



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.8: 5th November 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

The winter nights are now with us with dark mornings and even darker evenings!

The children have settled back into their routines this week and it has been lovely to see their enthusiasm for learning. This week, we explored the role of the parliament and the younger children enjoyed thinking about how they would vote across a whole range of scenarios.

One of the highlights was today's Mass at The Cathedral. It has been such a long time since our schools were able to come together to celebrate Mass and today's Mass, led by Bishop Mark, was a wonderful reminder of how we are part of something bigger than ourselves - Plymouth CAST with our shared values and mission. There were pupils from Notre Dame, St Boniface College, St Peter's, St Paul's, Keyham Barton, St Joseph's, the Cathedral school and of course, Holy Cross. We sang a beautiful song called 'We tend the Ground' and were still humming it as we walked back to school! Those who read, did so beautifully and Tiago, our reader, did the most fantastic job! Well done to Tiago, Karolina, Marian, Jackson, Olivia, Katie, Julia, Jacob and Ashley - you were an absolute credit to yourselves, your school and your parents - two of whom we met in Drake Circus!

Next week is Remembrance Day and we will be hosting Poetry and Poppies workshops for the children in Years 3 to 6. The focus is on stories from World War One. The workshops use extracts from poetry inspired by the war which help to explore the themes whilst remaining age appropriate. We hope the children will enjoy the sessions and get a lot from them.

F Gill
Headteacher



9th November
Remembrance Mass

10th November
*Poppies and Poetry Workshops
(KS2)*

15th-19th November
*Anti-Bullying+Road Safety
Week*

16th November
*TEMPEST Photos (individuals
and siblings)*

19th November
Children in Need

23rd and 25th November
Parent Consultations

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



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Our Catholic Life

In the Gospel of Mark this Sunday we learn that appearances aren't everything. Jesus knows there are some people who make a big show of looking as though they are being good, but in reality they aren't. He talks about people who say long prayers and look holy but who treat others unfairly, taking money from those who are most in need. Jesus points out to his disciples that some rich people are giving large amounts to the Temple, while a poor widow offers just two small coins. She has given more than all of them, because she has given all she has. Jesus also shows us in this reading that everyone has something that they can give, even if at first it does not look like much. We can give money, but we can also give other things too. We can give our time – by listening to others, by being there for them when they are sad or worried. And we can give our talents.

If you would like to find out more about some of the themes of our collective worship this month please follow this link

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>



Today, Bishop Mark celebrated a very special Environmental Youth Mass at the Cathedral to coincide with the COP26 Conference in Glasgow. All 8 Catholic schools in Plymouth were proudly represented by pupils, coming together to pray for our 'common home'. Bishop Mark used a variety of seeds to help us to understand how tiny things can be very important. He recognised the huge contribution our children and young people are making to save our beautiful world. It was a wonderful way to come together and to show our solidarity and commitment to our mission. Our children were a credit to our school and to their parents. They sang and read beautifully and were an absolute delight on our walk to and from the Cathedral.

*In 2021, **Relationships and Health Education** became statutory in all primary schools in England. We use a programme called 'Life to the Full' provided by TenTen to teach our Relationships and Health Education Curriculum, Ten Ten is the leading provider of RSHE resources to Catholic schools in England and Wales. They are offering a 75-minute webinar, in which they will provide facts about the new curriculum and share their experience of providing a Catholic curriculum which puts the dignity of the human person at the heart of the teaching.*



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We wanted to give you advance notice of the webinar for parents on the topic of Relationships and Health Education that will take place on 3rd February 2022. Booking is now open and can be accessed via the following link

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/cpd/rshe-parents/>

In our RE lessons the children are continuing to learn about **Baptism and Confirmation**. If you are able to talk to them about your memories of these events it will support their learning in school.

November is the month dedicated to Holy Souls, when we particularly remember and pray for those you have died. November begins with two beautiful days: the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. The Church remembers all of her children, to whom she has given the life of Jesus through Baptism. We all know that during this whole month we give them extra love and care, by praying to them and for them. We have a book of remembrance and if you or your child would like to write someone about a person who you would like us all to pray for this month please send it to your child's class teacher who will be able to add it to our book of remembrance. We will be celebrating a Remembrance Mass on Tuesday along with a two minute silence at 11am on Thursday 11th.



This week also marked Diwali, the festival of light that is celebrated in the Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths. It lasts for five days from the 13th day of the dark half of the lunar month Ashvina to the second day of the light half of the lunar month Karttika. The name is derived from the Sanskrit term dipavali, meaning "row of lights." The festival symbolises the victory of light over darkness. The goddess Lakshmi is worshipped on the day of Diwali. She symbolises wealth and prosperity.





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Let us Pray

Dear Jesus, help me to be generous. Help me not just to give what I have left over but help me sometimes to be brave enough to give things that matter to me..

Amen

Wonders of the Week

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



Julia Donaldson: Marcel - for working really hard this week and producing some fantastic independent writing. We are so proud!

Allan Ahlberg: Antonio - for growing in confidence in Maths this week.

Simon James: Seb - For showing excellent curiosity and knowledge this week, especially in history.

Judith Kerr: Rudairo - For fantastic focus and effort in all lessons enabling her to make super progress! Well done!

David Walliams: Annika - for showing such independence in her learning and having the confidence to use new vocabulary.

Cressida Cowell: Maisy - For showing great independence in her maths.

Roald Dahl: Carter - for working independently to challenge himself.

Louis Sachar: Marcus - he has been working really hard on all of the tasks he's been given - showing a real will and not giving up.

Emma Carroll: Julian - for showing great confidence in performing our Gas Mask text and helping to guide others.

Malorie Blackman: Fran - She tries hard to be independent and resilient when things are tricky. She works hard and is always kind and helpful to others.



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Gospel Values Awards: This week we have all been trying to show Justice.

Julia Donaldson: Kiya - For always being kind to her peers and showing fairness during choosing time.

Allan Ahlberg: Poppy- for always treating her friends fairly.

Simon James: Martha -For helping those in need and for being fair to others this week.

Judith Kerr: Oliver- For being such a kind friend and showing fairness to others.

David Walliams: Katie - For showing justice by treating all children within our class fairly and being pleased and confident to work with any member of our class.

Cressida Cowell: Kacper- For always making sure our classroom is fair and everyone is following our rules. Kacper taught a friend how to play football and made sure he could join in with the game.

Roald Dahl: Mason - for always being fair and modelling excellent behaviour

Louis Sachar: Julia continuously demonstrates justice by modelling the right way to behave and supporting others.

Emma Carroll: Dominic - for playing fairly in our game of dodgeball and looking out for others in the class.

Malorie Blackman: Iris - Always good at helping others to help themselves - if she sees a situation is unfair, she will do what she can to make sure that she helps them to solve it. She is always kind, fair and honest.

Top Table Awards



Julia Donaldson: Lilliana for trying new food.

Allan Ahlberg: Methuja for trying new food.

Simon James: Ruqaya for eating all her dinner.

Judith Kerr: Ianis for trying some new foods including pizza.

David Walliams: Methuli for always smiling!

Cressida Cowell: Ali for eating a little more when asked to do so.

Roald Dahl: Laith for always being polite.

Louis Sachar: Leo for gaining more confidence.

Emma Carroll: Bobby for always being polite.

Malorie Blackman: Mia for being polite and her gorgeous smile.



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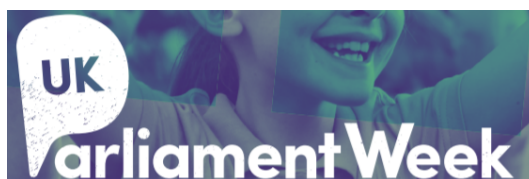
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Roald Dahl Class and Mrs King, led a wonderful liturgy on Thursday to say goodbye to Mrs Leach and Mrs Confue. The children read out their memories of these two wonderful ladies which brought tears to their eyes. The classes had all made beautiful cards for them also and they received gifts from us all - a sign of how loved

they both were by all at Holy Cross. We wish them lots of luck for their future adventures and hope they pop in and see us every now and then!

UK Parliament Week 2021



This week the children of Holy Cross have been learning about the UK Parliament.

We have had assemblies, debates, learning tasks, met our local MP and had live links with the Houses of Parliament! We have spotted some budding future MPs - look out Boris Johnson!





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MATHS Week ENGLAND 2021



We will be celebrating 'Maths Week England 2021' next week by taking part in some exciting competitions!



Baz and the Times Tables Rock Stars team are on a mission to find the most dedicated class in England! We have been invited to compete and show the other schools what we are made of by answering the most questions we can on TTRS!

Starts on: Monday 8th November at 7.30am
Finishes on : Thursday 11th November at 7:30pm

Every correct answer earns the class a point. You can play in all game modes to earn points for your class.

The points from each class are added up and divided by the number of pupils in the class who play.

The class with the highest average is the winner.

You can be the winning class in the school or in the **WHOLE COMPETITION!**
Points mean prizes!



We will also be running some Numbots competitions at the same time so that everyone can get involved. We will be giving out prizes for the most coins earned, the most correct answers and the most improved. Please ask your teacher if you are not sure how to log in to Numbots. Good luck!



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Budding Scientists



What an amazing science lesson David Walliams Class had! We firstly placed the organs on our lovely model. Following this, we watched demonstrations of how food makes its journey through the digestive system on the computer. Finally, as a class, we replicated the digestive system using everyday materials. I was impressed with the children's knowledge and attitude to learning. Please ask them all about it at home. Roald Dahl and Cressida Cowell are looking forward to their science lesson next week.

POLITE REMINDER

The school is now owed **over £3000** due to unpaid Breakfast Club, After School Club and School Dinners.

We will not be able to take further bookings or provide dinners, until arrears are cleared. Knowing how useful Breakfast and After School Club is to so many of our families, it would be very sad if we were unable to continue. The funding agency however does not allow school funds to pay for wrap around provision.

Please pay outstanding amounts via Parent Pay. If you are experiencing financial constraints, please make an appointment to speak to Mrs Gill to arrange repayments.



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www.summer-house.org

Summerhouse Services

'Supporting Brighter Futures'



www.summer-house.org

'From Self Harm To Self Help'

A Supportive Awareness Training Workshop For Any Adult That Inhabits The Home Or Friendship World Of Children & Young People

Monday 8th November

9.45 - 2.45

£30.00 pp (Introductory Offer)

£4 Lunch Voucher & Other Refreshments Included

Venue - Sainsbury's Marsh Mills . Team Room . Plymouth Road . Plymouth PL3 6RL

This preventative and supportive workshop is brought to you in response to numerous requests from parents, grandparents, carers, other relatives and friends that inhabit the non-educational world of young people, for a safe, empathic, supported and accepting space where the issue of 'self harm' can be explored and understood from a young person's perspective. This workshop is relevant if you already have a child or young person in your life that self harms, or if you are worried about this becoming an issue for them.

You can expect to be given an insight into the world of children and young people who self harm, as well as to gain understanding of the issue in its wider context, when seen as a form of coping. Opportunities will be given to discuss and reflect on personal attitudes towards self harm and in doing so, dispel some of the myths, taboos and stigma that surround the subject.

Safe and effective ways of initially and supportively identifying levels of risk and supporting young people that self harm will be explored, together with gaining awareness of agencies and avenues for referral and signposting.

Your facilitator is a fully qualified and highly experienced person-centred therapist and further education trainer and also has direct experience of these issues in their own world. You can therefore expect a relaxed, friendly, professional and very human approach, together with respect, empathy and sensitivity for what is, for some, a highly distressing subject to talk about. The group is small (max 10) to facilitate a safe and supportive space and the training style is lively, interactive and creative, with lots of group discussion, learning activities and facilitative games.

Outcomes

- Holistically explore the spectrum of self harming behaviour and links to a young person's emotional, mental, spiritual, social and environmental world.
- Discuss impacts of personal attitudes towards self harming behaviour in an open, relaxed and supported manner.
- Increase empathy for the experience of a young person who is self harming.
- Identify supportive and unhelpful ways of responding to a young person demonstrating self harming behaviour.
- Identify, practice and understand the importance of preventative and supportive self esteem, resilience building and self soothing techniques to offer young people who may be vulnerable to, or participating in self harming behaviour.
- Understand how to supportively establish levels of risk.
- Identify avenues for seeking support for you around the issue of self harm, as well as pathways for further training.



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Some Feedback From Previous Related Workshops

'As a parent I find this very hard to talk about. Thank you for making it easy, informative and enjoyable.'

'Fantastic ! Highly professional and very enjoyable; thank you !'

'Really interactive, friendly and inclusive; it has really developed my insight and understanding of the issue.'

'I loved the friendly, chilled but professional approach. It has helped me feel more confident supporting young people'

'Great tutor, inspiring, fun, enthusiastic and reassuring; kept me on task, thanks.'

'As a newcomer to this subject it has been invaluable in helping me develop my understanding. Thank you.'

'Surprisingly enjoyable and very informative, Definitely recommend. A++!'

Booking Details

Cost - £30.00

(£4 Lunch Voucher & all other refreshments included)

Venue - Sainsburys Marsh Mills . Team Room . Plymouth Road . Plymouth PL3 6RL

(Free Parking On Site)

For bookings or enquiries please contact Penny on any of the details below. You can also follow this link to the online booking form <https://summer-house.org/workshop-booking-form> . Invoices for the balance can be sent to you, or please make cheques payable to **'Summerhouse Services'**

Contact Details

(Please note this is not the venue address)

Penny Logsdail

Summerhouse Services

154 Crossway . Plymouth . PL7 4JA

T. 07869173154

E. summerhouse.services@gmail.com

U. www.summer-house.org

F. <https://www.facebook.com/supportingbrighterfutures>

A Note On COVID-19

To keep our training and support environments safe and comfortable, we continue to adopt social distancing where possible of at least 1 metre. Please wear a face covering, unless exempt, until you are in the training room and please sanitise and wash hands regularly. All staff delivering the workshop will take a Covid test the evening before delivery and we would encourage you to do the same to facilitate group and individual responsibility. Thank You.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU HAVE ANY COVID RELATED SYMPTOMS.

A full refund will be issued or the opportunity to hop onto another workshop date.





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the
national
sleep
helpline

Does your child suffer with sleep issues?

Do you struggle
with your child's
bedtime?

Will your child
not sleep in
their own bed?

WE CAN HELP

03303 530 541

Available Sunday - Thursday 7pm - 9pm

the
national
sleep
helpline

50%

**Around 50% of
children will have
a sleep issue at
some point***

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?

In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why your child might not be sleeping well and how that can change

03303 530 541

Available Sunday - Thursday
7pm - 9pm

FOUNDED BY
the
sleep
charity

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Furniture
Village

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*Survey of 2,000 adults by OnePoll, Aug 2021



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COVID19 Information

Unfortunately, we still have high numbers of cases in the South West and as a result, schools have been directed to re-introduce certain measures.

We will continue to promote hand washing/hand sanitising, respiratory hygiene, ventilation and touchpoint cleaning.

We will try our best to balance the need for ventilation with the need for a comfortable working temperature but please ensure your child wears an extra layer under their school shirt just in case.

Staff will once again wear face coverings in communal areas and we ask that parents also wear a face covering if coming onto the school site. This will help to mitigate the risks at pick up time which can be very busy in the playgrounds.

We are pausing whole school assemblies for the moment but can continue to hold gatherings for smaller groups eg EYFS, Year1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6.

We have reviewed our lunchtime provision to minimise mixing between these larger groups.

Our Parent Consultations have been postponed with provisional arrangements in place for the 23rd and 25th November. Please contact your child's class teacher if you would like to change your time.

Staff will continue to do twice weekly LFTs.

Advice on symptoms:

If unwell stay at home and book a PCR. If negative, individuals should still wait until 24hours post fever to go back into a setting. Colds and other non-Covid symptoms are circulating but in the first instance cardinal symptoms should be treated as possible COVID and trigger isolation and testing.

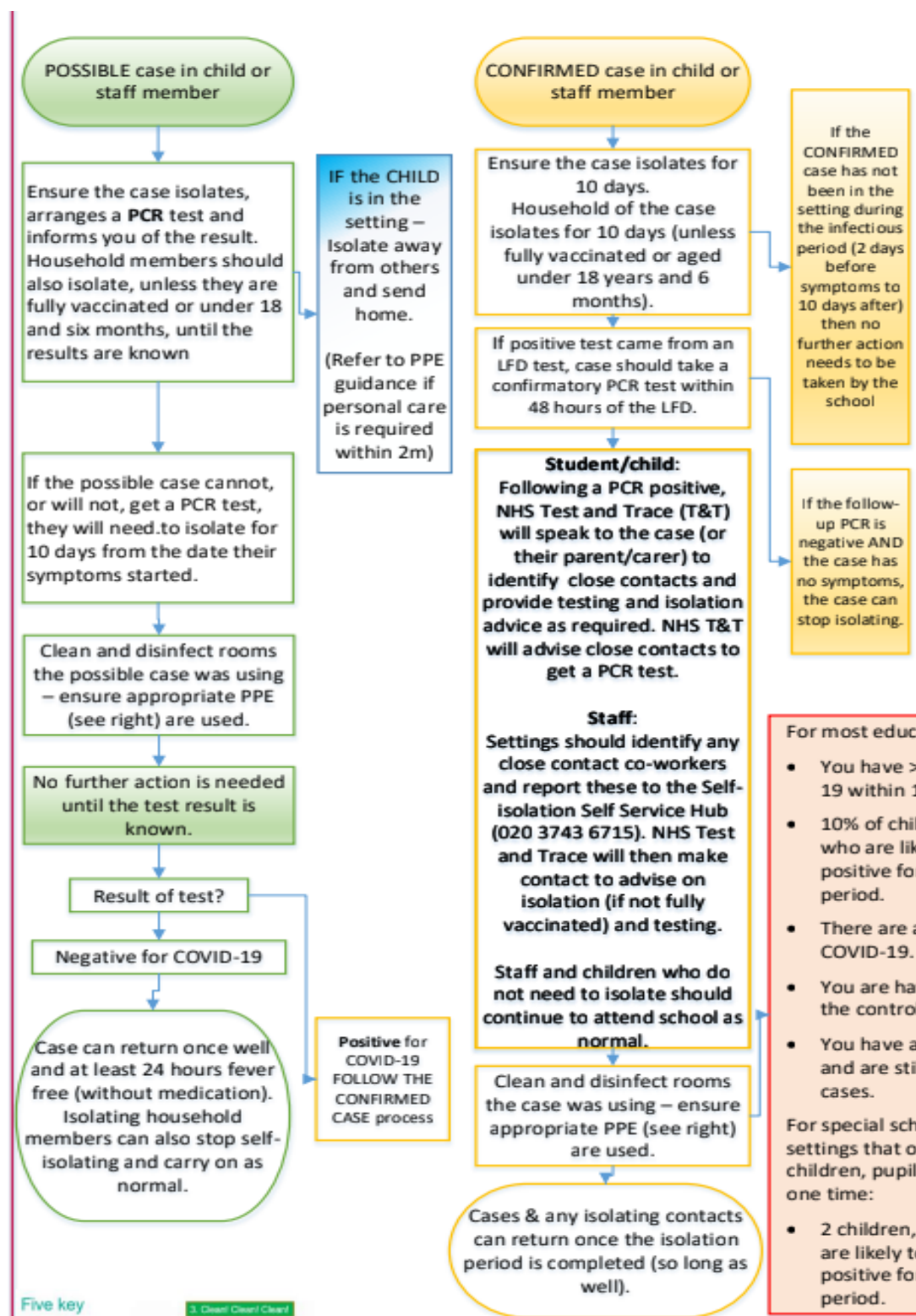
Household siblings of confirmed cases are advised to take daily LFD while awaiting their PCR test results and to continue to attend school. Daily LFD testing for all close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace whilst individuals await their PCR results is recommended.

See flowchart for further explanation.



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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!