

Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy



I hope you all had a fantastic, happy, and relaxing break over the Easter period. The year 4 team and myself are looking forward to working with Year 4 this term and sharing some new experiences together. The children have come back to school with a positive attitude and passion for working hard this term and are challenging themselves in lots of different areas, and I'm sure this Pentecost Term will also be very exciting.

Our main topic for the Pentecost Term is 'Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings'. We will look at The Battle of Hastings 1066 and explore how life in Britain changed between Saxon and Viking rule. We will be exploring how the Vikings developed technology and trade in Britain and the changes that they made to the way we live. We will be looking at the Water Ways of the UK this half term and learning about the journey of a river and why they are so important to our ways of life. 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: 'To the ends of the Earth' and 'Dialogue and encounter'.

The children will be learning about the life and significance of Peter in the New Testament, exploring key moments of his journey with Jesus. They will look at Peter's declaration of faith in *Matthew 16:13–20*, his three denials of Jesus, and Jesus' three requests of Peter found in *John 21:15–17*. The class will also explore the story of the empty tomb from *John 20:1–10*, thinking about what Peter might have felt when he discovered it and later saw Jesus by the lake. Building on this, pupils will learn why Jesus calls Peter "the rock" in *Matthew 16:18*, how the Gospel of John presents Peter's role, and how this links to the Pope as Peter's successor, including why the Pope is described as "the servant of the servants of God." They will reflect on what Peter's life teaches Christians today. Later in the topic, the children will learn the words of the Apostles' Creed and how it summarises the central beliefs of Christians. They will also explore the meaning of the word "apostle", why the Church is described as "apostolic," and look at examples of apostleship in the Church today, considering how Christians continue to follow the example of Jesus.

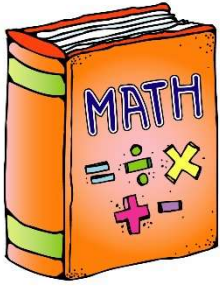
In our 'Dialogue and encounter' topic the children will be learning about the life and importance of St Paul, discovering key facts about who he was and why he is such a significant figure for Christians. They will explore how different artists have represented St Paul's encounter with Jesus, discussing which portrayal they prefer and explaining their reasons. As part of their learning, pupils will also be introduced to some of the theological virtues and consider how these virtues can be lived out in everyday life. They will make links with *1 Corinthians 13:1–7*, known as 'The Gift of Love', to deepen their understanding of these virtues. Later in the topic, the children will learn about different liturgical rites within the Catholic Church. They will begin with the most well-known, the Latin (Roman) Rite, and then explore some Eastern rites such as the Byzantine, Alexandrian, Armenian, Chaldean, and Coptic rites. Finally, they will consider why these different traditions developed around the world and recognise some of the reasons behind this diversity in worship.



In **English** we shall be looking at the texts of 'Anglo-Saxon Boy' and 'Viking Boy' 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 Kennings Poetry.

We will learn how to write in a persuasive style, explain events and write their own version of the stories looking at actions and. We will also learn how to write Kennings poems and how poetry can be used.

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 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 decimals, money, time times tables, shape, statistics and position and direction. 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** which will be **this summer!** They will also continue to apply their skills concretely, pictorially, and abstractly.

In **History**, we shall be learning about how Britian changed through Viking and Saxon rule and we will explore the causes and consequences of The Battle of Hastings 1066. We will be focusing on how Britian changed during these times and exploring some traditions that we still do today that originated during these times.



In **Geography**, we shall be looking at water ways of the UK. We will be exploring how rivers are formed and the changes that they can make to the environment. We will be focusing on the case study of the Lake District and Hucknall looking at how the rivers formed and changed overtime and the impacts that it had on people.

In **Design & Technology**, the children will be following our Kapow Unit Mechanical Systems, slingshot cars. In this unit, we will learn how a mechanical system works and the components that are needed to make one. They will design, create, and evaluate a slingshot car using their design and template.



In **Art** we shall also be following our Kapow Unit Craft and Design – fabric of nature. In this unit, the children will explore the work of Willam Morris and learn how to design and make a repeated pattern using his techniques.



In **Science** we will learn about 'Animals including Humans'. We will be learning how the digestive systems works focusing on both the organs that are used and the function of different teeth. We will also be looking at food chains and how the 3 different food eaters can affect these chains.

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 will have **PE** on a Wednesday and Thursday (Mr Wolley) where we will be looking at the sports of hockey, athletics and football. Please ensure that the children come to school in their PE kits on these days. Ensure that there are no large logos on clothing, shorts are knee length and that they are wear sports trainers no converse or Nike Air Force. **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 B – Repetition in shapes. In this unit, we will learn how to create our own video game and focus on how we code different aspects of the game to perform different functions.



Reading



Please continue to read with your child for at least 10 minutes 4 times a week as we will read once in school.

If you require help in this area please contact the school or myself.
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. Please try and use a reusable bottle rather than plastic bottles.



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.

MTC

During the Summer term the children will complete the government multiplication times tables check (MTC). This consists of 25 questions with 6 seconds to answer each question. We have been practicing these in school, but it is very important for each child to spend time at home practicing their times tables. Please use TTRS for this as it will help them track which are their strengths and which they need to work on.

Any question about the MTC please let me know.



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](#)

Diary Dates

First day back – Monday 13th April 2026.

Inset Day – Monday 4th May 2026

Jorvik Trip – Thursday 14th May 2026 (Ensure this has been paid on Arbour)

May half-term – 1 week – break up on Friday 22nd May 2026 return to school on Tuesday 2nd June 2026.

Break up for Summer – Friday 24th July 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

