

## 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.24: 18th March 2022



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for coming along to our Parents' Evenings this week. It was great to see you all in more normal circumstances after the last two years although we did have to resort to Zoom for one class on one of the two evenings.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all next Wednesday to our '**Celebration of Learning**'. The children will be showcasing aspects of their learning in their classrooms and they will be proudly taking you through their books so you will be able to see for yourselves how hard they have been working and the progress they have made. We will also be serving refreshments in the hall so please make sure to leave some time for that! Helen Newton, our new Parent Support Advisor will be there to greet you and it will be a great opportunity for her to introduce herself. I am sure you will get to know her very quickly. Father Victor, our school chaplain will also be present and is looking forward to meeting you too. He has been a wonderful addition to our school community and the joy on his face when he speaks to the children shows just how much he loves to spend time with them, and they with him. There will also be a representative from Premier Sports so if you have any questions about the after school clubs they offer, please take this opportunity to ask them.

I would like to acknowledge the huge support for both Sports Relief and the bake sale for Ukraine especially in light of the financial strain many people are under at the moment because of both COVID and the current rise in energy and fuel costs. The children's compassion and their determination to help the people of Ukraine has been overwhelming and we are so proud of them. We want them to have the opportunity to make a difference but we are conscious of having to balance this with the pressures our families are under. I hope that by giving each child a free ticket will alleviate the pressure for this final fundraiser this academic year.

Mrs F Gill  
Headteacher



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

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

**23rd March**  
World Maths Day

**23rd March**  
Celebration of Learning

**28th March**  
School Games KS2  
Change4Life Festival

**29th March**  
Tempest Class Photos

**21st -1st April**  
Big Walk and Wheel Week

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### *Our Catholic Life*

*In the Gospel this week we hear the parable of the fig tree. Jesus told stories to help us understand his teaching. He tells us about a man who wants to cut down a fig tree that is not bearing fruit. It is taking up space and soil that could be used by a better fruit tree. But the gardener doesn't want to get rid of it. He knows that with care and attention this tree has a good chance of improving and producing fruit. God is like the patient gardener, loving each of us as we change for the better too.*

*The Bible talks a lot about bearing fruit. We can all grow fruit for God. The fruit we are talking about is all the good things that we can do for God. People will know that we love God when they see the fruit, the good things that we do and the good people that we are.*

*This week we are inviting parents to join us at the Judith Kerr's class Mass on Tuesday at 9.30am. We are now able to invite parents and parishioners to our Masses so we hope that you will be able to join us. There will be an opportunity for coffee and biscuits together after the Mass.*

*Our Pupil Chaplains have been busy planning the liturgy for Monday and have written our prayer this week. They will be reminding the children of the importance of patience and how this can be difficult to give. They have also decided upon a prayer activity where they would like us all to pray for the people of Ukraine and there will be a map where prayers can be added. Should you wish to add a prayer to this when you come in for the celebration of learning you would be most welcome.*

### *Let us Pray*

Dear God, Thank you for helping us to grow and use our gifts and talents. Help us to be patient and kind with one another.  
**Amen**

**Action:** This week consider ways that you can be patient with one another. Think whether they are any jobs you can usefully do in the garden at home or at school.





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### Wonders of the Week

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

**Julia Donaldson: Charlie** - for following the class rules and sharing his ideas.

**Allan Ahlberg: Kitty**-for fantastic independent writing in her prayer journal this week.

**Simon James: Thomas** - For showing some super curiosity with Mars Day and displaying excellent independence with his extended writing.

**Judith Kerr: Kornelia**- For fantastic effort when working independently and sharing ideas with the class.

**David Walliams: Mahi** - for being an independent learner who is always willing and ready to support her peers.

**Cressida Cowell: Faith** - for showing us her brilliant learning attitude all week and independence in her learning.

**Roald Dahl: Meleia** for her increasing independence and resilience this week

**Louis Sachar: Alexander** - A source of inspiration in all things 'Science'; suggesting different approaches that would be interesting and using excellent scientific vocabulary.

**Emma Carroll: Atene** - For a fantastic fundraising bake sale for Ukraine. It was amazing to see and the cakes were delicious.

**Malorie Blackman: Theresia** - For creating a wonderful piece of artwork demonstrating the destruction that war creates in the Ukrainian colours.



### Gospel Values Awards:

This week we have all been trying to show **Self-Knowledge**

**Julia Donaldson: Evelyn W** - for having self knowledge and talking about her learning.

**Allan Ahlberg: Leo**- for growing in self knowledge about his own feelings and emotions.

**Simon James: Frankie** - For showing a real development in self improvement in his learning

**Judith Kerr: Oli**- For independently taking next steps on board and always looking for ways to improve his learning.

**David Walliams: Dylan** - for having self-knowledge about when he can take risks in his learning and when he needs support.

**Cressida Cowell: Maisy**- For always being aware of her next steps and when to ask for support.

**Roald Dahl: Tristan** - for having self-knowledge about what he knows and what he needs to know!

**Louis Sachar: Yuhan** - An excellent example of someone who listens carefully and then uses her knowledge to independently move her learning forward.

**Emma Carroll: Talia** - For being able to identify where she has improved in her writing and seeing the next steps she needs to take.

**Malorie Blackman: Gabriel** - For showing excellent awareness of his own emotions and academic abilities.

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### Top Table Awards



**Julia Donaldson: Max** for helping the Mealtime Assistants to tidy up

**Allan Ahlberg: Aria** for her polite manners.

**Simon James: Treh** for always being so well-behaved and polite.

**Judith Kerr: Adam** for being such a wonderful role model for others.

**David Walliams: Georgia** for always playing so beautifully with her friends.

**Cressida Cowell: Emilia** for being a good role model.

**Roald Dahl: Thomas** for being a wonderful role model for other children.

**Louis Sachar: Stewart** for being kind and helpful.

**Emma Carroll: Dominic** for always being well-behaved and polite and **Faustas** for helping his friends to resolve their differences peacefully.

**Malorie Blackman: Katie** for being kind and helpful.

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## Mars Day/British Science Week 2022

To celebrate, inspire and enrich children's understanding within science, classes on Monday took part in science activities throughout the day as it was also Mars Day!

We also had an assembly where we discussed how we learn in science: asking and answering questions, investigating and testing, observing and measuring, comparing, identifying and classifying, communicating and reporting.

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a visit from Richard Watson who works with robots to find treasure, WW2 bombs and to lay cables under the sea all over the world. What a fascinating job!



We are so fortunate at Holy Cross to have children who really engage with science and are so curious (a key skill for budding scientists).



## Wow, What a Day!

### Sports Relief

Thursday saw every child at Holy Cross undertake a series of challenges. What an amazing day! So many smiling faces, every child taking part in a variety of activities and teachers and TAs rowing in their lunch time in order to add extra metres and entertain the children, whilst they ate their lunch.

**EYFS undertook a Danceathon** - jumping and jigging, laughing and smiling and moving and a-grooving.



KS1 took on a mixture of events - Yoga, Basketball and tyre obstacles. Lots of face feet, shooting, twisting, bending, stretching and smiling.



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Lower KS2 - took on multiple challenges in a MEGA circuit at the MUGA.



Hoops

Hurdles

Slalom

Skipping

Running

Jumping

Balancing

The Year 3 and 4 children enjoyed their Crossfit Circuit Challenge at the MUGA. Believe me, it was harder than it looks!

UKS2 - undertook a mega challenge which started at 9am and was completed at 3:10pm. They took on a virtual row from Holy Cross to our mother church, Westminster Cathedral via Plymouth Cathedral and Clifton Cathedral - a total distance of 390km. Everyone contributed by rowing for 2 minutes each in the morning.



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The Rowing club then carried on throughout the afternoon. The target was 39000m in 1 day, as we'd used a factor of 10: an ambitious target! We were delighted when, at 2:52, Rianna took us over the line. But they continued and in the end rowed ...

# 40794m



Well done to everyone - you are **amazing**. The justgiving page will remain open until Monday 21st. We realise that there are many people and causes that need assistance and thank you for all of your kind donations to date.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/holy-cross-catholic-primary-school2>



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The Pupil Chaplains have been busy organising our Easter Egg Hunt for the last day of term. They are planning it to be a grand event as it will be one of the first opportunities in two years that the children have been able to work with children from other year groups. The Easter challenge that will be set will certainly require the children to use our learning behaviours of **confidence, resilience, independence, creativity and curiosity.**

Thank you to those parents and governors who have already volunteered to help out on the day. Your support is very much appreciated. If you would like to help on 8th April in the morning please send me an email to [sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk)

# Advice for Families

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**There are lots and lots of families going through tough times who can't get away together. We want to make the biggest difference we can to as many families as we can. We focus our holiday offers on families who:**

- Are on a low income (a household income of less than £24,000)
- Haven't had a holiday together in the last 4 years
- Have at least one child under 18 who will go on the holiday

### **What's available?**

Holidays available now that include **school holidays** and **bank holiday weekends** as well as everything in between! The perfect opportunity for families to get away with the kids as early as Easter if they want to. With the cold winter months soon slipping away, it's time to get them excited and have something in the diary to look forward to!

The good news is that this year we are offering these breaks entirely through a voucher model so that families have as much flexibility as possible to choose the date that works for them.

**Families cannot self-refer but we can refer you if you feel you meet the criteria. Please contact me at [fgill@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:fgill@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk) if this would be something you feel would benefit your family and you satisfy the eligibility criteria.**

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## FUNDRAISING FOR UKRAINE

HUGE THANKS to Hala, Atene and Tilly for organising their very successful bake sale this week. We are immensely grateful to all those parents who donated cakes - there was nothing left by the end of the day and a whopping £401.97 to go to the people of Ukraine.

Thank you also for the donations made to the Devon Ukraine Support Fund which was shared on Class Dojo earlier this week. Anything handed into the school, will be passed on to the Support Fund.

As you can imagine, all the children are keen to do what they can to help and are brimming with ideas. Unfortunately our Sports Relief event came at this difficult time for Ukraine so we appreciate your donations and support so much -

especially as we know how difficult the previous two years have been for everyone.



### UKRAINE RAFFLE



I would like some help to do my raffle for Ukrainian children. I would like for the children to donate some prizes for the raffle, for example: books, gift cards, fidgets, colouring books, children's books or picture books.

There will be a box in the hall for donating.]

The deadline for donating prizes will be Friday 25th March.

The raffle will start on Monday 21st March. My team and I will be in the hall every lunchtime and in the playground at the end of the day.

These are the prices for the tickets:

- 1 ticket = 10p
- 2 tickets = 15p
- 3 tickets = 20p
- 4 tickets = 25p
- 5 tickets = 30p

Each child in the school will get one ticket for free.  
The winners will be announced Monday 28th March.  
All the money from the raffle will go towards supporting the Ukrainian appeal.



Next week, we have another group who are keen to run a raffle. Ashley has put a lot of time and effort into organising the raffle and has been collecting prizes. **To relieve the pressure on parents, we will give each child one free entry into the draw.** Please do not feel obliged or pressurised to buy tickets but any support you can provide will be greatly appreciated. The money raised will go with

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the proceeds of the bake sale to support Ukraine.

Below is the list of items requested by the Devon Ukraine Support Fund:

- Solar powered mobile phone chargers
- Wind up mobile phone chargers
- New mobile phone charging cables
- Painkillers
- Dressings
- Face masks and hand gels
- Food long life and dry
- Thermal socks gloves and hats
- Underwear for adults and children (not second hand)
- Army cold weather sleeping bags
- Camping rucksacks and camp beds
- Adult nappies for elderly
- Dry sanitary products
- Small toys none moving parts and card games
- Colouring books and pens for children and adults
- Dog and cat food
- Batteries, flashlights and candles
- New Flip flops, slippers, trainers for indoor use

It is important we think about the dignity of the refugees and not send second hand items and our drop off sites will only be accepting items that are included on the list that are new.



The Uniform Store Plymouth is a free service for families to kit out their children for school. Through donations of good quality school uniforms, we give these items out to those in need, free of charge – no referral is needed.

We run a pop-up shop in Plymouth City Centre throughout the school summer holidays, and a Click and Collect service that runs throughout the year, where parents/carers can

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order the uniform that they need for their children and collect it from our collection point.

To place an order for school uniforms, families should [use our website](#).

Our collection point is at Redeemer Church, St Barnabas Terrace, Plymouth PL1 5NN.

For more information, please email [hello@uniformstoreplymouth.co.uk](mailto:hello@uniformstoreplymouth.co.uk)



The Rock Pool Project has launched a new 'Blue Recovery' project to inspire and connect people from disadvantaged areas in Plymouth and Falmouth with their local marine wildlife, after receiving almost £150,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Every year, millions of people are drawn to the South West's spectacular coastline. However, a rising number of locals are becoming disconnected from their nearby beaches and marine heritage, missing out on this coastline's numerous benefits: fresh air, sea views, discovery, exercise, restfulness and fun.

Today, The Rock Pool Project begin their exciting two-year Blue Recovery Project aimed at addressing this issue, made possible with a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Thanks to National Lottery players, the innovative not-for-profit organisation will help hundreds of local people to explore, understand and care for their local wildlife and coastline. People living in relevant postcodes can join the Blue Recovery Community and enjoy free events and training as: Citizen Scientists: for adults and children over 16; Rock Pool Families: for families with younger children; Blue Recovery Rangers: leadership roles for a small number of dedicated adults.

Find out more here:

<https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/invest/news/read/2022/02/major-new-project-to-connect-people-from-disadvantaged-areas-in-plymouth-to-their-coast-and-coastal-wildlife-b986>

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### COVID19 Information

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

At school we can now

- 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.

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

Please ring or email the office at [holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto: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. (Early finish of 5pm on 8th April 2022)**

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.*