



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. 12: 4th December 2020



Our Catholic Life

Our theme next week is Prepare

Mark tells us right at the beginning of his Gospel that Jesus is good news! God has kept his promise and is sending Jesus to save his people. John the Baptist is God's messenger, getting everyone ready to welcome Jesus, the saviour promised by God. Mark's description of John makes it clear that John is a prophet speaking God's message. God wants us to turn our lives around. If we are going to be ready to welcome Jesus, we need to live as God asks; to say sorry for what we've done wrong and to try to put other people first.



This Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of ADVENT. We will gather on Monday morning (via Zoom) to light the second candle on our Advent Wreath as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.



Let us Pray

Help me to get ready to welcome you in a new way this Christmas. Help me to prepare by helping at home, having fun with my family and being kind to anyone who is sad. **Amen**

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an exciting day when Tom Pollitt came to make our film! The children all looked so smart so thank you very much to all the mums and dads for their efforts. Tom was full of praise for the children and was especially struck by how beautifully and eloquently the children responded when interviewed. We hope that the film has captured some of what makes Holy Cross such a special place so that we can share it with parents who are trying to choose a school for their children without being able to visit.

The children are also enjoying the preparations for Christmas as we enjoy this Advent season. Our Advent tree looks amazing – please try to have a look as you pass by the main doors of the church. We have placed a box of packaged food beneath the tree for the community: **Take what you need. Leave what you can.** Again, please feel free to help yourselves if in need or to donate in order to keep the box topped up.

The Christmas card boxes are filling up in some classes – please remember that there is no expectation that your child brings in Christmas cards – the box is there if they want to do so.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support during these difficult times. 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 2nd 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.*

A whole year has 365 days
 A school year has only 190 days
This leaves :
**175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays,
 birthday treats, dentist and hospital appointments!**

90% attendance is equal to 1 day off each fortnight

100%	90	80%
VERY GOOD Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start	WORRYING Less chance of success. Makes it harder for your child to make progress	SERIOUS CONCERNS Your child will find it difficult to make progress, learn new skills and build social networks

Class	Attendance
JD	99%
AA	95%
EC	100%
RH	89%
RD	94%
QB	95%
MM	99%
EMC	96%
PP	98%
JKR	93.5%

*This week's attendance at Holy Cross was **95.8%**.*

PLEASE always ring the school number 01752 225420 to report an absence. Thank you



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

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

Julia Donaldson: Kasiena for making amazing progress and becoming more confident through challenging himself in choosing time.

Allan Ahlberg: Daria for a super attitude to her learning and listening

Roger Hargreaves: John Paul for his reading and writing and excellent learning focus.

Eric Carle: Ruby for fantastic effort both in school at home and trying her best all week.

Michael Morpurgo: Sonny for having a fantastic attitude towards his learning and for really improving his times tables score this week.

Quentin Blake: Luwan for showing great perseverance to improve his handwriting. Keep it up Luwan!

Roald Dahl: Millie for working hard, having impeccable manners and demonstrating a real grown up attitude.

Philip Pullman: Saffron for her great focus this week in her learning. Saffron has produced some great writing this week.

J K Rowling: Ryan for his resilience - carrying on with word problems and puzzles in maths even when it was tricky or when he wanted to give up.

Emma Carroll: Isabelle for her improved confidence and self-belief in Maths, which is helping her to learn and understand more and more.



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Gospel Values Awards

Julia Donaldson: Sonia for displaying all gospel values and always being a role model to all her friends.

Allan Ahlberg: Jack for **Kindness** - to everyone in our class.

Roger Hargreaves: Kornelia for her **kindness** and **compassion** to others.

Eric Carle: Afnaan for **Kindness** - for always being kind to everyone around her.

Michael Morpurgo: Talia for **Compassion** - for going out of her way to help her friends and peers to ensure they succeed and are happy.

Quentin Blake: Iris for **Kindness** to her peers by explaining their learning and listening to everyone's ideas.

Roald Dahl: Olivia for always showing **kindness** and **compassion** towards others.

Philip Pullman: Tallula for **Humility** - for being considerate of others and being a kind friend

J K Rowling: Jana For her continued and constant **compassion** and **kindness** to others in whatever she is doing.

Emma Carroll: Holly for **Humility** - For always thinking of others, as well as her incredible help in the class throughout the day.



Millionaire Reader

Well done to Finlay in EMC for being our second '**Millionaire Reader**'. Well done Finlay, you will now be added to our board to celebrate this great success! *Miss McCalley*

E-Safety Parent Workshops

Thank you to Miss Buscombe for running these very useful sessions this week. It is so important that we can enjoy the internet whilst ensuring we keep ourselves protected. It was wonderful to have so many of you join the sessions. We had 25 families zooming in!



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.



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ADVENT AT HOLY CROSS

This week we put up our Advent Tree and tied our Advent prayer/promise ribbons to its branches. Do have a look at it. You will find it in front of the Church doors. There are ribbons available (and pens) if you would like to add a prayer to the tree. These are in one of the boxes underneath.

Also, under the tree is the start of our **Community Larder**. We want to reach out to those in need and share what we have with them. Please feel free to add or take items from the box depending on your circumstances so that we can look after one another. Please ensure you replace the lids carefully as we don't want water or animals getting at the food.



Monday 7th December

Time to decorate Holy Cross! The children in all classes will be spending time in the afternoon creating wonderful decorations to prepare their classroom for Christmas.

Christmas Cards

Please send these into school by Friday 11th December. We cannot distribute cards brought in after this date due to the need to quarantine before sending them home to you.

Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 11th December is Christmas Jumper Day. Please do not go out and buy a jumper – you can decorate a jumper or top with a little bit of sparkle! We will also have our Christmas Dinner on the 11th. The children will eat in their classrooms and enjoy a special meal with their teachers with crackers and all the trappings. Please support Save the Children by making a small donation via Parentpay or if you prefer, you could donate to our community larder. (Parent Pay link to be sent next week)

18th December – Last Day of term

We thought it would be lovely for the children 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. Thank you for your Nativity photos! Please keep sending them in.



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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

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)



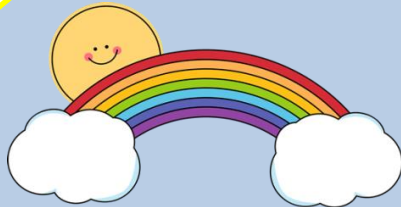
Patchwork Parenting with Catholic Children's Society

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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Health & Wellbeing



Keys to emotional well-being

Use
positive
self-talk



Remind
yourself that
you're a work
in progress



Work
towards
your goals
& dreams



Stay
physically
active



Get enough
sleep and
rest



Spend time
with family
& friends

Eat a
balanced
diet



Talk about
your
thoughts &
feelings



Do
activities
you love



Care
for
yourself



Keep learning
things that
interest you



Give
back to
others

Pathway
2 SUCCESS

www.thepathway2success.com

Clipart by
Kate Hadfield



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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
Thank you !!*



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Argyle's Community Trust Christmas Roadshows for 2020 will be running from Monday 21st December until Wednesday 30th 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 21st December

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

Tuesday 22nd December

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

Wednesday 23rd December

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

Thursday 29th December

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

Friday 30th 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 one week in advance.

Due to the national lockdown and resulting restrictions, we will not be extending our before and after school provision until after January at the earliest.

Please ensure that your child arrives at Breakfast Club by 8am to be admitted. The staff stop serving breakfast at this time to allow them to clear up and get the children to their class bubbles before the other children arrive.

Thank you for your help with this.



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

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.

THANK YOU

Have a lovely weekend! 