



Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy



September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Class 1! I hope you have all rested and thoroughly enjoyed the summer break and are now ready for the start of the new academic year. Below, is a list of topics that will be covered during the Advent Term as well as other information about help with their academics at home.

R.E

This term, the topic will be Creation and Covenant.

Children will learn about and be able to retell the story of the creation from the book of Genesis. We will learn that creation is a gift and opportunities will be provided for children to reflect and recognise that when praying, we can become closer to God. Children will learn the importance of looking after God's creation and how different communities around the world care about it.



English

In Year 1 the children will learn English skills that range from reading phonics sounds and blending, to composing sentences using

basic punctuation. We will also focus on a range of speaking and listening skills, behaviours and language necessary for effective communication and collaboration.

Phonics will be taught twice a day and the children will practice their handwriting skills daily. We will have two book focuses this term in our English lessons, we will be reading *Man on the Moon* by Simon Bartram and *Journey* by Aaron Becker.

Spellings

Please learn your weekly spellings ready for the spelling test on Friday. Our first lot of spellings will be given during week commencing 7th September and the test will be on Friday 18th September. I will send Common Exception Words - CEW - flashcards home for the children to cut up and use throughout the year to support with the majority of their weekly spellings. All of the words that will be 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 1.



Spellings will be handed out at the beginning of a half-term which will outline the spellings for each week for that half-term. 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. Spellings will be added to the class page on the school website, and a paper copy given to your child, at the beginning of each half-term.

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.

Reading

Please read with your child 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.

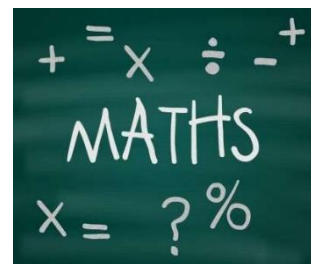
Reading - The children will be given reading books and an orange reading diary which needs to be kept in their book bags and brought to school each day.



Please read with your child at least 4 times a week and we will read once individually in school. If your child reads 5 times a week, they will receive a stamp on the chart on the inside cover of their reading diary which will be provided. One stamp equals 5 reads and for every 25 reads, they will receive a certificate. Bookmarks are also provided at the front of their reading records to help with their reading comprehension. Please ask the children a question from the bookmark after you have read with them.

Maths

This term we will be looking at Place Value. The children will be counting forwards and backwards, finding one more than and one less than a number, sorting and comparing objects and numbers. We will then move onto addition and subtraction using Part Whole Model, Fact Families and Number Bonds within 10.



Science

For Science, we will be learning about everyday materials. We will be comparing what the materials that transport from the past and transport of today are made from and exploring why certain materials have been used. The children will be identifying and naming a variety of everyday materials. They will learn how to describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials. We

will also be comparing and grouping together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties. The children will be working scientifically through exploration and experiments with a variety of materials.

History

What is transport, and how has it changed over time?

The children will be exploring the history of transport and how this has changed over time.

Questions we will explore:

What is transport?

What is a timeline, and how does it show us something about the past?

What were the earliest forms of transport?

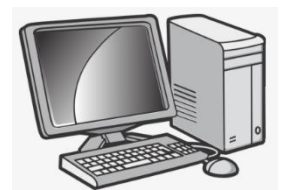
Art and DT

Over this half term the children will have the opportunity to make vehicles through the use of construction toys and box modelling. The children will learn how to draw a self-portrait and we will look at portraits created by Frida Kahlo.



Computing- Technology Around Us

The children will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them. They will become more familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills, and also start to consider how to use technology responsibly.



Music

This term, the children will be enjoying music lessons by Mr. Sweeney. They will learn different songs and will learn about the differences between pulse, rhythm and pitch and will learn different actions and movements alongside the music.



P.E.

The children will be learning about keeping fit and exploring how their body moves. P.E days this year fall on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week, please make sure the children come in with their full P.E kit on in the mornings before coming into school. Our P.E uniform policy is white t-shirts, navy shorts and navy/black trainers. The children can wear navy blue hoodies and jogging bottoms when the weather becomes cooler as we move through Advent.

PSHE

Difference and Diversity

The children will be encouraged to recognise and celebrate diversity at school and in their community. We will focus on the positive benefits of living in a diverse society.

Homework

As well as reading and spellings mentioned above in the newsletter;

Knowledge Organisers - KOs - these will be added to the class page on the school website under the Knowledge Organisers tab at the beginning of each half-term. It will consist of an A4 sheet of paper

of information, words or facts about a topic we are learning this term/half-term which will form part of your weekly homework.

Knowledge Organisers include basic knowledge of a topic that we would like your child to learn and embed in their long-term memory to enable them to use the skills/vocabulary in lessons and out of school. We will be using these knowledge organisers in lessons to help us learn about certain topics.

Phonics- There will be tasks set where I might ask the children to engage in an interactive game at home that will help embed their learning in phonics specifying in particular sounds.

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, reading and learning spellings every week and some, only once a month.



Keys Dates for the Calendar

Year 1 Phonics and Reading Meeting - Monday 21st September @ 9am

Year 1 Meet the Teacher- Monday 14th September @ 3:30pm

I hope you are all excited for the new academic year as much as I am and if there are any queries, please check the website for new and updated information or please get in touch.

Thank you for all your help and support.

Mr Hammond.

