

Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy



I hope you all had a fantastic, happy, and relaxing break over the Christmas period. My name is Miss Morris, and I am looking forward to getting to know and work with Year 4. The children have worked extremely hard so far this term and are challenging themselves in lots of different areas, and I'm sure this Lent Term will also be very exciting.

Our topic for the Lent Term is 'Romans and Roman Britain'. We will look at the invasion of Britannia in 43AD by Emperor Claudius and then how the native Britons rebelled, with a focus on Queen Boudica. We will be exploring how the Romans developed technology and trade in Britain and the changes that they made to the way we live. We will be looking at the disaster of Pompeii after half term and uncovering how volcanoes and earthquakes change our world. As always, we will also try to make cross-curricular links to other areas of learning such as English, music, art, and D&T.



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: 'Galilee to Jerusalem' and 'Desert to Garden'. We shall also be spending a week finding out about another faith. This term we shall be finding out about other faiths too.

In 'Galilee to Jerusalem', we shall be learning about John the Baptist, that Jesus is baptised (Lk 3:21-22), what happened at Jesus' baptism and retell the story using art, the story of Jesus being tempted in the desert and know that we all can make bad choices. We will begin to recognise that the miracles of Jesus are signs that he is the Son of God through the story of the paralytic, what a parable is, and the parable of the lost sheep, and use religious words and phrases correctly to recognise how Catholics say sorry to God in prayer and talk about why saying sorry to God and to others is important.

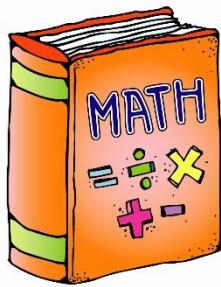
In our 'Desert to Garden' topic, our work will include learning about the season of Lent. We will recognise that Lent is a time for reconciliation and forgiveness, and that the season of Lent is represented by the colour purple in the church calendar. We will learn that forgiveness is part of our school Mission too, the scripture story of Palm Sunday and sequence it, using images, know the story of the Last Supper and retell it through drama. We will learn that Jesus' crucifixion happened after Palm Sunday and the last supper Thursday on a Friday – we call it Good Friday, and the story of the Crucifixion, along with what Jesus said on the cross, and that they were forgiven. We will also use artwork to know that we can represent forgiveness and reconciliation through art which is a universal language. We will then look at the events of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and the crucifixion of Jesus through art works studied and retell in any form the story of the women at the tomb – Luke 24:1-8 and Peter at the tomb.



In **English** we shall be looking at the texts of 'Escape from Boudica's Army' and 'Escape from Pompeii' focusing on characters' feelings and development during these events while focusing on our writing to ensure that we include the correct punctuation, grammar and spelling. We will also be looking at poetry by Cinquain.

We will learn how to write character descriptions and build suspense through their writing through first person perceptions. We will also learn how to write poems and how poetry can be read.

Children will be reading independently daily during our reading sessions and will explore retrieval and inference of the characters in these texts. We will have daily handwriting sessions too to focus on letter formation and learning how to join their letters, cursive handwriting.



In **Maths** we shall continue to follow our White Rose Curriculum. This term, we will learn about multiplication and division, length and perimeter, fractions and decimals. We will be exploring reasoning and problem solving using our concrete objects. Children will also need to be using their Times Table Rockstars account to develop their development of speed and fluency to apply number facts to all aspects of maths as well as in preparation for their multiplication checks in the summer. They will also continue to apply their skills concretely, pictorially, and abstractly.

In **History**, we shall be learning about how the roman invasion of Britain in 43AD sparked rebellion across the country and lead to technological developments that we still use today. We will be focusing on the rebellion of Queen Boudica and how structures such as Hadrian's wall aided the Romans in expanding their empire.

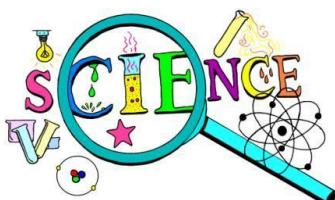


In **Geography**, we shall be looking at earthquakes and volcanoes. We will be exploring how they are formed and the changes that they can make to the environment. We will be focusing on the case study of Pompeii looking at how the eruption changed life there and the impacts that it had on its people. We will then compare this to a modern-day disaster and compare how we have developed search and rescue alongside preventative strategies.



In **Design & Technology**, the children will be following our Kapow Unit Electrical Systems, torches. In this unit, we will learn how an electrical circuit works and the components that are needed to make one. They will design, create, and evaluate a torch using their design and template.

In **Art** we shall also be following our Kapow Unit Drawing – power prints. In this unit, the children will learn how to design and make a Roman mosaic tile with a repeated pattern. They will develop drawing, painting, and printing skills, and looking at the artwork of artists, craft makers and designers between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.



In **Science** we will learn about 'Electricity' and 'Solids, liquids and gasses'. We will be learning how electrical components work together to make a complete circuit. After exploring how energy flows, we will then move on to study solids, liquids, and gases, discovering how materials change state and the properties that make each unique.

We will have weekly Thursday music sessions with Mr Burton after half term. We will focus on long and short sounds, pitch, beat and tone, and many other elements which help and support us to be fantastic singers and musicians such as posture and breathing techniques. We will also embed and use the following terms: tempo, dynamics, tonality, and learning different music styles and genres, as well as singing techniques and performance skills.



This term, we shall be continuing with swimming every Monday Morning until half term. We will also be following our Get Set 4 PE curriculum units of learning and will focus on gymnastics, dance and football. **Please ensure that your child comes to school on a Monday and Wednesdays in their PE kit. Swimming sessions will be every Monday with Mrs Tipton, and on a Wednesday with myself. After half term this will change, please watch this space for updates.**

Note Staff are not allowed to remove and replace earrings. Please ensure that your child does not come to school wearing their earrings on a PE day. Thank you.

In **Computing**, we shall be putting our ICT skills into practice in all our subjects as well as following the Year 4 curriculum for computing skills. We shall be following some of the modules from NCCE – National Centre for Computing Excellence; Programming Unit A – Repetition in shapes. In this unit, we will learn to describe a series of instructions as a sequence, explain what happens when we change the order of a set of instructions, use logical reasoning to predict the outcome of a program, be able to explain that programming projects have a code, design an algorithm, debug, and re-program. We will also refresh our safety skills and we will have an awareness day dedicated to this, Safer Internet Day, Tuesday 10th February 2026.



Reading



Please continue to read with your child for at least 10 minutes 4 times a week as we will read once in school. I am very pleased with all the reading that the children are doing. Some children have nearly reached their 100 reads certificates so that means that I will be handing out certificates very soon. Great reading, keep up the brilliant work.

Water bottles

Please could you ensure that your child always has a water bottle in school with their name clearly labelled on it. Water bottles will be kept by the sink and the children will take these home everyday.



Spellings for this half-term have been given out and are on the school website for your reference. Spelling tests will be completed every Friday.

All homework, letters, spellings, Knowledge Organisers and relevant information linked to your child's time in Year 4 can be found on our class page of the school website under the following tabs:

Curriculum/Class Pages/Class 4

The following link will also take you there:

[Class 4/Year 4 - Holy Cross Primary and Nursery Catholic Voluntary Academy - Hucknall](http://www.holycross.hucknall.sch.uk/Class-4/Year-4-Holy-Cross-Primary-and-Nursery-Catholic-Voluntary-Academy-Hucknall)

Diary Dates

INSET Day – Monday 5th January 2026.

Parents Evening – Tuesday 27th January 2026 and Wednesday 28th January 2026. More details to follow.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 10th February 2026.

Inset Day – Friday 13th February 2026

February half –term – 1 week – break up on Thursday 12th February 2026 return to school on Monday 23rd February 2026.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026 – more details to follow nearer the time.

Break up for Easter – Friday 27th March 2026

Return to School – Monday 13th April 2026.



Any other diary dates will be given via Class Dojo/letters. Please keep an eye out on the class and school Dojo Calendar for further events.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me, my door is always open. After school is the best time as mornings can be very busy or I am available via Dojo.

Please ensure that you keep up to date with homework, spellings, news, events, and dates for your diary by checking Class Dojo and our class page on the school website regularly. Thank you.

Thank you in advance for your help and support, as always,

Miss Morris