



# Holy Cross Preschool

## Curriculum Newsletter and Useful Information



### Lent - Term 2

We hope you have had a peaceful Christmas - Happy New Year to you all!  
Welcome back to term two.

We are pleased to welcome six new children to our preschool this term.  
Adanna, Asherah, Zuriel, Tutu, Kobi and Eli.

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

Thank you for your continued support, please spare some time to read through this Newsletter carefully and click the links for further information.

### Religious Education (RE) – Branch Three Galilee to Jerusalem



Here are our learning intentions for this half-term:

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](#) We do say these prayers daily, please help your child to practice at home.

#### Literacy

In phonics, we will sing nursery rhymes with actions, identify body sounds, use our voices to make sounds and move our bodies in response to an

#### How can you help?

- ✓ Support your child by reading lots of stories with them.
- Read the guidance sent

#### Mathematics

- Commenting on features, patterns and shapes within their environment.
- Naming and matching

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

- Being kind using kind hands.
- Turn taking and sharing.
- Using our manners.
- Being good at tidying up and

instrument.

The children will participate in activities that will develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Reading:

Please share books and read with your child daily. This can be done by reading stories to your child, reading labels out loud, reading instructions for games etc.

[Click me](#) and [me](#) for tips and advice.

We will be reading a variety of fact and fiction books this half-term. Some will be linked to our topics, others will be children's choices.



**Please join your local library.**

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

home to support you with sharing stories with your child. [Click me](#) and [me](#) for tips and advice.

- ✓ Help your child to recognise their written name. [click me for ideas](#).
- ✓ Encouraging your child to notice colours, patterns, shapes, features and things that match in their environment.
- ✓ Talking about amounts, sizes and comparing.
- ✓ When speaking with your child use simple language, and question your child to see if they have understood.
- ✓ Support your child to become independent - putting on their own coat, getting dressed, using the toilet, tidying toys away etc.



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

[Oxford Owl](#)



items.

- Sorting objects, into chosen groups and groups of the children's choosing.
- Comparing amounts
- Comparing sizes.
- Recognising numbers
- Repeating patterns



## Physical Development

- Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters and bikes) and ball skills.
- Using a pencil and other mark making tools effectively.
- Considering ways to keep healthy and safe, eat healthy foods and look after our bodies.
- Developing how to manage basic hygiene and personal care needs for themselves, including dressing and going to the toilet.



Hang Up Stuff

looking after our environment.

- How to stay safe and healthy.
- Understanding our emotions and learning how to cope in different or difficult situations.



## Communication and Language

- Listening and responding to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.
- Listening attentively to stories, anticipating key events and commenting on what they have heard.
- Maintaining attention, concentration and sitting quietly during small group carpet time.
- Developing narrative and vocabulary through play.



## Expressive Arts and Design

- How to use paintbrushes, pencils, pens and modelling materials effectively.
- Using various materials to make, draw and paint.
- Mixing colours.
- Rhythm in music and dance.
- Singing - nursery rhymes
- Role-play during continuous provision play.



## Fine Motor Skills

The children will have continuous access to daily fine motor activities and they will also take part in dough disco and Funky Fingers activities.

## Gross Motor Skills

Children will develop their gross motor skills through outdoor play; running, climbing, balancing, crawling etc. They will develop their ability to move safely too, developing core muscle strength, stability, coordination and balance. We will have weekly yoga activities and will use the school hall for movement activities.

## Understanding of the World

Understanding of the World is about how children get to know about other people, the place where they live and about all aspects of the environment.

**Understanding the World is broken down into three aspects:**

- People and Communities
  - The World
  - Technology

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

## Understanding of the world topics we will cover:

Seasons   Emergency vehicles   Birds

Chinese New Year   Children's rights

## EYFS Useful Information

[Complete Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#)

[Development Matters - Three and Four-Year-Olds - a guide to child development](#)

## Bringing your child to Preschool

Doors will be opened at 8.45am. Collection times are 11.45am and 3.20pm.

### School Gates

Open at 8.40 am and close at 8.50 am

Open at 3.20pm and close at 3.35pm

*Preschool parents/carers will be permitted to exit via the main entrance should it take longer to settle your child.*

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You **MUST** bring your child **directly** into the nursery and **support and encourage** them in hanging their own coat and put water bottles, lunch boxes in the correct place. Afterwards, **support** your child in finding/tracing their name card and joining the carpet activity.

Please ensure you have said goodbye properly!

### Change of Clothing

Please send a carrier bag with a set of cleaning clothing, (this does not need to be school uniform) this will **remain in school** - in case we need to change your child's clothing. Make sure your child's name is on their carrier bag. The children do not need to bring a school bag - we do not have room for larger bags.

### Lunch Time

**School meals** must be booked in advance via Arbor, at least the day before. New starters please email the office with your child's preferences for the first week.

**Packed lunches**, we are a nut free school, please chop grapes into quarters and any other food that might be a choking risk. We do not heat up food so please provide food that is eaten cold. Provide items such as sandwiches, wraps or pasta, fruit, yoghurts and cheese for example. School meals are served with a beaker of water and children who have a packed lunch take their water bottles. The children do not need extra drinks in their lunch boxes.

### Home Time

Morning nursery sessions end at 11.45 am. Please collect your child via the main office entrance.

At the end of the day the gates will open at **3.20 pm** - please collect nursery children first, then Reception class, then KS1 and KS2.

The doors open for the rest of the school at **3.25 pm**. The school gates are closed at **3.35pm**

**Please do not be late**, if there are unforeseen circumstances you must notify the office as soon as you are aware that you may be delayed.

**Please be mindful of where you park your car and consider each other and our neighbours.**

### Emergency Contact Numbers

If you change your contact number, please inform the office ASAP. If grandparents, friends or relatives are collecting your children we must be informed about this and also have their contact details including a photograph, you can send this via Class Dojo. Please ensure you check your phone regularly throughout the day. We will phone you in an emergency. We will leave a voice message if possible and send a class dojo message. In case of an emergency, we **must** always be able to contact you.





## Preschool Uniform

Navy unbranded tracksuit jogging bottoms - **not** school trousers  
Price and Buckland do not sell jogging bottoms, but they are available at outlets such as; [TU](#),  
[Matalan](#), [Asda](#) and [Next](#).

Blue/white unbranded polo t-shirt  
Navy Jumpers/cardigans

**\*\*Navy/Black or White** unbranded trainers - with **Velcro** fasteners

You are welcome to purchase school-branded items - but this is not compulsory.  
Price and Buckland [click me](#)



### Cold Weather, Clothing and Outdoor Learning

Your child needs a **coat every day**, which is ideally warm and waterproof. Please make sure that all coats, gloves, scarves and hats have your **child's name on them**. Check your child's jumper and write over any fading names. We do go out all weather and want your children to be able to learn in and explore the outdoors as much as possible. If they wear [wellies](#) to preschool, they will also require their school shoes this day for indoor play. You are welcome to send a pair of wellies into school so that the children can change into these should they need to.  
Please ensure they are

### Label it or lose it!



Buy some printed name labels to stick onto clothing - use the family surname, and then you can use them for all of your children.

[Click me](#)



### Dates for your diary...

[January 2026](#)

5<sup>th</sup> Inset Day

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

**Staggered start dates for new children – please arrive on your given date, you will be asked to return on your given date if you arrive on the wrong day.**

[February](#)

13<sup>th</sup> SCHOOL and Preschool  
CLOSED - INSET DAY  
16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Half-term-closed.

17<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday

18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday

23<sup>rd</sup> Back to school

[March](#)

6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Science Week

10<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day

15<sup>th</sup> World Book Day

### What to do at home:

- ✓ Read with your child everyday
  - ✓ [Numbots](#)
- ✓ Singing - please sing nursery rhymes with your child - [Click me](#)
- ✓ Please see our Class page for more click ['useful links'](#)
- ✓ Play with your child, model play, model play, speak to your child and ask questions, encourage curiosity.
  - ✓ Support their independence

clearly named and in a separate plastic bag or bag for life, they can remain at school.



14<sup>th</sup> CAFOD Lent Family Feast Day

17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day

17<sup>th</sup> Ramadan Eid al-Fitr TBC

27<sup>th</sup> End of Term 2

30<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April – School and Preschool closed

**April**

3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday

5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday

Last day of Term 2

13<sup>th</sup> April School Open

\*This list is not conclusive - check the [school website](#), Class Dojo and read school text messages.



**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 speak to me. 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 whatsoever, such as moving house, separation, medical issues, new babies, death of a loved one or pet, employment changes, child care changes, or anything that may impact you or 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.**

Thank you!

**Ms. Pitman and the EYFS team.**

