



Loved, Valued, Challenged

Welcome to the Advent Term



Welcome to Class 2 Year 2!

Miss Duong teaching in class – Mon - Thursday

Mr Tibble teaching in class – Friday

I hope you all had a fantastic summer and a good and restful break. I am really looking forward to the new school year and getting to know you all.

All Newsletters will be added to the school website under the following tabs: Curriculum/Class Pages/Class 2/Newsletters. You can also click on the link below to take you straight to the Advent newsletter:

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/curriculum/class-pages/class-page-2-2-3/#1644578389373-226a4ede-6c15>

If you require a paper copy, please let me know and I will print a copy for you.

Please ensure that you find some time to navigate yourself around the new school website so you can familiarise yourself with it.



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: 'Creation and Covenant', and 'Prophecy and Promise'. We shall also be spending a week finding out about another faith. This term we shall be finding out about Judaism and Sikhism.

In 'Creation and Covenant', we shall be learning about the Bible and how it has two parts: the Old Testament and New Testament, the story of Creation, Genesis 1, and Noah's Ark. We will learn that God created the world as a gift to humanity, what stewardship is and how these link to the stories from the Bible, that a covenant means a promise and how we and God make covenants. We will also learn that psalms are prayed or sung and are a different form of scripture, sacraments and that Baptism is the

first sacrament and that it is a sign of Jesus' love, and the symbols used in Baptism.

In our 'Prophecy and Promise' topic, our work will include learning about a prophet communicates God's message – inspired by the Holy Spirit and that Isaiah is a prophet. We shall be learning about God speak to His people, the Israelites through prophets, John the Baptist – who he was and how he was a prophet, and his story, annunciation, know that the church teaches that Mary is the mother of God who prays for them and with them – The Magnificat, how we prepare for special times, the symbols of Advent and the preparations during Advent leading up to Christmastime, along with how our community and other cultures prepare for Advent, and the birth of Jesus from the Gospel Luke. This will include our Nativity and how Mary prepared for the birth of baby Jesus.

In English we shall be reading and linking our writing to our history topic of The Great Fire of London and focus on stories by Jill Murphy, On the Way Home, as well as reading stories written by her during story times; Peace at Last, Whatever next! Dear Hound. This term, we will learn to recognise the features of a diary entry and focus on persuasion with speech and dialogue. We will also look at fiction and non-fiction texts and identify features of these. We will also focus on our writing by ensuring that sentences are punctuated correctly and learn to join our letters cursively. We shall be looking at how to improve our writing by using adjectives, a wide range of punctuation, and begin using our editing and redrafting skills.



**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.**

**The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.**

–Dr. Seuss

We will also have daily phonics and handwriting sessions, ensuring that the children are starting letters with a lead to support them when joining their letters and writing cursively.

Our daily phonics sessions, **Sounds Write**, will include different ways of spelling the same sound, along with how words should be spelt rather than phonetically. Our **PVPG**, Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar, lessons will be part of our English lessons, focusing on the fundamentals and basics of writing and language, such as what common nouns, proper nouns, and verbs are, and learning about sentence structures and single clauses.

Common Exception Words (CEW) flashcards will support the children with their weekly spellings and phonics sessions.

Please find the link to CEW from Year 1 to Year 4 below:

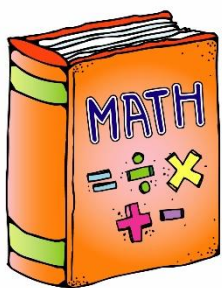
<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/curriculum/class-pages/class-page-2-2-3/#1655291078622-5ce2f157-e1c5>

You will find these at the bottom of the Spellings tab on our class page.

We shall be using our reading **VIPERS** – Vocabulary Infer Predict Explain Retrieve Sequence - to analyse, improve and support our understanding when reading specific texts in detail.

The children will be exposed to daily reading from the teacher during story and read as a whole class. They will also be reading 1:1, at least once a week to a grown-up too.

As part of your child's weekly homework, please ensure that your child spends at least 10 minutes reading to you each day, and that your child brings their reading books, orange reading diary and book bags, to school every day.



In **Maths** we shall follow the **White Rose** programme of study but will have lots of fun putting our learning into the context of our topic. Children will be set daily maths retrieval challenges, as part of their maths lessons, called Flashback 4 which are vital to support their development of speed and fluency in all aspects of math. This will also support their knowledge and understanding and ensure that what they have learnt has been embedded in their long-term memory. We will learn number facts which need to be learnt by heart (for example, all the pairs of numbers that total 5, 10 and 20, the 2, 5, 10 and 3-times table) and the inverse (opposite calculations to check your answers) too. The inverse of addition is subtraction and vice versa and the inverse of multiplication is division, to check $3 + 8 = 11$ you could do $11 - 8 = 3$. It is extremely important that you support your child with these math concepts at home as these facts will underpin much of the maths this year which they will find much easier to access if they know these facts by heart and quickly, but also if they know how to apply these skills concretely (using objects), pictorially (drawing and writing) and abstractly (off by

heart and know how and why you came to the answer). This in turn will then support them with their reasoning and problem-solving skills.

In **History**, we shall be learning about the life of another significant individual from the past and events beyond living memory, looking at who Samuel Pepys and Sir Christopher Wren were, what they did and why they are well-known individuals. We will be focusing on the book titled The Great Fire of London in English and learn why they were important figure in history. We will also look at how The Great Fire of London changed London, the impact of the fire, and how it was different after the fire. We will also have lots of discussions and question and answer sessions in our history lessons.



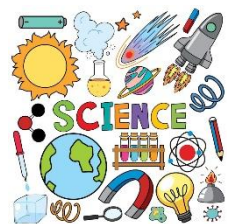
In **Geography**, we shall be looking at water and children's rights to water and sharpening up our geography skills and then using our geographical skills to compare Hucknall to Uganda. We will recap on previous learning and location knowledge of the continents, seas and poles on an atlas. We shall also be learning how to use our map and compass skills to locate different countries and oceans, and look at the human and physical features of Hucknall and Uganda and think about the following enquiry question; wat do we know about water and the waters of the world?

Our trip to Carsington Water this term will help to embed some of our learning about water this term. I will confirm the date once it has been booked.

In **Design & Technology** the children will learn to identify man-made, natural, stable and unable structures, explore stability, how to strengthen materials and how the shape of the structure affects its strength, and then design, create and evaluate making Baby Bear's chair.



In **Art** we shall be using the media of clay to shape and join the clay to create a basic pinch pot and join one shape into the side using the scoring and slipping technique. We will also design and create a clay house tile that has recognisable features made by both impressing objects into the surface and by joining shapes. We will also learn to evaluate our work, thinking about how it could be changed and improved.



Our **Science** is broken into three key areas: **Physics**, **Chemistry** and **Biology**. In **Chemistry**, we shall be learning about the uses of everyday materials, wood, plastic, metal, glass, brick, paper and cardboard. We will compare the suitability of everyday materials for different purposes. We will explore how objects made of some everyday materials can change shape and how the recycling process is able to reuse some everyday materials numerous times. Some of the work we do in science will link to God's world and making sure we look after it by using less and recycling. We will learn about new discoveries which have been made over time and find out about scientists such as John McAdam, John Macintosh and what they invented.



Keeping Healthy

Please ensure that if your child is having a packed lunch, that they include healthy snacks such as fruit or dried fruit, rather than sweet treats such as chocolate and crisps every day.

In **PE** we will be following the **Get Set 4 PE** scheme of learning. This term we will cover the following units: **Fundamentals** and **Ball Skills**.

In **Fundamentals**, children will learn to develop the skill of balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping, accessing the opportunity to work with a range of difference equipment. They will

be asked to observe and recognise improvements in their own and others' skills and identify areas of strength and learn to take turns and share ideas. In **Ball Skills**, children will develop fundamental balls skills such as throwing, catching, rolling, hitting a target, dribbling with both hands and feet and kicking. They will also learn to perform these skills with increasing control and accuracy using co-ordination and balance.

Note: Please ensure that you do not wear earrings on PE days.

Our PE days will be every Wednesday (with me) and Thursday (with Mr Woolley).

PE will start on Wednesday 9th September 2026.

Please could children come to school on their PE days in their PE kits. Please ensure that they are wearing no tracksuits with logos but plain navy jumpers and joggers, or their school jumper/cardigan is also fine and a plain white t-shirt. Thank you.

Mr Sweeny will teach our music lessons each week from the Trust's music provision. The children will be learning about pitch, tone, tempo, beat using our voices and musical instruments too. They will be listening and learning lots of different songs and thinking about the tone, beat and rhythm, along with how they express how we feel.

Mr Sweeny will also teach and introduce musical notes and the names of them too.



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, creating media – digital photography. This will include looking at framing, lighting and the subject when using technology to take photos. We shall also be learning how to keep safe and stay safe when using technology. We will also be using ICT to make music, which will link to some of our music lessons; how music makes us feel, rhythm and patterns, looking at how music can be used, notes and tempo, creating digital music using Chrome Music lab and then reviewing our learning.

I will also be using Class Dojo to communicate with all parents. If you have any questions or queries, please send me a message via Class Dojo. This allows you to contact me directly rather than emailing/contacting the office/head teacher. I will try to respond as quickly as possible to any messages that I receive.



Homework

All homework and spellings will be added to the homework or spellings tab on the class page on the school website in Class 2s tab.

The children will be given a few types of homework this year. Please see the list of **weekly** homework tasks:

- 1) **Read at least 4 times a week**, at least 10 minutes each time, write a note in their orange diary of how they read and signed by the grown-up they have read to. I will check reading diaries once a week and send reminders to ensure children are reading. **Reading** – The children will be given reading books and an orange reading diary which needs to be kept in their book bags and brought **to school each day**.

Please read with your child at least 4 times a week, and we will read once individually in school. Every read that is logged in your child's reading diary will mean a cell on the reading chart is marked off. Your child can receive reading certificates for their reading.

Please see the insert in their orange reading diary for more information.

- 2) **Learn your weekly spellings** ready for the spelling test on Friday. I have included a link on the first page of this newsletter so you can access **Common Exception Words – CEW** – flashcards to support the children with the majority of their weekly spellings. All the words that have been sent home, are words which the children should be able to read, spell/write and apply correctly to their writing by the end of Year 2. There will be some topic words as well as words linked to our phonics too.

A paper copy of the spellings will be handed out at the beginning of each half-term which will outline the spellings for each week for that half-term. They will also be added to the class page on the school website under the following link:

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/curriculum/class-pages/class-page-2-2-3/#1655291078622-5ce2f157-e1c5>

You will notice that as you move down the spellings grid, words will be repeated. These will be tested in a spelling book which will be kept in school, and the scores will be shared with you via an email on Class Dojo either on the Friday, or Monday.

- 3) **Log onto Spelling Shed** to play the games that I have assigned. These may link to our phonics learning or retrieval practice from Year 1. I will start to assign games from Monday 14th September 2026.
- 4) **Times Table Rock Stars** – please log on and practise your times tables. This is a fun way to learn your math facts.

Please contact me if you require your log in details for our online apps. These are the same as provided in Reception and Year 1.



Spelling Shed

It might seem like I have set a lot of homework tasks, but some types of homework will be **weekly** tasks that are on-going such as completing Spelling Shed games, Times Table Rock Stars, reading, and learning spellings every week and some, only once a month.

Diary Dates – A few dates for your diary 😊

More diary dates will be added to Class Dojo so ensure that you check this regularly.

Meet the Teacher – Monday 14th September 2026 in Class 2 at 3:30pm.

E.M.U.S – Education Making Us Safe – Approximately a 10 week programme with Mrs Butkevicius starting on Thursday 10th September 2026. It is designed to equip young children with the knowledge and skills to make good choices and keep safe in a number of different situations. Mrs Butkevicius may set short homework tasks each week to be returned for the following week, or sooner if your child completes it before the following week. The last session will be on Wednesday 25th November 2026. If this date changes, I'll let you know. Thanks.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon – Friday 25th September 2026 – 2pm. All are welcome. More details will be added on Class Dojo.



Year 2 Maths Parents Workshop – Monday 28th September 2026 - 9am – 10am – This is a workshop for Parents/Carers to come into school and understand how we teach the children Maths in Year 2 and school. It will be an interactive session where I will teach some concepts and then allow you to practise with your child during the workshop.

Inset Day - Friday 16th October 2026

October half-term - 2 weeks – break up on Thursday 15th October 2026 and back to school on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Trip to Carsington Water – I am hoping for this to be for the first week after the October half-term, but I will confirm and provide further information once I have managed to book this.

Year 2 Nativity – December 2026 – specific dates to be finalised and shared with parents/carers once this has been confirmed.

Letters about specific events/trips will be sent out nearer the time.

If you require any support for your child's mental health and wellbeing, there is information on our school website which you can access by clicking on the link below. Alternatively, you can come and speak to me, and I will support in any way I can.

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

I look forward to working with you to ensure a happy and productive time for the children who are the centre of all we do as we strive to give your child the best possible education as they progress through Holy Cross School.

I look forward to working with you all this year. Thank you in advance for your help and support as always.

Miss Duong