

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 Thérèse of Lisieux 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 at home
Religious Education	<p>The children will study two topics this term - 'Galilee to Jerusalem' and 'Desert to Garden.'</p> <p>In 'Galilee to Jerusalem' pupils will consider Jesus' question to Peter, 'Who do you say I am?' They will also reflect on Jesus as the servant Messiah and how he announces the Kingdom of Heaven to those at the edge of society.</p> <p>In 'Desert to Garden' pupils will explore Lent's themes of forgiveness and reconciliation and the idea that devotion to God leads a person to do good works. They will also look at Holy Week in St Matthew's gospel and see that St Matthew shows Jesus as the servant-Messiah.</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 be focusing on the learning behaviours for reading through the use of VIPERS (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising). We will be reading two books this term, <i>The Ice Palace</i> by R. Swindells and <i>The Miraculous Journey</i> by Kate DiCamillo.</p> <p>Writing this term will be based around the following texts: <i>Frinddleswyld</i>, <i>Cinnamon</i>, <i>The Lion and the Unicorn</i> and <i>The Matchbox Diary</i>.</p> <p>The genres of writing the children will work on will include: letters, voting slips, dialogue, poetry, birds-eye view descriptions, persuasive speeches, diary entries, adverts,</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 Encourage your child to read different fiction and non-fiction texts Please help your child learn their weekly spellings that they bring home every Friday



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	<p>limericks, character and setting descriptions, non-chronological reports, mini autobiography and fact files.</p> <p>The main outcomes for the children's writing will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a narrative sequel • fables • historical narrative • biography 	
Maths	<p>In Maths we will continue to follow the Power Maths scheme and to use supporting materials from White Rose.</p> <p>We will be focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiplication and division - exploring written and mental calculation strategies for multiplying and dividing • length and perimeter • fractions - mixed numbers and improper fractions; comparing and ordering mixed numbers; finding equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions; adding and subtracting fractions; find a fraction of an amount; representing fractions in a variety of visual ways • decimals - identifying the value of any digit within a number up to two decimal places; counting forwards and backwards in tenths and hundredths; dividing 1- and 2-digit numbers by 10 and 100, writing the solutions as decimal numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure your child practices their times tables. You can use timetable rock star for this or visit www.timestables.co.uk or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p16Szig59Sg where you can find pop song versions for all the x tables (the children really enjoy doing these in class) • Most children in the class are now confident with many of their tables and I would recommend focusing on the 7x, 8x, 9x and 12x tables (although regular revision of the others would also be helpful)
Science	<p>This term our topics are <i>Electricity</i> and <i>States of Matter</i>.</p> <p>In <i>Electricity</i>, we will look at where electricity comes from, the appliances that run on electricity, how circuits work and electrical conductors and insulators.</p> <p>In <i>States of Matter</i>, we will <i>compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases; observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C); identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to read a range of non-fiction books based on electricity and states of matter. This will give them an understanding of key vocabulary. • More excitingly, you could discuss states of matter whilst boiling the kettle and/or defrosting the freezer!
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?

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Geography	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.	<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	This half term we will be learning about Painting and mixed media: Light and dark. This will include developing colour mixing skills, using shades and tints to show form and create three dimensions when painting. Pupils learn about composition and plan their own still life to paint, applying chosen techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this day and age, when many children seem to be glued to their screens, please encourage your child to draw at home as frequently as possible. Buying them a pack of felt tipped pens would be a wonderful idea!
Design and Technology	Next half term we will learn about mechanical systems and making a slingshot car. This will involve transforming lollipop sticks, wheels, dowels and straws into a moving car. Using a glue gun, making a launch mechanism, designing and making the body of the vehicle using nets and assembling these to the chassis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your children to take an interest in cars and machines in general – can they find out how a car's engine works?
Music	This term we will be looking at grime, classical, Bhangra, Latin fusion and gospel music.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your children to listen, and recognise, a wide range of musical genres.
Physical Education	This term the children will be completing a unit on dance for inside PE and one for basketball for outside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school.
PSHE	Using the resources from Ten:Ten, the children will cover <i>We don't Have to be the Same</i> ; <i>Respecting our Bodies</i> ; <i>What is Puberty?</i> ; <i>Changing Bodies</i> and <i>Life Cycles</i> . We will also look at Journey in Love – Physical.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By being involved and supportive, you can help your child navigate these important topics with confidence and understanding. If you have any specific concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school for guidance.
French	This term, the children will study the topics: <i>Clothes – getting dressed in French</i> and <i>French numbers, calendars and birthdays</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to practice at home, the French words and phrases that they learn in school.
Computing	We will be learning how about the website design and online safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with your child how to be safe online.

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.

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 address is:

year4@holycrossprimary.thurrock.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr M Price
St Thérèse of Lisieux Class Teacher

