



HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GROW IN FAITH & LOVE



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Monday 12th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 4! The children have settled back into school really well and are already showing great enthusiasm. I feel very fortunate to be teaching them again, and for those I haven't had the pleasure of getting to know yet, I am sure this will be a wonderful year for all of us.

Having returned to work from maternity leave, I am working part time this year, with the approval of the Governing Body. I will be in school every day Mon-Fri, part days, and will teach all of the maths, English and PSHE. The rest of the staffing in the class is as follows:

Year 4 Staff

P.E Teachers: Mrs Annis and Mrs Porter

Music Teachers: Mr Lister (whole class music) and Miss Hill (Violin group lessons)

RE, Science & Computing: Mrs Hall (Tues & Wed afternoons)

Art/DT: Mrs Breakwell

History/Geography: Miss Aumeer (Thursday after break, alternating between the two)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Chatterton and Mrs Stewart

Autumn Learning

Our first topic is 'Our Local Area', in which we will be doing a local geography and history study. We hope to take the children to visit Pershore Abbey, the Wetlands, and the Heritage Centre and I have also made links with a local artist and have approached her to if she will come in to school to work with the children; I will update you once I know more.

Our first texts in English will be The Day the Crayons Quit, followed by The Lost Happy Endings in Autumn 2. Our first science topic is 'Sound' - and we have lots of fun and engaging practical activities that should excite the children and spark their interest in this unit. In Maths we will be focusing on Place Value for the first few weeks and then move on to addition and subtraction. We will be using lots of concrete apparatus to help deepen our understanding of mathematical concepts.



We have recently moved into the Ecumenical Season of Creation and so in R.E and in our class worship sessions, we will begin by focussing on God's creation, which ties in nicely to our local Geography unit. In our PSHE sessions we will be learning about our feelings, what they are and what they feel and look like. We will be learning strategies to support us when we experience 'big feelings' and practise these tools for regulation often in class.

Spellings and Homework

We are beginning a new spelling scheme as a school this year, so spellings will be a bit different to normal. We will have a focus each week, which will be shared with you in the homework books, with an activity to practise the new skill. We will not have a traditional spelling test in school, but will be assessing the children's understanding through focussed activities within their normal spelling lesson.

Children are expected to know how to spell the words on the Y3/4 spelling list by the end of the year, and so the spelling homework may be linked to these. Please do not worry if your child's spellings differ to that of their peers, when we notice a child frequently misspelling a word (even if it seems quite a simple word - such as 'with' or 'everything') we will set this as a focus for them.

Homework will be given when I notice the children need a little extra practise in an area we have covered in class. It may go out on different days, but I will let you know when it is due in and make sure the children have enough time to complete it. Please prompt your child to ask for a new copy if they lose theirs, as it is likely that the work set will differ from pupil to pupil dependent on what each child needs at that time.

Times Tables and related division facts (up to 12x12) will be taught and practised regularly in school. The children need to know their times tables for the statutory Multiplication Times Table Check in the Summer Term (see section on this below). Please try and allocate a few minutes daily to practise them at home as this will really help. In class we quiz the children orally, play lots of games, sing times table songs and also have a weekly written quiz as part of our whole-school 'Number Club'.



Reading

Please make sure the children have their reading records and books in school every day. The children should be encouraged to read at home (once a day preferably) and talk about what they have read. They may have chosen a book from the school library or read one of their own from home. If they are not yet a Free Reader, their reading book will be linked directly to their learning in Phonics and this book should take priority. As always, the children have been given a reading record to record their progress and add a comment. We will monitor reading records daily to check that children are reading at least three times a week.

To encourage the children to read a range of literature, they will have a 'Book Bingo' sheet in the front of their reading records. There are different bingo boards for the children to progress on to; the first focuses on different text types. Prompt the children to write the title of the book and please sign this to confirm they have read it.

I am extremely passionate about encouraging children to develop a love of reading. There is a wealth of evidence to support the notion that great readers make great writers. If your child isn't a lover of reading yet, don't worry, let's make this the year that it happens for them!

P.E and Swimming

PE will normally be on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure that their kit is left in school all week as there may be changes or additions to the timetable occasionally. Pupils must wear a labelled school PE kit, but can wear a tracksuit in the colder months.

The children will be going swimming on a Friday morning, starting on the 23rd September. Mrs Annis will send a letter out with more information regarding this.

The Pioneer Centre Residential

We have provisionally booked our annual residential trip to the Pioneer Centre for the week commencing the 13th February 2023. It is a two night residential, full of wonderful activities for the children to take part in. I will let you know more details about this once we have had this confirmed. The cost last year was approximately £120 and we don't anticipate it changing much this year. There will be a meeting closer to the time with more information and to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions.



Multiplication Times-Table Check (MTC)

As mentioned above, nationally in Year 4 children take part in the statutory MTC. The purpose of it is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables up to and including 12x12 fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

The check itself will take place in the Summer Term, in June. It is done online using a computer or tablet and will take no longer than five minutes. It will feature 25 questions and the children will have six seconds to answer each questions. There is no problem solving involved and no division questions (although we strongly advise that these are practised too!) The questions will be in the following format: $6 \times 7 = ?$ $4 \times 9 = ?$ $11 \times 12 = ?$

Within school we will have the flexibility to administer the check to individual pupils or small groups to best meet the needs of our children and give them the best possible chance. Leading up to this, there will be lots of time to practise on the ipads or computers so that when the actual day comes, the children will simply feel that they are completing their 'normal day-to-day' learning. There are also accessibility arrangements that can be made for those with Special Educational Needs and those will be discussed with you, should the need arise, closer to the time.

There are suggestions for how you can support your child with this in the Times Table booklet on the maths page on the school website, as well as lots of resources on our [Year 4 Home Learning page](#). But a few extra ideas are:

Hit the Button on Topmarks <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Supermovers Times Tables on BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers> click on KS1 or KS2 dependent on where your child has got to with their learning.

Learn with Emile - Your child's username and password will be provided. The app can be downloaded from the Apple Store, Google Play Store, Kindle/Amazon Store or Microsoft Store for FREE; just type in "Learn with Emile".

Other

Please make us aware if someone other than yourself is picking your child up from school, or if there are any special arrangements regarding this. Also, please could you make sure your child brings in an old shirt or t-shirt to wear for art lessons if possible.

I would love to hear about the children's achievements outside of school too, so please encourage them to bring in anything they feel proud about (certificates, medals, stickers, badges etc). We will share these things on a Thursday or Friday. If you need anything printed, such as a photo, email it to the office and I can do that for you.



Finally, if you happen to be getting rid of any unwanted chapter books and wish to donate them to our class library, the children and I would be very grateful. Many of the children have similar interests at the moment and so certain books are in high demand - Tom Gates and David Walliams books for example.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions following this letter, or indeed throughout the year. If I am not able to see you when required (e.g. at the start of the school day or on a Friday) then please leave a note in your child's reading record or with Mrs Doyle at the front desk. Alternatively, please call the office on 01386 552518 or email office@holyredeemer.worcs.sch.uk.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Hill

