



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

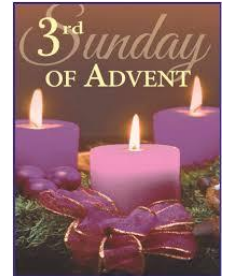
Telephone/Fax 01752 225420  
Website: <https://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web>  
Email: [holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs F Gill  
Newsletter No. 13: 11th December 2020



### Our Catholic Life

#### Our theme next week is God's Messengers

The Jewish people had waited for generations for the Messiah; the anointed one who God had promised would save them. Some of them began to wonder if John the Baptist might be their saviour and went to ask him. John clearly tells them that he is not the Messiah. He is God's messenger sent to get everyone ready to welcome Jesus. It is Jesus who is the Messiah. Jesus is the light; the fulfilment of God's promise and all the years of waiting. Jesus is so important that John the Baptist is not good enough to even undo his sandals.



***This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of ADVENT. We will gather on Monday morning (via Zoom) to light the third candle on our Advent Wreath as we prepare for the coming of Jesus. This is the pink candle – the symbol of JOY.***



#### Let us Pray

*Please stay close to me Jesus so that I can always let your love and kindness shine out of me.  
Amen*

Dear Parents/Carers,

*We had a fantastic day today. The children looked so beautiful in their Christmas jumpers and everyone was smiling!*

*The classrooms were decorated and looked amazing and the children really enjoyed eating their dinner together in their classroom with their teachers. We had a fabulous team of helpers ferrying meals to the classrooms and ensuring everyone had enough to eat. The kitchen staff did a brilliant job – the meat and vegetables were cooked to perfection – not an easy task when catering for 350 people! I only hope I can cook as nice a meal for my own family next week!*

*Today we said goodbye to Miss Murphy and Miss Foster who finished their placements with us. They were a wonderful addition to the team and we wish them the very best in their future careers. They have become fantastic teachers and we were so lucky to have had the benefit of their skills this term. I would also like to sing the praises of their mentors: Mrs King, Mrs Shaw and Miss Heaton – their support, guidance and coaching ensured the placements were a positive experience for everyone.*

*As we approach the final week of what has been a long and challenging first term in some respects, but an absolute joy in many others, I continue to greatly appreciate your ongoing support.*

*Stay safe,  
Mrs F Gill  
Headteacher*



Friday 18/12/20  
Last day of term

**Monday 4/1/21**  
**Non-pupil day**

Tuesday 5/1/21  
Spring term begins

Friday 12/02/21  
Last day of term

15/02/21—19/02/21  
Half Term

Monday 22/02/21  
Non-pupil day

Tuesday 23/02/21  
Term recommences

02/04/21—18/04/21  
Easter Holidays



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### ATTENDANCE AT HOLY CROSS



*The guidance continues to be that every child should attend school every day despite the Tier 2 restrictions following lockdown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. We continue to monitor our risk assessment and remain vigilant about hand washing and sanitising, remaining in our bubbles/consistent groups and ensuring we socially distance as much as possible.*

*Remember! The guidance hasn't changed.  
Children should still attend school every day.*



*This week's attendance at Holy Cross was 96%. **Well Done!**  
PLEASE always ring the school number 01752 225420 to report an absence. Thank you*

Class	Attendance
JD	96%
AA	95%
EC	99%
RH	91%
RD	95%
QB	97%
MM	99%
EMC	99%
PP	94%
JKR	98%



*This week **Miss Foster** led our Celebration Assembly.*

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

**Julia Donaldson:** Antonio for being more confident in class. We are so proud of you!

**Allan Ahlberg:** Ava for super sounding out and beautiful handwriting this week

**Roger Hargreaves:** Meleia for her thoughtful use of language in her writing this week.

**Eric Carle:** Lizzie for fantastic effort in her independent writing. Well done!

**Michael Morpurgo:** Julia for always trying her best to improve her writing and having such a great attitude towards her learning.

**Quentin Blake:** Isabelle for a good attitude to her work and for making links across her learning

**Roald Dahl:** Abbas for working so hard this term to improve his handwriting and for beginning to develop a better attitude to his learning

**Philip Pullman:** Holly for her perseverance in mathematics this week.

**Emma Carroll:** Eitan for his fantastic science and RE information posters. He showed great understanding and great presentation.

**J K Rowling:** Two nominees next week!



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### Gospel Values Awards

**Julia Donaldson: Yasmin for Kindness** - being a kind friend and bringing lots of sunshine to our class.

**Allan Ahlberg: Jack for Kindness** - always sharing with his friends and being such a kind friend to everyone.

**Roger Hargreaves: Adam for kindness** towards others

**Eric Carle: Joy for Kindness** - always being a kind, supportive friend to everyone.

**Michael Morpurgo: Georgia for Courage** - going out of her comfort zone and being successful in her learning.

**Quentin Blake: Olivia for Kindness** - helping others in the playground.

**Roald Dahl: Yuhan for Humility** - for always considering others before herself

**Philip Pullman: Lynn for Integrity** - For doing a fantastic job in teaching others our French Christmas song (including Mr Shaw).

**Emma Carroll: Alex for Peace** - for always sharing supportive words and showing great sportsmanship.

**J K Rowling: Two nominees next week!**



**Gentle reminder to everyone that toys (including Christmas elves) are best kept at home. We would hate for any child to be upset because their elf got lost, damaged or mixed up with another as they are so similar. Thank you for your support.**

### ADVENT AT HOLY CROSS

**Advent Tree** – Our community larder has been emptied and refilled since we put it out last week. We are so glad that we have been able to help others through this simple act of kindness. Due to roofing repairs, we have had to move the tree to allow for scaffolding but it is still accessible.

**Nativity Stable** – Our Playground Stable will be set up next week and there are already some beautiful photographs of your nativities on the walls. Thank you so much for sending them in. If you haven't and would still like to do so, please share your nativity photos with your teacher on Dojo.



### Cards

Today was the last day for posting Christmas Cards – we will allow these to quarantine now before distributing them and sending them home.



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### *Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day*

A huge **THANK YOU** to Karen and her team in the kitchen and to CaterEd for a fantastic Christmas dinner today. They really out-did themselves and rose to the challenge of feeding almost 300 children and 40 staff. Special thanks also to Lisa Martin, Katy Hammond, Andreea Ioja and Jo Burrows just some of our wonderful governors who came in to lend a hand. The classrooms looked very festive and the children had a very enjoyable meal together. The 'waitressing' team were treated to after-dinner entertainment when Quentin Blake Class came into the hall to record their beautiful singing as part of our 'Around the World Christmas Extravaganza'.

*Here are just a few pictures to capture the Christmas Spirit of Holy Cross.  
Please check class pages on Class Dojo for more festive fun!*



### *18<sup>th</sup> December – Last Day of term*

On the last day, we invite all our children and adults to come to school dressed as a figure in the nativity. Again, please do not buy a costume. Children can wear Christmas clothing and we have lots of masks which they can wear for the day.





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## Help and support

- The Plymouth City Council's dedicated Covid-19 webpages are updated frequently:  
<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/coronaviruscovid19information>
- There is help with food, money and supplies for anyone needing to self-isolate:  
<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/coronaviruscovid19information/ineedhelp>

### Covid-19 Support for Individuals

*Our Thanks to Father Jacek for sharing this information with us.*

The following list is not exhaustive but signposts individuals to some places where people can access support during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Advice and help is being co-ordinated by Caring for Plymouth, a partnership between Plymouth City Council, Livewell South West and a wide range of voluntary and community organisations:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/coronaviruscovid19information/caringplymouth>

Plymouth Public Dispensary offers financial assistance for people in need who live in Plymouth and are unwell or convalescing to assist their recovery:  
[http://www.ppdtrust.co.uk/about\\_us.html](http://www.ppdtrust.co.uk/about_us.html)

Or phone 01752 782758

*The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity (Caritas)*



## Patchwork Parenting with Catholic Children's Society

Here is a short survey to look at the feelings of parents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and what we at PATCHWORK can offer in terms of support. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QVFB3V2>  
Please complete the survey so that the CCS can offer support and courses to help.

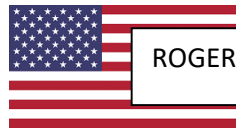


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## *Around the World Christmas Extravaganza*



ROGER HARGREAVES



JK ROWLING



PHILLIP PULLMAN



QUENTIN BLAKE



MICHAEL MORPURGO



ERIC CARLE



JULIA DONALDSON



ROALD DAHL



ALLAN AHLBERG



EMMA CARROLL

*The children have been learning about Christmas in other countries and are looking forward to sharing their Christmas Production with you all next week. This will be shared via our website, facebook page and Google Classroom but will be too large a file to upload to Class Dojo. We hope you enjoy the show despite the fact that due to COVID, we were unable to perform live for you all! Christmas Around the World is a Gottalife Production.*

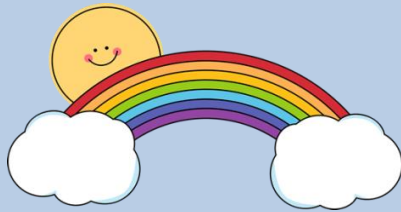
*Becky receives a gift and with the help of Jason, Jack and Molly, the four intrepid friends explore Christmas around the world. On their journey, they discover a wonderful story... the story of the first Christmas.*

*We hope you enjoy the show.*



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## Health & Wellbeing 'Feelings'

*It is important for all of us, children and adults, to allow ourselves to 'feel'. It is also important that we explore those feelings and learn to recognise them and 'name' them. Sometimes we find it difficult to identify the feeling and the responses they cause – both physical and emotional.*

*Take time to notice how you're feeling; being aware of our emotions can help us to talk about feelings more clearly, to avoid or resolve conflicts better and to move past difficult feelings more easily.*



### What Zone Are You In?

Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
Sick Sad Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Mean Yelling/Hitting Disgusted Out of Control



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### *The Catholic Children's Society Fundraiser*



*At a time when so many fundraising events have to be cancelled due to COVID 19, the Catholic Children's Society are receiving more requests than ever for financial help, as more vulnerable children and their families are affected by the pandemic.*

**CAN YOU IMAGINE SLEEPING  
ON THE FLOOR EVERY NIGHT?**

*As part of our Good Shepherd programme, this Christmas*

**It's hard to believe that in this day and age, there are children who do not have a warm and comfy bed to sleep in every night! In fact, one in five children living in the south west are living in poverty, and in parts of the region poverty is even more severe. Some areas in our Diocese actually fall into the top 10% of the most deprived areas in England.**



*The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) is asking children living in our Diocese to think of children less fortunate than themselves by putting themselves in their shoes just for one night. We are asking children living in Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset to give up their bed for one night to sleep on the floor.*

*If you would like to join in our sponsored 'Sleep on the Floor for a Night' please complete the sponsor form and start collecting your sponsors before the Christmas holidays.*

**If 100 children could raise £10 each in sponsorship, CCSP could buy beds and mattresses for 10 children, so they never have to sleep on the floor again.**

*The sponsorship form can also be downloaded from Class Dojo or the CCS website.  
[www.ccsplymouth.org.uk](http://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk)*

***Please let us know when you have had a 'Sleep on the Floor Night' and let's see how many beds we can buy!***  
**THANK YOU**



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Argyle's Community Trust Christmas Roadshows for 2020 will be running from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December until Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December with 5 different roadshows running at Manadon Sports and Community Hub.

These will be running different to future years due to limitations and restrictions within the numbers that can attend to ensure all children who attend are safe and these are offered in line with the FAs and the Governments Covid 19 guidelines. These will be offered on a first come first serve basis, please find the attached schedule for these:

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

Manadon Sports and Community Hub – Christmas Special Roadshow - £16 (64 spaces available) – 9:30pm - 3:30pm

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Manadon Sports and Community Hub – Festive Football - £12 (64 spaces available) – 10am-3pm

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

Manadon Sports and Community Hub – Festive Football - £12 (48 spaces available) – 10am-3pm

### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

Manadon Sports and Community Hub – Festive Football - £12 (64 spaces available) – 10am-3pm

### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December**

Manadon Sports and Community Hub – Festive Football - £12 (64 spaces available) – 10am-3pm

**All roadshows can be booked on the below link and once the spaces have gone we will not be able to accept anymore bookings so please book in advance to avoid disappointment.**

<https://argylecommunitytrust.co.uk/soccer-roadshows/in-plymouth/>

If you have any questions about the above please do get in touch with myself.



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## REMINDERS

### Children who display symptoms



If your child should display any one of the three key symptoms of COVID-19, we will contact you and request that you come and collect your child (and siblings) and have your child tested. We would ask that when you collect your child(ren), you come to the back gate (Friary Housing estate) and we will bring your child(ren) to you.

**If your child is self-isolating, the expectation is that she/he accesses the remote learning on Google Classroom and completes 2-3 hrs a day. This should be submitted via Classroom or via Class Dojo daily so the teacher can feedback and show your child how to improve and move forward. Teachers upload their remote learning weekly so that it is always there ready if a child needs to self-isolate.**

### Breakfast Club/After School Club

Please remember to book your place for Breakfast Club/After School Club via [holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk) one week in advance.  
**There will be no After School Club on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**



### PUPIL RECORDS

Please ring the school office if your contact details have changed. It is really important that we have current, accurate contact information for three contacts per child so that we can get hold of someone in an emergency. If you have moved house or changed your phone number or email accounts, please let us know by phoning the school on 01752 225420 or by email to [holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk)

### Parking

**Please do not park on Beaumont Road on the yellow lines when dropping off or picking up. It has once again become very unsafe for our children and for other pedestrians. We have again contacted Plymouth City Council and the police to help with this dangerous situation. This week 7 Penalty Notices were issued for parking infringements along Beaumont Road so please be aware that this area is under close scrutiny.**

THANK YOU

Have a lovely weekend! 