

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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Thursday, 23rd January 2025

Dear Parents of St Jude Class

Spring Term Curriculum Letter

This term, we will be learning about **Stone Age Rocks**. 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	<p>The children will study three topics this term – ‘Galilee to Jerusalem’ – we begin by looking at the Epiphany and learn about some of the teachings of Jesus in St Matthew.; ‘Desert to the Garden’ – we continue to learn about more parables of Jesus and also his death, burial and resurrection; ‘To the ends of the Earth’ – life, especially family life or life in school, is full of opportunities for self-giving.</p> <p>It is expected that the children will learn by heart all the KS2 prayers and faith facts in our School Prayer Book – as found on the school website. This can be enhanced by home learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to read, discuss and spend quality time with each other and explain to your child how each activity is an expression of love. Read and write the ‘Our Father’ prayer in your home language. It would be great to see these, so please feel free to share these with us.
English	<p>In reading this term, we will continue to focus on the learning behaviours for reading through the use of VIPERS. We will be reading ‘The First Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein, Cinderella of the Nile by Beverley Naidoo and The Tin Forest by Helen Ward as our class texts and will be practising using our reading skills. To further develop the children’s understanding and appreciation of Non-Fiction texts, we will continue to read Africa by Atinuke on Fridays in our Guided Reading sessions. We will also be reading and discussing KrindleKrax by Philip Ridley and Iron Man by Ted Hughes In writing we will look at instructional writing and the use of imperative verbs and time conjunctions., We will also look at reports and the features used within report writing with the aim of writing our own report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to your child read their home reading book at least 3 times a week and have discussions about the book with them, asking some of the VIPERS questions that was sent home with your child last term. Share your knowledge about the music, food and culture of different region/countries in Africa. Encourage your child to read different fiction and non-fiction texts.



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Maths	<p>This term we will be focusing on: Continuing to develop the children's skills at a higher level by rehearsing mental addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be looking at written methods for multiplication and division. It is an expectation that all children will know their times tables securely up to 12 x 12 by the time they leave Year 4. This means that they know the related division facts. Please support your child in this area by helping them to spot patterns between the times tables. We will also be working with statistics and fractions this term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our class Beautiful Fluency Facts (BFFs) for Spring 1 & 2 • White Rose One Minute App • Timetable Rock Star • Numberblocks • Discuss what is the same and what is different about numbers especially to do with multiplication and division. For example, what is the same and what is different between 6 X 4; 4 X 6; 24 ÷ 6 and 24 ÷ 4 • Hit the button - https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button
Science	<p>We will finish our learning on 'Light' before moving on to our first Spring of Plants. In 'Plants', we will identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants – roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers. The children will identify different plants, create an observational drawing and write a description of each plant. They will record and report using simple scientific language and diagrams.</p> <p>Next half term we will be learning about Animals, including Humans. We will explore and identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat. We will also identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement. For both topics, we will use our new knowledge to ask scientific questions and make predictions before conducting investigations which will allow us to gather and record results, measure accurately and draw conclusions using simple scientific language and diagrams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go on a plant hunt. Discuss the different plants you have found. What is the same? What is different? • Look up and draw different skeletons (human and animals). • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqYe6kN7jrQ • https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcyycdm/year/zmyxxyc
History	<p>This half term we will be focusing on Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We will investigate The Stone Age by seeking to answer: How did the lives of ancient Britons change during the Stone Age?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and discuss photographs of the stone age. • Watch and discuss The Flintstones – What do you notice about the tools, they used? Their homes?
Geography	<p>Next half term we will learn about settlements around the UK. We will develop our locational knowledge by describing and understanding different types of settlement and land use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss why you/your family decided to live where you currently live. What attracted you to the area?
Art	<p>This half term we will be learning about Craft and design: Ancient Egyptian Scrolls. We will learn about how and why art was created thousands of years ago, recognise and discuss the importance of Ancient Egyptian art, consider the suitability of a surface for drawing, record colours, patterns and shapes through observational drawing and choose and use tools and materials confidently.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw around each other's hands in chalk. You might like to overlap the chalk images to create a large hand painting, like the ones found in caves in Lascaux, France. • Make your own model of an Ancient Egypt piece of art using playdough, building bricks or boxes. • Use a different tool to create your own scroll.



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Design and Technology	Next half term we will learn about the digital revolution investigate some examples. The children will suggest a feature from the virtual micro:bit that is suitable for the product, write a program that initiates a flashing LED panel, or another pattern, on the virtual micro:bit when a button is pressed and identify errors, if testing is unsuccessful, by comparing their code to a correct example.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to try a variety of fruit/vegetable. • Create a fruit salad together. • Use fruit/vegetables to make a cake.
Music	This term we will use the song – ‘Three Little Birds’ to develop our appreciation of Reggae, Animals, Jamaica, poetry and the historical context of musical styles. We will also use ‘The Dragon Song’ to further develop our appreciation of music from around the world Friendship, kindness, acceptance, the environment, creativity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNBCVM4KbUM
Physical Education	This half term the children will develop their use of counting and rhythm. Pupils learn to use canon, unison, formation and levels in their dances. They will be given the opportunity to perform to others and provide feedback using key terminology in indoor PE. In outdoor PE, we will be learning about Cricket. The children will learn how to strike the ball into space so that they can score runs. When fielding, they learn how to keep the batters’ scores low. In all games activities, pupils have to think about how they use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play target hitting and balancing games ball games. • Try to complete 10 minutes of physical activity at home each day, maybe they could ride to the park with you!
PSHE	Using the resources from Ten Ten. The children will cover sharing Online, chatting Online, Safe In My Body, Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco and First Aid Heroes. We will also look Journey in Love – Physical.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss ‘worries’ with the child to enable them to understand that we all have worries but we can share them with other to help us feel better.
French	This term, the children will study the topics ‘Mon Corps and ‘Les Animaux’. They will learn how about the parts of the body, days of the week, animals and pets, numbers 11-20, character descriptions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to count and name various animals in French as well as sharing new words and phrases they’ve learnt in French after their lesson on Mondays every other week. • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ph4BjiW0QM
Computing	We will be learning how about the journey inside a computer, emailing and Online Safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpVEDyTYtIQ

Winter Uniform will continue to be worn for the remainder of this term, until Easter break. We encourage all the children to wear their uniform with pride. We would also like to remind you again that all items of uniform must be labelled with your child’s name. This should avoid you having to replace lost items at great cost! All children must wear black shoes to school and not trainers. Hair accessories should be in the colours of our school uniform: blue, white or yellow.



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I look forward to working in partnership with you this term. For other dates, please refer to the School Newsletter. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to let me know. My email is:

year3@holycrossprimary.thurrock.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Dhannie
St Jude Class Teacher

