

Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy



Miss Duong teaching in class – Mon - Thurs

Mrs Tipton teaching in class – Friday

Teaching students: Miss Lavelle will be joining us for the first 6 weeks of this Lent Term, January until February, and then Miss Pritchard will return in March until the end of June/beginning of July.

I hope you all had a fantastic, happy, and relaxing break over the Christmas period. Last Advent Term was very busy with lots of exciting events in and out of school including settling into our first term in Year 2, a trip to Carsington Water, as well as our Nativity production. The children have worked extremely hard to challenge themselves in lots of different areas, and I'm sure this Lent Term will also be very busy too.

Our topic for the Lent Term is 'Africa' and 'Farming'. We will look at this continent and some of the countries within it, human and physical features of Africa/UK and all about Nelson Mandela, traditional stories from different cultures, learn about animals, humans and living things, their habitats and life cycles. We will be linking our topic of farming in Africa and the UK to one of our seven school themes of Conservation. 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.

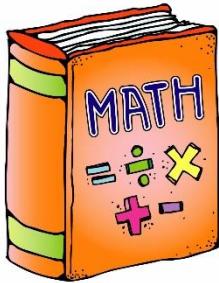
In our 'Desert to Garden' topic, our work will include learning about the season of Lent. We will recognise that Lent is a time for reconciliation and forgiveness, and that the season of Lent is represented by the colour purple in the church calendar. We will learn that forgiveness is part of our school 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 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 traditional stories from different cultures focusing on stories in Africa (Wangari's Tree of Peace, Nelson Mandela Long Walk to Freedom, Sulwe to name a few); information texts (non-fiction) by looking at a selection of books to go with our Africa topic and focusing on our writing to ensure that we include the correct punctuation and spelling. We will also be looking at animal stories by Beatrix Potter which will link with our farming and conservation theme.

We will learn how to write setting descriptions, newspaper reports and focus on narrative writing too; character descriptions and planning a story. 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 read 1:1 at least once a week with an adult. We will also have daily Phonics sessions which will include SPAG – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar - and handwriting sessions too to focus on letter formation and learning how to join their letters, cursive handwriting. Our phonics sessions will follow the Sounds Write Programme and will focus on retrieval practice and previous sounds that the children have already covered. Please ensure that they spend some time logging onto Spelling Shed to help with this. Games have been assigned to your children.



In **Maths** we shall continue to follow our White Rose Curriculum but will have lots of fun putting our learning into the context of our topic. This term, we will learn about money; counting money in pounds and pence, making the same amount with different coins, finding change, multiplication and division, length and height, mass, capacity, and temperature, and we will also continue to embed place value and number, addition and subtraction, reasoning and problem solving using our concrete objects. Children can continue to learn their times tables by logging onto their Times Table Rockstars account and develop their development of speed and fluency to apply number facts to all aspects of maths. They will also continue to apply their skills concretely, pictorially, and abstractly.

In **History**, we shall be learning about the life of a significant individual from the past who have contributed to national and international achievements, looking at the life and work of Nelson Mandela using our book, Nelson Mandela Long Walk to Freedom.

We will also look at what life was like and how life may have changed and the impact that Nelson Mandela had on Africa and the world.



In **Geography**, we shall be looking at some of the countries in the continent of Africa and at some of the geographical features, human and physical, weather and animals native to some African countries. We will also identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the equator. We will also be looking at farming in the Lake District and the impact Beatrix Potter had on the UK, how she influenced what we have today and linking this to our curriculum themes of conservation and farming. This will also link with our CAFOD/Fairtrade Fortnight, farming assembly, and growing wheat and tomatoes.

In **Design & Technology**, the children will be following our Kapow Unit Textiles, puppets. In this unit, we will learn to join fabrics together using pins, staples, glue or by using thread to sew. They will design, create, and evaluate a puppet using their design and template. In **Art** we shall also be following our Kapow Unit titled Craft and design: Map it out. In this unit, the children will learn how to investigate the way maps can be real or imaginary; comparing features of maps as artworks; creating children's maps in a chosen style and medium. They will develop drawing, painting, and sculpture skill, and looking at the artwork of artists, craft makers and designers between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work. They will also use a range of materials to design, make and evaluate products, and techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form, and space.



In **Science** we will learn about 'Living Things'. The children will explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive. They will identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other, identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats, describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food. The children will be working scientifically throughout all science units and asking and answering question by scientific enquiry and investigation including collecting and analysing data.

We will continue our weekly Thursday music sessions with Mr Burton. We continue to focus long and short sounds, pitch, beat and tone, and many other elements which help and support us to be fantastic singers 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 our Get Set 4 PE curriculum units of learning and will focus on Target Games, Fitness, Gymnastics, Sending and Receiving techniques.

Please ensure that your child comes to school on a Monday and Thursday's in their PE kit. PE sessions will be every Monday with me, and on a Thursday with Mr Woolley.

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 2 curriculum for computing skills. We shall be following some of the modules from NCCE – National Centre for Computing Excellence; Programming Unit A – Robot Algorithms. 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. Well done to the children who completed the Christmas Reading Challenge and read at least 10 times over the holidays. The Christmas Reading Challenge certificates will be handed out as soon as possible. Keep it up! Keep reading!

To continue promoting **Our Genuine Love for Reading**, you will notice that each reading certificate that is presented to the children will be displayed with a different quote linked to reading.

These are always shared and explained to the children as soon as a new certificate is given in class.

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 in school until Friday and then sent home to be cleaned. Please ensure that these are brought back the following Monday.



Spellings for this half-term have been given out. There are now two groups and spelling scores will be shared with you via Class Dojo.

All homework, letters, spellings, Knowledge Organisers and relevant information linked to your child's time in Year 2 can be found on our class page of the school website under the following tabs:

Curriculum/Class Pages/Class 2

The following link will also take you there:

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/curriculum/class-pages/class-page-2-2-3/>

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.

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 Duong