lessons, the children will be asked to read a variety of texts aloud. Using these texts, we then focus on the key areas that children need to know and understand to improve their comprehension of texts.



In the second half of the term, we will be using the thought-provoking text 'Goodnight Mr Tom' to support our writing and read extracts from 'The Diary of Anne Frank.' Both these award-winning books will provide the opportunity for some wonderful English work and prompt much opportunity for discussion. Both texts link with our second history topic of the term: WWII.

During our reading and English work, we do display the texts on our board in class but for those of you who like to have the book to read along; our first class text is Street Child as mentioned above.

Spellings

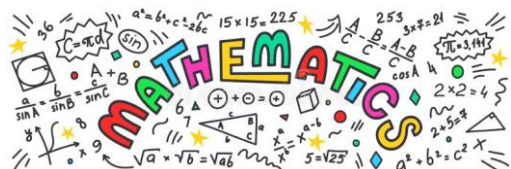
We will continue to use the Pyramid approach to the teaching of spelling – which the children are familiar with. The pyramid will be given to your child to take home at the beginning of each half term. We will continue to also use the website Spelling Shed for fun games. **Spellings will be tested every Friday.**

Please note, spellings for group one this term will focus on the Y5/6 spellings from the curriculum. In year 6, for a child to meet the expected standard in writing they must demonstrate they can correctly spell the words from the Y5/6 spelling list. Therefore, it is important these words are learnt and used correctly in the children's writing. The children also need to be able to use a dictionary quickly and accurately so that they are able to check and spell more ambitious vocabulary in their work. Therefore, it would be extremely helpful if the children had the opportunity to practise using a dictionary at home. Please see this statement from the writing assessment framework.

'Pupil's must correctly spell most words from the year 5 / year 6 spelling list and use a dictionary to check the spelling of uncommon or more ambitious vocabulary.'

Reading

Please continue to read regularly with your child, as this greatly improves their progress in all areas of the curriculum. Your child should try and read every night for 15 minutes at least and record this in their books. Please make every effort to hear your child read at least three times per week and record this in their diary. Reading diaries must be handed in on a Monday with three reads recorded and signed by an adult. Should you have any difficulties in supporting your child with their reading please speak to us.



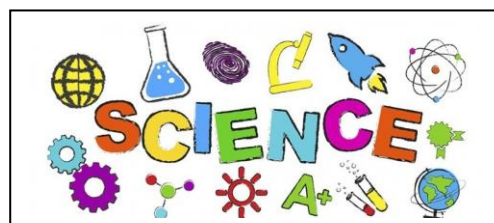
Maths

Maths will follow the White Rose curriculum. This term we will focus on place value, the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and fractions. We will also be working hard on our maths arithmetic skills.

By the end of Year 4, it is expected that children know all their times tables up to twelve. Knowing times tables is essential to maths work in Year 6 and beyond. For example, fractions, long and short multiplication and division all require instant recall of times tables. If your child is not secure with their recall of times tables to twelve, then we kindly ask for your support with this at home to help ensure your child is able to apply this knowledge quickly to their maths work in class. All our children still have access to Times Table Rock Stars which helps boost fluency and recall in multiplication and division.

Science

Our science topic for the first half term is 'Electricity' and during the second half it will be 'Light.' The children will also have the opportunity to carry out practical investigations.



History

This term's first History topic is 'The Industrial Revolution and The Victorians.' After half term, we will be studying World War II - which will run alongside Remembrance Day; something always respected at Holy Cross.

Art and DT

For our artwork, this term we will study the work of William Morris – the Victorian textile designer and poet. We will learn how to create work in the style of Morris using watercolours and printing with printing ink.

Computing.

In Computing, we will be following the NCCE programme of study. We will start by looking at computing systems and networks where we will explore how data is transferred over the internet. We will look at how the internet facilitates online communication and how to communicate responsibly.

Music

This year, we are very fortunate that our weekly music lessons will continue to be taught by our specialist music teacher, Mr Burton. Our music lessons will be on a Thursday afternoon.

PSHE

As part of our PSHE work, the children will be completing the ten week DAaRT programme (Drug, Alcohol and Resilience Training). We will begin our first DAaRT lesson on Monday 8th September. We are hoping to have an assembly to celebrate our achievements in DAaRT at the beginning of December – further information to follow. Additional information about DAaRT has been added to our class Dojo page.

French

This term we will begin to learn the vocabulary for the school subjects and to be able to say which subjects we prefer. We will also learn how to say the time in French.

This term, teachers in Key Stage 2 will teach all subjects to their class and will not swap classes for French, computing and PSHE as in previous years.

P.E.

PE lessons will be on a Wednesday afternoon with Miss Lloyd and a Thursday afternoon with Mr Woolly and we would ask that children come into school wearing their full PE kit on these days.



Punctuality

Every day in class there is a quick morning activity for the children to complete before our first timetabled lesson begins. This is usually grammar and maths retrieval work often going over some misconceptions from previous learning. Therefore, it is important pupils are on time otherwise they will miss this important work and the children will have a loss of learning time. Good punctuality is vital for our pupils to form good habits for transitioning to secondary school and beyond. Thank you for your support with this.

Homework

During the first half term, homework will be learning spellings from the pyramid, recording three reads in their diary and accessing Times Tables Rock Stars. During the second half term, to help our children prepare for the Key Stage 2 SATs in May, we will begin to set homework using revision workbooks for grammar, reading and maths. Further information about this will be sent out later in the term.

This will be a very busy year and we hope your child enjoys it. Please feel free to speak with us should you ever have any questions, concerns or worries. Please take a look at our school website (using the link below) for some advice on supporting your child's mental health as they return to school.

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

Miss Bamford and Miss Lloyd
Year 6 Team

Dates for the diary

8th September – Introduction to DAaRT
12th September – Holy Cross Feast Day celebration in school
18th September – Meet the teacher 3:30 – further information to follow
26th September – Macmillan coffee afternoon
13th October – Flu vaccinations – see information on school Dojo
20th October – Half term – two weeks
10th November – Anti-Bullying Week
11th November – Remembrance Day
1st December – Y6 assessment week
3rd December – Year 6 trip to the National Holocaust Centre and Museum – further information to follow
19th December – End of term

Further dates regarding parents' evenings etc. will be added to Dojo once they have been finalised as a school.