



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Telephone/Fax 01752 225420
Website: <https://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web>
Email: holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk
Headteacher: Mrs F Gill
Newsletter No.22: 4th March 2022



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a very different term. To start our term with all staff and pupils gathered in the hall was very special! This was the first time we have gathered as a whole school as when we were gathering in the Autumn term, our new starters had not yet joined us for acts of worship. It was such a wonderful experience for everyone. I even noticed two children spontaneously giving each other a hug on their way back to their separate classrooms! They are so happy to be back together again.

It was a great week to return to school as we were able to celebrate the very important and fun World Book Day 2022 event. The children (and staff) looked amazing and the sheer creativity of the costumes was breath-taking. We had a fantastic hat competition which was extremely difficult to judge; a story-telling session with Conservation Ranger, Beckie Dodds; a library designing competition and the launch of our fabulous book swap! We also had a 'no pen' afternoon where oracy and verbal discussion were the order of the day! Please read on to find out more and to see the wonderful photographs in the newsletter. Teachers have also posted lots of photos on the Class Dojo pages so make sure you take a look!

Our Ash Wednesday Mass was very special too - again we gathered together in the hall, this time to mark the beginning of Advent. Father Victor celebrated the Mass and then blessed us with the ashes. We sang beautifully and we were very proud of them.

It would be remiss of me not to talk about the tragic events unfolding in Ukraine. We have taken many opportunities to pray for the people of Ukraine and for all those in our own community with family members who are now living in great fear and danger. As we enter this season of Lent, we will be thinking of them and working together to find ways of providing support.

Mrs F Gill
Headteacher



7th March - 1st April
'Eat them to Defeat them'

7th - 11th March
Careers Week

9th March
Inclusion Football Festival

14th-18th March
Science Week

15th and 17th March
Parents' Evenings

21st March
*Y3/4 Able Maths Day at Bishop
Cornish
KS1 Change4Life Festival*

23rd March
World Maths Day

23rd March
*Celebration of Learning
Details to follow!*

28th March
*School Games KS2 Change4Life
Festival*

29th March
Tempest Class Photos

21st -1st April
Big Walk and Wheel Week

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ANY COVID RELATED COMMUNICATIONS (POSITIVE RESULTS OF TESTS): covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk



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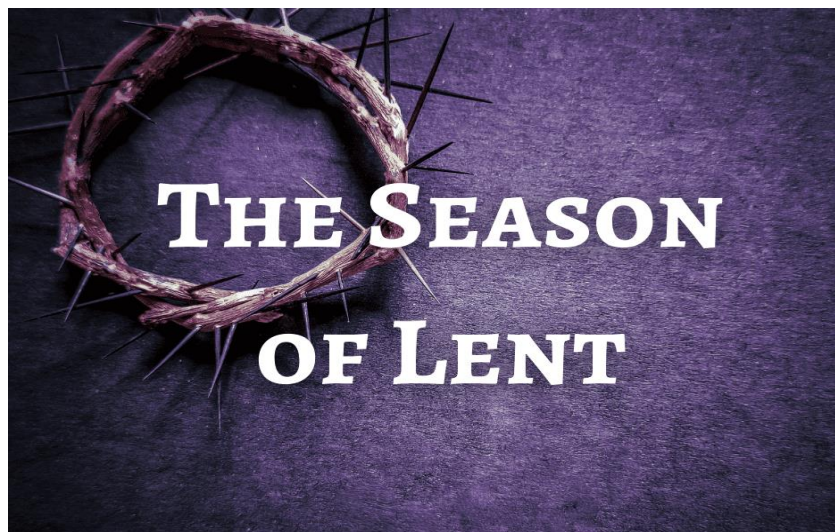


Our Catholic Life

Temptation: Luke 4:1-13

Led by the holy Spirit, Jesus goes into the wilderness where he is tempted. What kind of leader will he be? Jesus has the choice to show the world his power as a mighty ruler or be a different kind of king. What a challenge! But Jesus knows what God the father is asking. He understands that there is more to life than food, money and power. Nothing is more important than trusting and serving God the Father.

This week we celebrated Ash Wednesday with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Father Victor. Father Victor reminded the children about the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. He reminded them that Lent is not just about 'giving things up' but by doing so, we make room for other, more important things. So, by giving up treats, we can donate the money we save to those less fortunate; by giving up time on our X-box, we can make time for those we love; by giving up our own time to pray to God, we grow closer to him.



Let us Pray

Dear Jesus, help me to keep my Lenten promise, so that I might grow to be like you. Be with me in the challenges of every day.

Amen



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An extract from a letter from Bishop Mark O'Toole

My dear brothers and sisters,

War has again come to Europe. It is almost unimaginable for us who have lived in peace for so long. Our hearts and our prayers go out to the Ukrainian people and to all peace-loving Russians. We also hope for the conversion of hearts and minds of those bent on war and aggression.

Given the reality of this war, Pope Francis has asked us all to observe Ash Wednesday as a day of prayer and fasting for peace... Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season shaped by the disciplines of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. This year, these have a particular focus for us as we link these spiritual weapons to the reality of what we are living through in Europe at this time.

Firstly is the weapon of prayer... The Mass is the most fruitful prayer in which we participate. As we worship and adore God at Mass, we unite ourselves with Jesus' offering to the Father on the cross.

Secondly is the weapon of fasting... It is a personal sacrifice, but also an act of solidarity with those... in Ukraine, of the very real sacrifices forced on people as a result of war. Fasting brings us closer to them...

And then there is the weapon of almsgiving, of charitable giving. We know that this war means steeper energy and food prices...It requires greater generosity from those of us who have more. The war will also lead to many refugees. I hope our countries will be generous in receiving these desperate brothers and sisters fleeing for safety from war in their homeland.

...Our acts of prayer, of fasting, of alms-giving, aid us in participating in God's redemptive action, united with all those who believe, with all those who suffer, with all those who long for an end to this war.

Yours devotedly,

*Mark O'Toole
Bishop of Plymouth*



Wonders of the Week

Here are this week's winners of the Wonder of the Week award.

Julia Donaldson: Nikola - for working so hard with her phonics this week.

Allan Ahlberg: Meeya- for showing enthusiasm and confidence in her maths learning this week.



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Simon James: Ekkam - For showing great independence and a willingness to be involved with all of our learning this week. This has been noticed by several adults, well done.

Judith Kerr: Freddie- For super effort all week and impressing all of the adults in class with his engagement in learning. Well done, Freddie!

David Walliams: Gabriela - For being such an engaged and independent learner.

Cressida Cowell: Kacper- For showing a better work ethic this week and for having a positive attitude. Kacper has also shown throughout the week what a brilliant friend he is to all. We are very proud of you!

Roald Dahl: Maya - for her independence and resilience - well done Maya

Louis Sachar: Hala - Hard work and self-belief works wonders. I am and so should she, be so proud of her achievements.

Emma Carroll:

Malorie Blackman: Katie - For excellent storytelling in our 'No More Marking' assessment task and always trying her best.

Gospel Values Awards:

This week we have all been trying to show **Forgiveness**

Julia Donaldson: Max - for showing forgiveness towards his friends.

Allan Ahlberg: Antonio- for forgiving his friends even though he has been hurt.

Simon James: Ethan - For always forgiving others when mistakes are made and being a wonderful friend.

Judith Kerr: Maria-Iulia- For always being a wonderful friend and supporting her peers even when they make mistakes.

David Walliams: Malak - for listening to her friends and forgiving people when they make mistakes.

Cressida Cowell: Farhan - For always showing care to his friends and for promoting forgiveness in our class.

Roald Dahl: Ewan for always making sure people around him are happy!

Louis Sachar: Tilly - For simply being a wonderful friend.

Emma Carroll: Ruslan - for always making sure his friends are happy in class and in the playground

Malorie Blackman: Isabelle - for being a kind and understanding friend to all.





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Top Table Awards



Allan Ahlberg: Dawson for always being polite and respectful to adults.

Simon James: Miki for always being well behaved and polite, showing beautiful manners.

Judith Kerr: Freddie for playing nicely with his friends.

David Walliams: Abby for playing so nicely with her friends and being polite to children and adults.

Cressida Cowell: Daisy for being so kind to another child and to **Ali** for helping out all week!

Roald Dahl: Riley for always playing nicely and for being respectful at all times.

Louis Sachar: Karolina for being such a wonderful role model for others.

Emma Carroll: Elsie for her consistently good behaviour.

Malorie Blackman: Mica for always modelling how we expect children to behave towards each other and towards the adults looking after us at lunchtimes.



Before half term the children participated in a whole school maths challenge. On Thursday 17th February, we held our grand finals in the hall and witnessed some amazing recall of number facts and times tables. The speed of recall was also important and the final times tables round had 10 tables facts at 2 second intervals! We were amazed at the resilience of the children as well as by their excellent times tables knowledge. Following on from the straight-forward times tables facts, the children then had to use and apply their knowledge to solve, at speed, more challenging calculations for example 40×3 or 6×700 .

We also threw in a decimal round: 40×0.5 ; 0.02×60 or even 700×0.04 ! Finally, we moved to square numbers and square roots: from 4 squared to 15 squared or the

atulate all who took part and especially our champions:

Year 1: Piran

Year 2: Adam

Year 3: Roland

Year 4: Mahi and Emilia

Year 5: Leo

Year 6: Rianna, Karolina and Garima

KS1 Champion: Adam

LKS2 Champions: Mahi and Emilia

UKS2 Champion: Leo



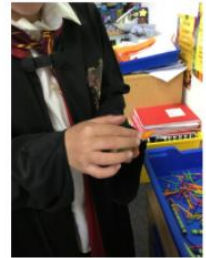
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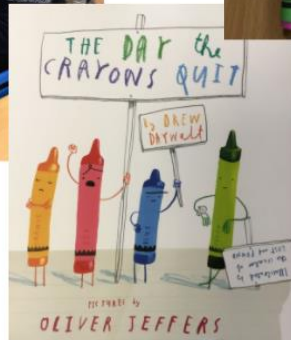


World Book Day 2022

Allan Ahlberg Class



We read 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and created our own crayon characters, as well as reading lots of stories and making bookmarks!



Judith Kerr Class





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Hat Competition:

Well done to all of our wonderful entries for the Holy Cross Hat Competition! The judges were very impressed with all of your designs.

Each of our winners were presented with a £5 book voucher so they can choose their own special book prize!

Winners:

EYFS: Noah M

KS1: Eli

LKS2: Meleia

UKS2: Fran



We have two Goodbyes this week.

We say farewell to **Emma Ronchetti**, our fantastic RockSteady Band Leader who has moved on to new adventures in the music world. We are really grateful for all she has done to inspire our young musicians here at Holy Cross. Rebecca, our new band leader started today and was very excited to meet the children.

We also say Goodbye to Miss Pechkina, one of our MealTime Assistants. She doesn't go very far however, as she will be joining Karen and the CaterEd team in our kitchen!

It's Back.... Eat them to defeat them!

-w/c 28th February Carrots

-w/c 7th March Peppers

-w/c 14th March Broccoli

-w/c 21st March Tomatoes



Holy Cross Careers Fair
Wednesday 9th March 1:30 pm -3:00 pm



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You are invited...

to Premier Education's
extracurricular activities!



Here's what's on near you...

Holy Cross Catholic Primary school
Wednesdays= Gymnastics: Year 1/2 Time: 15:20 - 16:30 Start Date: 2nd March - 30th March (6 weeks)
Thursdays = Dodgeball: Year 5&6 Time: 15:20 - 16:30 Start Date: 3rd March - 31st March (6 weeks)

To discover the activities available and to book today, visit premier-education.com

Plymouth Pilgrims

Netball Club

Fully qualified and insured coaching team

Now open to Years 5 & 6



Wednesdays 6-7pm
at The Life Centre

£3 a session

To sign up contact Sarah

(coach and primary school teacher)

07812 196511

COVID19 Information

Update 21st February: 'Living with Covid-19'.

At school we will

- hold whole school assemblies, Masses and other events.
- no longer wear face coverings in school or in the playground at drop off/pick up times.
- cease routine asymptomatic testing of staff (LFTs).

We will however continue with our hand/respiratory hygiene, ventilation and cleaning regimes as a first line of defence as in the case of all infectious diseases.

We will continue to follow PHE advice whereby staff and pupils who are symptomatic or have a positive C-19 test result should stay off school for a minimum of 5 days, returning after two consecutive negative results on Day 5 and 6. Please let the office know if your child tests positive or is symptomatic. They should have a PCR test if they have a fever, a new, persistent cough or experience a loss of taste/smell.



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In the event of an outbreak, we will implement measures in line with DFE/PHE advice which may include the re-introduction of face coverings/daily LFTs or the temporary suspension of whole school gatherings.

Should we need to re-introduce these measures, I will inform you. We will no longer inform you of positive cases.

Breakfast Club/After School Club

30 places available at Breakfast and After School Club.

Please ring or email the office at holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk to book places one week in advance. We cannot take bookings on the day.

Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am and **children need to be in by 8am**. Arrivals after this time will not be admitted.

After School Club finishes at **6pm**.

Please ring **07398477727** when dropping off and picking up.

Drop off and collection to Breakfast Club/After School Club is at the main red doors to the church.

Have a lovely weekend.