



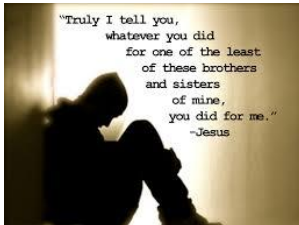
## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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. 10: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020



### Our Catholic Life

Our theme next week is **Sheep or goats?**



Jesus tells a story to explain that what matters is how well we look after other people. Jesus says that at the end of our lives God will reward all the good people, who are the 'sheep' in the story. The good people don't understand what they have done to deserve the reward of heaven. Jesus says that whenever they helped even the least important person in the world, they were helping Jesus. The good people have helped those who were hungry and thirsty, homeless, in prison or ill.

**This Sunday marks the end of the Church's year. ADVENT and a new year in the Christian Church begins next week.**



*Let us Pray*

Dear Jesus, king of my heart, watch over and guide me as I try to look out for other people. Help me to remember that whatever I do **Amen**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very varied week of learning with opportunities to explore relationships, our own uniqueness, road safety and how to stay safe by speaking to a trusted adult about our worries. I hope you enjoy the photos capturing this learning over the next few pages.

This week, I had the pleasure of meeting our governors, albeit remotely, and we spent some time discussing both the many positives seen since September in terms of the children's return to school, as well as some of the challenges. It is clear that the majority of our children are engaging well with their learning and with their teachers' help, are closing some of those gaps that were identified early in the term. The staff are working flat-out to ensure they meet the needs of every child in their class and the governors expressed their gratitude for their hard work, their commitment and for their continued support for all our families.

Thank you so much for the fantastic support you have given us this week for Road Safety Week, and Odd Socks Day. Thank you too for your food bank donations and also for supporting one of our families who is currently going through a difficult time (<https://gf.me/u/y876mi>). Your response has been humbling! Please remember this family in your prayers.

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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## Why Does Attendance Matter?

Despite the current challenges with regard to COVID-19 and the need for children/families to self-isolate in order to control the virus, we feel it is important to remind ourselves of the importance of good attendance at school.

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



This week's attendance at Holy Cross was **94%**.

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

Class	Attendance
JD	99%
AA	96%
EC	98%
RH	84%
RD	94%
QB	99%
MM	99%
EMC	98%
PP	95%
JKR	95%



This week Roger Hargreaves Class helped Miss Murphy with our Celebration Assembly.

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

**Julia Donaldson: Mattiwos** for fantastic progress in all areas of his learning and for his amazing writing this week.

**Allan Ahlberg: Sajid** for writing his own leaflet about plastic and listening carefully during our lessons.

**Roger Hargreaves: Laith** for working hard to learn a new method in mathematics.

**Eric Carle: Bradley** for fantastic effort with his learning both in school and at home, enabling him to make fantastic progress.

**Michael Morpurgo: Dominic F** for a great contribution to our RE lesson about Sikhism.

**Quentin Blake: Tno** for writing incredible stories and always being a great role model to others.

**Roald Dahl: Ben** for amazing me with his knowledge and fluency of all the times tables!

**Philip Pullman: Hala** has been working with Mr Shaw to learn to tie her shoes. This week she has been able to tie her shoes by herself and I am very proud of her. Well done!

**J K Rowling: Zuzanna** for her hard work across all subjects, especially her writing, and for always being kind to others.

**Emma Carroll: Harry** for his incredible effort in his writing, trying hard to improve his punctuation and presentation.



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### Gospel Values Awards

**Julia Donaldson: Poppy-Rae** for *Courage* - for gaining a greater confidence in class and in all areas of her learning. Well done Poppyrae

**Allan Ahlberg: Gwendoline** for *Kindness* to her friends.

**Roger Hargreaves: Quinton** for *Humility* - for showing such joy in his friend's achievement

**Eric Carle: Reece** for *Kindness*- for being a great friend and looking after others in the playground.

**Michael Morpurgo: Summer** for *Courage* - for showing courage towards overcoming her barriers to learning. Well done Summer!

**Quentin Blake: Emilia** for *Kindness*- for supporting her friends and helping them to login to the computers.

**Roald Dahl: Alvin** for *Humility* and *Compassion* - for always being grateful and saying please and thank you

**Philip Pullman: Alex M** for *Humility* -for being a supportive member of the class.

**J K Rowling: Daria** for *integrity*: Always doing the right thing and encouraging others to do the same. One of our gospel guardians!

**Emma Carroll: Maxim** for *Humility*: helping to teach others in the class.



### Gospel Guardians

This week saw the launch of our Gospel Guardian group. Led by Mrs King, this group of dedicated school councillors will support their classmates on the playground, reminding them of our Gospel Values and helping them to make good choices so that everyone has an enjoyable playground experience and treats one another with respect, kindness and love.

#### Our Gospel Guardians are:

**Julia Donaldson:** Sonia and Oscar E

**Allan Ahlberg:** Dylan and Katie

**Eric Carle:** Alex and Lizzie

**Roger Hargreaves:** Carter and Aston

**Roald Dahl:** Teddy and Conor

**Michael Morpurgo:** Talia and Samuel

**Quentin Blake:** Harry, Tno and Iris

**Emma Carroll:** Finlay and Esme

**Philip Pullman:** Garima and Dylan

**JK Rowling:** Gabriel, Arianne and Daria



### Road Safety Competition

This week was also Road Safety week and the children in all classes spent some time thinking about and learning about how to stay safe on the roads. They designed posters and leaflets to capture their learning and to encourage others to follow some simple rules in order to keep one another safe. We were delighted to be contacted by Emilie at Nash & Co Solicitors who are annual supporters of Road Safety Week, to offer their support. They have very kindly and generously provided colouring packs for the children and prizes for our winners. Nash & Co will also be helping to publicise our road safety message to the wider community by displaying some of the winning posters on their blog. They will deliver the colouring packs and prizes on Monday and once these have been quarantined, we will send them home with the children.



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### The winners of the Road Safety Competition are:

**Julia Donaldson:** Lullah  
**Allan Ahlberg:** Grace  
**Roger Hargreaves:** Riley  
**Eric Carle:** Daisy  
**Michael Morpurgo:** Stephen  
**Quentin Blake:** Emilia  
**Roald Dahl:** Elijah  
**Philip Pullman:** Tillie  
**J K Rowling:** Ashleigh  
**Emma Carroll:** Karolina



### Governor of the Month: Jo Burrows



Hi everyone

It's my turn this week to tell you a bit more about the Governors here at Holy Cross. Each Governor has specific areas of responsibility. I'm co-responsible for statutory grants, attendance and SEND. Some of these areas are new to me and it's fascinating finding out more about what the staff do to better meet the needs of each and every child. Most of

which I knew nothing about until I became a Governor.

I've been a proud Holy Cross parent for over 9 years now and my youngest daughter is currently in KS2. Every time I'm in school (when restrictions permit) and every meeting I have I learn new things! Seeing how happy the children are to be back in school and learning is just wonderful. A huge thank you to all the staff for their continued efforts in making the school a happy and welcoming place for our children to thrive in.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend. *Jo Burrows*

### E-Safety Parent Workshops

We work hard to ensure that the children know what to do to stay safe online. You may think that this doesn't concern you, as your child is young, however our children are growing fast and as they do they use technology more. Also the children can access the internet in so many different ways (smart phones, TVs, laptops, tablets, kindles etc). We need to protect our children, as children naturally like to take risks. It is never too early to start talking to your child and keeping lines of communication open. The internet is huge and technology is fast evolving. At the same time electronic media is an incredible tool, which supports learning and is there to enjoy. As such we are offering parents the opportunity to join an information session run by Miss Buscombe via zoom and have organised two separate times to enable as many to attend as possible. The sessions will run on Monday 30th November at 1.30pm and be repeated on Wednesday 2nd December at 6pm.

The zoom links are as follows:

Monday 30th November at 1.30pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72795098802?pwd=YlBjWlVraEZ2bzJUcUlnXNCtXRvH0Zz09>

Wednesday 2nd December at 6pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71750034393?pwd=VE9sQlRrZjR5WTN2aHVrb2lZDRTZz09>







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### Maths Week Competition on TT Rockstars

During Maths week we took part in a 'Rock Out' Battle on TT Rockstars. Well done to all the children who took part. The winning classes were as follows

**1st Place- Roald Dahl**

**2nd Place- Emma Carroll**

**3rd Place- Quentin Blake**

Congratulations to Cristian from Roald Dahl Class who scored an amazing 11,040 points in the competition. In second place was David from Roald Dahl class with 9,138 points. The top 3 scoring children in each class also had a special certificate in our celebration assembly

Class	Top Scoring Children
AA	1st- Dylan
EC	1st-Bradley
RH	1st-Thomas B
RD	1st-Cristian 2nd- David 3rd- Yuhan
QB	1st- Iris 2nd- Esme 3rd- Emilia
MM	1st-Lucas 2nd-Julia 3rd-Ruby-May
PP	1st-Adrian 2nd- Saffron 3rd- Marian
EMC	1st-Rianna 2nd-Joshua L 3rd-Maxim
JKR	1st-Annie 2nd- Joseph 3rd-Zuzanna

**Overall in England,** a total of **3,887 schools**, **31,039 classes** and **433,924 pupils** took part and answered a total of **441.93 million** questions correctly.



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### Odd Socks Day



Roger Hargreaves



Michael Morpurgo



Michael Morpurgo

### Our First Liturgy in EYFS



A Zoom with author, Victoria Bryon



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## Update from Public Health

### The situation in Plymouth:

Data for the last seven days show that Plymouth's case rate, while lower than the England average, is still increasing and is higher than the South West as a whole. The number of cases per 100,000 (seven-day rolling average) is as follows:

**Plymouth: 225**

**South West: 187**

**England: 267**

We need to maintain high levels of lockdown compliance across the city if we are to move into a tier with fewer restrictions when lockdown is scheduled to end in early December. The higher the level of compliance, the more likely it will be that we are able to see friends and family over the holiday season.

Our latest information shows that people tend to know and support lockdown restrictions and that they are generally trying to do the right things.

Maintaining good and physical mental health is going to be a significant challenge for many people.

The NHS website outlines a number of tactics to maintain good mental wellbeing during the latest lockdown including:

### Staying connected with others

Are there ways in which we can help each other stay connected by phone, messaging apps, videocalls or social media? We need to make sure that the most isolated people are reached and supported as much as possible during these next few weeks.

### Encourage people to talk about their worries

Try not to bottle things up. It's important that people share their concerns with those they trust. It's normal to feel worried or scared and that talking about it can help.

### Looking after physical health

Physical health has an enormous impact on how we feel. Eating healthily, undertaking regular exercise and avoiding smoking, drugs and excess alcohol will all help us feel better both physically and mentally. If you have to stay at home, there are lots of free online classes and workouts available on YouTube and other websites.

### Carry on doing enjoyable things

Life is difficult for many at the moment and it's easy for people to forget to enjoy themselves. Try to set aside time for the things you enjoy – reading, jigsaws, board games, arts and crafts – can make a huge difference. Maybe you could take up a new hobby using free online courses and tutorials. Where possible, try to support local businesses. The impact of lockdown on many small business owners – in both financial and mental health terms - is severe and they need our support.

Lockdown won't stop the virus completely but it will prevent the NHS becoming overwhelmed. The R rate for the UK before lockdown was 3; it is currently between 1.1 and 1.3. With your help, by working together and supporting each other, we can get the R number back down under 1 and have the virus in retreat once more.



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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>

**How you can help?** Please help us to keep Plymouth safe. The more people we can encourage to be COVIDsafe, the more we can protect each other and slow the rise in cases across the city. We all want to avoid a lockdown – we want children to be able to learn, families to see their loved ones, restaurants to stay open. The best way to avoid further restrictions is if everyone works together.

## Smiles with PIAS

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Dental Students of the Peninsula Dental School are presenting online workshops for parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) with top tips to help your child maintain healthy teeth.

Sessions will take place on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020** and you can choose from either a morning or afternoon session:

- 10am – 11am
- 1pm – 2pm

If you would like to attend one of these sessions please email Linda Pearce at: [linda.pearce@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:linda.pearce@plymouth.gov.uk) and Linda will send you the teams link on the day.

Sessions will be allocated on a first come first served basis, as session spaces are limited to 12 per group.

PENINSULA DENTAL SCHOOL PRESENTS

# SMILES WITH PIAS

*Top Tips to help your child maintain healthy teeth*

THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

WITH -  
**2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR DENTAL STUDENTS**

## ONLINE WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Including interactive demonstration on Oral Hygiene Instruction, and discussion on Diet Advice

+ **ADDITIONAL Q&A Session!**

Free Resource Pack to guide good habits at home!

### JOIN US ON MICROSOFT TEAMS!

2 SESSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

**10-11AM**  
(LINK TO JOIN ATTACHED TO EMAIL)

**1-2PM**  
(LINK TO JOIN ATTACHED TO EMAIL)

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL | Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise | UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH





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## Covid-19 Support for Individuals - November

**2020** *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)

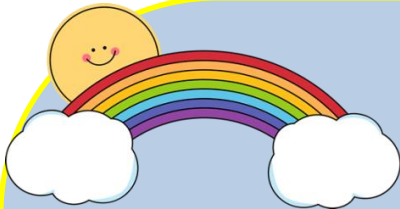
Or phone 01752 782758

*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)*



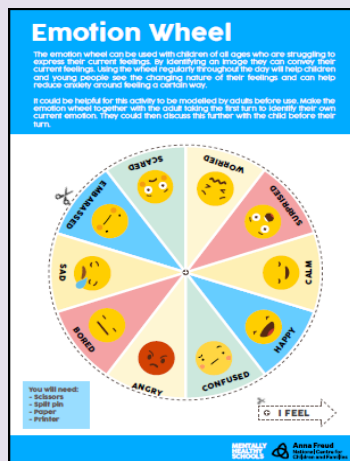
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## Health & Wellbeing

believe  
in yourself and  
you will be  
unstoppable



The Emotion Wheel.  
The Anna Freud Centre has produced another excellent resource, as part of their 'Mentally Healthy Schools' initiative. Called 'The Emotion Wheel' it allows children express their current feelings

It can be downloaded from their website

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/emotion-wheel?pdf=coronavirus-anxiety-toolkit>



Stress Busters from Save The Children. Save The Children have produced some Simple activities for relaxation at home. A nicely illustrated resource for younger (and not so young) children.

Available from:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/usa/reports/emergency-response/stress-busters-from-our-heart-program.pdf>



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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)

**Thank you !!**



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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.

#### **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.



**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](mailto:holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk)

#### **Parent Pay**

**IMPORTANT:** Please can we remind you to clear any Parent Pay balances and to activate your account if you haven't already done so?

log onto: [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

THANK YOU

*Have a lovely weekend!* ☀️