

Mission Statement Motto: *Building relationships with God and each other, working hard in faith and hope to give our best in all things*

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 22nd January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers of St Anthony Class

Year 2 Spring Term Curriculum Letter

This term, our topic will be 'Bright Lights Big City'. This letter will give you some key information about what we will be learning this term and how you can support this learning at home. Please see below –

Subject	Content	Supporting your child home
Religious Education	This term our themes are Books, Thanksgiving and Opportunities. The children will learn about the books used in the Church and that Mass is a special time to say thank you to God for everything especially to Jesus. We will know that Lent is an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life.	With your child, share some of your favourite stories from the Bible. Take your child to Mass. Discuss what happened during the service? What is being celebrated? Discuss how as a church community we prepare for Easter. Share the Easter story with your child.
English	This term we will be reading the story 'The Journey Home' by Frann Preston-Gannon. The text explores issues of conservation and starts to explore whether we can escape the issues that endangered animals face on a day-to-day basis. The children will create fact files on endangered animals as well writing short persuasive pieces on why we need to save a particular endangered animal. Later on in the term we will be sharing the story of 'The Minpins' by Roald Dahl. The children will begin by engaging in the themes of the story by talking about danger and what they are allowed and not allowed to do. They will then go on to read and explore The Minpins and create character descriptions (for their own monsters and The Minpins themselves). They will retell the key events, report about The Minpins and eventually write a new chapter. The children will continue to have a daily phonics lesson.	Talk about characters within the stories we are covering. Encourage your child to describe the main characters to you. Support your child with their fine motor skills as this will help to improve their handwriting. You can do this using playdough, sewing and drawing. Use Read, Write Inc. eBooks to support your child with their reading (Use the login located in your child's Reading Record) www.phonicsplay.co.uk
Maths	This term we will be focusing on the children's ability to use money. We will work on recognising coins and notes and looking at how to make amounts using different combinations. We will also look at how to work out change. Later in the term we will look at multiplication and division. We will find out about equal groups and use arrays to being to understand the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We will begin to understand division by sharing an amount into equal groups and we will find out about odd and even numbers.	Practise counting on and back from given numbers in 2, 5 and 10's. Share household objects into equal groups. Encourage your child to make amounts using coins. www.mymaths.co.uk www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize whiterosemaths.com/1-minute-maths (Download the app)



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Science	This term in Science, we will be focusing on 'Animals Including Humans' before half term and plants after half term. The children will investigate and match animals to their offspring and compare the heights/hand spans of people at different stages of their lives. We will investigate how animals are cared for in zoos and farms and research animal charities, such as the RSPCA to find out how they keep animals safe. During the Plants topic, the children will learn that plants require things such as water, warmth, nutrients from soil and light to grow.	If you have a pet, encourage your child to begin to look after it and record what they do to take care of their pet. Grow something as a family – whether is a little plant in a pot on a windowsill or vegetable garden.
History	Our History topic this term is 'The Great Fire of London'. The children will be studying different aspects of why the fire started, what the main events of the fire were and what happened to London following the fire. Later in the term there is a planned day where the children will immerse in the experience of the Great Fire of London.	Talk to your child about the Great Fire of London and encourage them to ask questions about things they would want to know. Visit the local library and borrow some books about The Great Fire of London for you to read together.
Geography	We will be encouraging the children to talk about cities they have visited. We will be locating the cities of the UK on a map with a view to exploring London in more detail and comparing this city to other cities. We will also be using geographical vocabulary to describe the features of cities.	When out and about, discuss some of the features of our local area and how these are similar or differ from a city. Discuss what it is like within a city? Focus on London.
Art and Design	Our topic this term is linked to our humanities topic themes of bright lights and cities. We will be exploring colour mixing through paint play using a range of tools to paint on different surfaces and creating paintings inspired by Jasper Johns.	Allow your child to practise art and design techniques using whatever media is available to them at home.
Design and Technology	In Design and Technology the children will learn how to sew a running stitch ready to design, make and decorate a pouch using a template.	Encourage your child to talk about how fabric can be joined through sewing. Look at clothing or cushions around the house to discover how the fabric is joined to create these items.
Music	The initial topic for this term is 'I Wanna Play In A Rock Band'. The children will explore teamwork, working together, The Beatles and the historical context of musical styles. The following topic of 'Reggae Animals' delves into how poetry is used within music.	Listen to different types of music with your child. Discuss with your child how they feel as they hear the music.
Physical Education	In our PE lessons we will be looking at developing the strength of our bodies by acting out dance movements. We will put these movements together in sequences. In our outdoor PE sessions, we will be learning sending and receiving to develop our ball control skills.	Try to do at least 10 minutes exercise a day e.g. trampolining, riding your bike or walking the dog.
PSHE	In PSHE we will continue with the Ten:Ten programme. Throughout their sessions the children will be encouraged to notice similarities and celebrate differences between fictional people and each other as things that make us unique and special. They will also be encouraged to notice similarities and celebrate differences between girls and boys on physical, emotional and spiritual levels. Building from these sessions, the children will learn how to take care of their bodies.	Talk to your child about how to celebrate similarities and differences between people, including our God-given bodies and the things they enable us to do

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Computing	In Computing this term, we will be focussing on Word processing, Programming using Scratch Jnr. and Online Safety. The children will learn about word processing and develop their touch typing skills. They will explore what 'blocks' do, using the app 'ScratchJr,' and programme a familiar story and an animation of an animal. They will learn about online safety, including: what happens to information posted online; how to keep things private online; who we should ask before sharing online; describing different ways to ask for, give, or deny permission online.	Discuss with your child how they can stay safe when using devices such as phones, tablets and computing games. If they have access to a laptop or keyboard, encourage your child to practise their touch-typing skills on Word.
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PE Days – **Monday** and **Thursday**. Please ensure you have removed your child's earrings on PE days. If your child uses their PE kit for an after-school activity, please make sure their kit is returned the following day. Please make sure every item of PE kit is named. The children will need a winter PE kit including a tracksuit. **Please ensure your child's P.E kit is in school every day, as the weather can be unpredictable this term, and P.E days may change unexpectedly.**

Reading - It is extremely important that your child reads EVERY night. By reading daily, your child will be exposed to a range of authors and genres and this will help them to perform better in their own creative writing tasks. Please can you sign the reading journal each time you listen to your child read with an expectation that your child will be listened to at least 5 times per week. Reading records must be in school every day.

Homework: Maths homework will be sent home on a Wednesday and returned on a Monday. English homework will be sent home on a Friday and is to be returned the following Thursday.

If you have any queries or concerns, please email year2@holycrossprimary.thurrock.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Moore and Mrs C Steele
Class Teachers

