

September 2026



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after the summer break. We hope you have had an enjoyable time and that you and your child are ready for the start of school. Please find below a list of the topics that we will be covering during the coming Advent term.

RE

Our topics in RE for this term are 'Creation and Covenant' and 'Prophecy and Promise.' In our first topic, we will study Abraham (and Joseph) and the cultural and religious context out of which he was called. We will also learn that God's covenant with Abraham is the foundation of the faith of the people of the Old and New Testaments: Judaism and Christianity. During our second RE topic, we will learn what a prophet is - drawing on Elijah and John the Baptist as examples. We will also show understanding of the cultural and religious context of Elijah's time and why people needed to be reminded of God's covenant.



English

During this term, the children will be studying a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. We are beginning the Advent term reading the wonderful text 'Who Let the God's Out?' by Maz Evans which tells the story of Elliot Hooper, a 12-year-old boy trying to save his family farm and care for his ill mother. His life changes when Virgo, a young Zodiac goddess, crash-lands into his farm. This text will support the learning for our first History topic 'The Ancient Greeks' by introducing the children to Greek Myths – where modern literature meets the classics. The children will build on their English skills by learning a range of writing techniques and develop their reading skills through a variety of comprehension activities including the use of VIPERS. During our reading lessons, the children will be asked to read a variety of texts aloud. Using these texts, we then focus on the key areas that children need to know and understand to improve their comprehension of texts.



In the second half of the Advent term, we will be reading the thought-provoking text 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson and our English lessons will be based on this text. A 2001 historical adventure novel about an orphaned English girl named Maia who moves to the Amazon rainforest in 1910 to live with distant relatives. This text links with our geography unit this half term on 'Climate and Weather'.

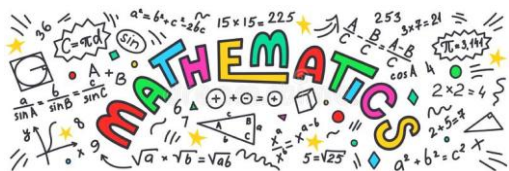
During our reading and English work, we do display the texts on our board in class but for those of you who like to have the book to read along; our first class text is Who Let the Gods Out? as mentioned above.

Spellings

We will continue to use the Pyramid approach to the teaching of spelling – which the children are familiar with. The pyramid will be given to your child to take home at the beginning of each half term. We will continue to also use the website Spelling Shed for fun games. **Spellings will be tested every Friday.**

Reading

Please continue to read regularly with your child, as this greatly improves their progress in all areas of the curriculum. Your child should try and read every night for 10 minutes at least and record this in their books. Please make every effort to hear your child read at least three times per week and record this in their diary. Reading diaries must be handed in on a Monday with three reads recorded and signed by an adult please. Should you have any difficulties in supporting your child with their reading please speak to us.



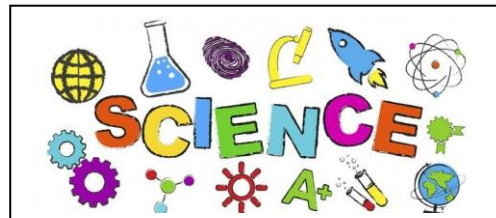
Maths

Maths will follow the White Rose curriculum. This term we will focus on place value, the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and fractions. We will also be working hard on our maths arithmetic skills and

timetables. By the end of Year 4, it is expected that children know all their times tables up to twelve. Knowing times tables is essential to maths work in Year 4 and beyond. All our children still have access to Times Table Rock Stars which helps boost fluency and recall in multiplication and division.

Science

Our science topic for the first half term is 'Sound' and during the second half it will be 'Living Things and Their Habitats.' The children will also have the opportunity to carry out practical investigations.



History and Geography

This term's first History topic is 'Ancient Greece'. After half term, we will cover Remembrance Day - a day which is always respected at Holy Cross. In Geography, our topic will be 'Climate and Weather'.

Art and DT

For our artwork this half term, we will study Ancient Greek art what it can teach us about the lives of the Ancient Greeks. We will be designing and making our own Greek pots using clay.

Computing.

In Computing, we will be following the NCCE programme of study. We will start by looking at computing systems and networks. We will look at how the internet facilitates online communication and how to communicate responsibly. Our second area of learning this term will be 'creating media' and the children will make their own podcasts – demonstrating learning from our history topic.

Music

This year, we are very fortunate that our weekly music lessons will continue to be taught by our specialist music teacher. Our music lessons will be on a Thursday morning. We will also take part in whole school weekly singing lessons in the hall.

French

This term we will begin to learn how to introduce ourselves and talk about our family.

P.E.

PE lessons will be on a Monday afternoon with Miss Elliot and on a Wednesday morning, we will have swimming lessons. The children need to come into school in their full PE kit on PE days please, including suitable footwear.



Homework

During the first half term, homework will be learning spellings from the pyramid, recording three reads in their diary and accessing Times Tables Rock Stars and Spelling Shed.

Please feel free to speak with us should you ever have any questions, concerns or worries. Please take a look at our school website (using the link below) for some advice on supporting your child's mental health as they return to school.

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

Miss Lloyd and Miss Elliott
Year 4 Team

Dates for the diary

9th September – First swimming lesson at Hucknall Leisure Centre

14th September – Bikeability for those signed up.

16th September – Meet the teacher 3:30 – further information to follow

25th September – Macmillan Cake Afternoon – 2.30pm

16th October – INSET

16th October – Half term – two weeks

11th November – Remembrance Day

16th November – Anti-Bullying Week

18th December – End of term

Further dates like parents' evenings will be added to Dojo once they have been finalised as a school.