



## 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. 29: 14th May 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by wishing all our Muslim families **Eid Mubarak**.

This week our GIFT team have been busy in the prayer garden creating a beautiful prayer space where we can sit and quietly reflect on the beauty of God's creation. The children are busy planning Mission Week (see page 4) and have a wonderful project involving every single member of our community including our new children who will be starting in September.

I am delighted to say that we are over-subscribed in our Foundation Stage unit this September, despite the low birth rate affecting school admissions across Plymouth. We have contacted all our new families to welcome them to Holy Cross and our Foundation Stage team will be busy next term visiting nursery settings and preparing the very important transition from nursery to primary school – a huge step for little people!

With Mr Johnson's road map going to plan, there are few changes to our safety measures. Government guidelines continue to advise staggered drop offs and pick-ups as well as minimising contact between 'bubbles'. Staff are advised to continue to wear face coverings on communal areas although we no longer need to wear them in class. Social distancing, respiratory and hand hygiene and ventilation remain important in our fight against COVID 19. We will need to be patient a little longer before we can gather as a school but I look forward to that day with huge anticipation!

**As a sign of the easing of lockdown, we are now able to invite TEMPEST back to take our traditional Class photographs. This was confirmed today and will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. I know the children will all want to look their smartest!**

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe,

Mrs F Gill  
Headteacher



### **Summer term 1**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May

### **Mission Week**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May – 28<sup>th</sup> May

### **Pentecost Sunday**

(The Church's birthday)

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

### **Half term**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June

### **NSPCC Childhood Day**

11<sup>th</sup> June

### **First Holy Communion**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### **Summer Term 2**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – INSET day

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday

22<sup>nd</sup> July

### **Y6 Residential**

28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June

To be confirmed

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



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### ***Our Catholic Life – Be Happy***

*Before he has to leave them, Jesus prays for his friends. Jesus asks God the Father to keep his friends faithful when he is no longer with them. Jesus wants to share his happiness with his friends. He asks God the Father to keep them safe and protect them from harm. Jesus is now sending his friends into the world to spread the Good News of God's love, just as God the Father sent him. This is our job too.*



### ***Let us Pray***

Thank you, Jesus, for showing me how much God loves me.  
Thank you for all the happiness I enjoy. Help me to share your love and happiness with the people I meet. **Amen**

### ***Wonders of the Week***

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



**Julia Donaldson: Tommy** for being a fantastic role model in choosing time by extending himself in his writing.

**Allan Ahlberg: Bella** for trying really hard in phonics and making super progress!

**Roger Hargreaves: Oliver** for always listening to the teacher, always being ready to learn and always doing the right thing

**Eric Carle: Reece** for fantastic work when leading and learning the story map.

**Michael Morpurgo: Sonny** for producing such interesting work in English this week. He has really listened and understood the key features and themes in our class text.

**Quentin Blake: Kacper** for reflecting well on how the Holy Spirit can bring us courage and preparing well for his first reconciliation.

**Roald Dahl: David** for always showing respect and listening really well. David has grown in maturity showing he is more than ready to move up into UKS2 and become a role model for his younger peers in the school.

**Philip Pullman: Alice** for her excellent attitude towards her learning and for being a positive role model to others.



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**Emma Carroll: Atene** for her incredible focus and effort in class this week. Her ideas for our writing, and her thoughts in our class discussions have been brilliant.

**J K Rowling: Evan** for his extra home learning efforts - he has been learning how to code and has produced a calculator through coding that can answer any calculation! It is very impressive! He also works so so hard in everything he does in classroom. Well done!

**Ahrienne** for her hard work and dedication to every piece of work that she completes in every lesson she takes part in. She is a wonderful role model for all in our class.

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



## Next week we will be looking out for behaviour that shows Courage.



**Julia Donaldson: Kasiena** for being a wonderful role model and always doing the right thing.

**Allan Ahlberg: Anastazja** for always being a kind friend and letting everyone join in her games.

**Roger Hargreaves: Kornelia** for being a very polite young lady. A good role model for behaviour doing the right thing at the right time.

**Eric Carle: Joy** for always, quietly doing the right thing and being an excellent role model to others.

**Michael Morpurgo: Zakk** for always listening and being responsible in and out of the classroom. A true role model for behaviour.

**Quentin Blake: Oliwia** for always thinking of ways she can help others especially Miss Goddard without looking for a reward in return.

**Roald Dahl: Abbas** for always being honest and owning up to his mistakes, doing his best to rectify them.

**Philip Pullman: Talulla** for displaying integrity by always making good decisions.

**Emma Carroll: Harmony** for consistently modelling and demonstrating integrity, always choosing to do the right thing!

**JK Rowling: Ashleigh** for always doing the right thing in all circumstances. For being a wonderful friend and a wonderful role model to others.



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## CONGRATULATIONS



Plymouth School Sports Partnership Indoor Rowing Competition  
Rowing Certificates to  
**Harmony Sanghera** (EMC) 429 meters - 2nd Place - Silver Medal  
**Laura Lech** (JKR) 427 metres - 3rd Place - Bronze Medal

Both Harmony and Laura received their medals today at our Celebration Assembly. Well done to both of them!

## MISSION WEEK

Mission Week will begin on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May and run until the last day of term, the 28<sup>th</sup> May. On Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, the weekend of PENTECOST, we will celebrate the birthday of the church.

The festival of Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks. In the Christian tradition, this event represents the birth of the early church.

Pentecost provides us with an opportunity to reflect on those who spread the Word of God by their words, their example and their lives, just like those first apostles inspired by the Holy Spirit, to go out and speak in tongues to the many people gathered in Jerusalem that first Pentecost.



We would like the children to come to school on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May, dressed as an early apostle or perhaps as a saint; or even as a more recent figure who has led or currently leads a life inspired by the word of God. At lunchtime we will have a special Pentecost Picnic, generously provided by CaterEd which, weather permitting, will be eaten outdoors in the sunshine! CaterEd have also offered to bake us a very special Pentecost Cake – we are so grateful as this will make it a very special occasion indeed!

## Why have a 'Mission Week'?

At Holy Cross, it is important that we have a shared understanding of our mission: what is our 'why'; our raison d'être? What makes us special and unique? What makes our school different?

The children and staff invite the whole community to get involved in Mission Week to reflect on and re-affirm our school mission so that, after the year we have had, we can celebrate the very special school that is Holy Cross.

The children will be spending time exploring and unpicking our mission statement; planning and preparing prayer spaces for other children to visit; taking part in special acts of worship celebrating our mission and many other activities to deepen our understanding and provide us with the time and space to reflect and to 'be' Holy Cross.





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The GIFT team have a very special project in mind and will be sending out more information shortly so watch this space...

We are very excited about Mission Week and looking forward to a very special end of term!

In the meantime we have this wonderful report from Finlay and Esme about the wonderful work the GIFT team have done in our prayer garden.

This week we worked with the other pupil chaplains to create a prayer garden. First, we needed to clear and dig up the weeds in the garden. After that, we planted a variety of plants, flowers and herbs. Children in Julia Donaldson class suggested having flags to hang in the prayer garden. We did this by designing and creating wooden and fabric flags, covered in our gospel values and virtues. Then we used wooden discs to write reflections and questions on to hang and give people a chance to be still and think. We intend that this garden will be a reflective place of prayer and worship for everybody.

By Finlay and Esme (Emma Carroll Class)



### First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion who this week made their First Confession at the Cathedral with Father Mark and Father Oscar. We are very proud of you!



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### MAYFLOWER 400



Holy Cross Primary School, represented by our Year 3 and 4 children, alongside 15 other schools are going to be forming their very own massed choir for the Mayflower 400 (M400), 4 nations ceremony on Plymouth Hoe, on Sunday 11th July 2021. This event is being organised by Plymouth City Council alongside Plymouth Music Hub. The hub aims to bring 1000 children and adults together. This is of course subject to the continued easing of COVID restrictions and the success of the government's roadmap.

There are now only 500 tickets out of the 15,000 opening allocation left for the M400 ceremony. If government announcements allow, more will be released but we can't be sure.

[Mayflower 400 Four Nations Ceremony Tickets, Sun 11 Jul 2021 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)

I'm sure you'll agree that it is fantastic news that so many people are interested in this event.

### Bikeability for Year 3

We have organised for all children in Year 3 to take part in the **Bikeability Level 1 programme**. The aims of Bikeability are to raise every child's confidence and proficiency when riding a bike out on the road.

The course will take place on either Monday 24th May (23 children) or Tuesday 25th May (23 children) and each group of children will receive a 90 minute practical session. The children will be under the supervision of the Bikeability team at all times as well as a member of staff. The aim is to get all the children to achieve the Bikeability Level 1 award. Bikeability is for all children regardless of ability and experience. Parents must also complete the online consent form <https://forms.gle/bUEPxbhY8AMCYAMTA>

### Bikeability for Year 6

We have organised for all children in Year 6 to take part in the four day Bikeability programme. The aims of Bikeability are to raise every child's confidence and proficiency when riding a bike out on the road.

The course begins on the 24th May and will consist of groups of children receiving one practical session each day. The children will be under the supervision of the Bikeability team at all times as well as a member of staff. The aim is to get all the children to achieve the Bikeability Level 1 and 2 award.

Bikeability is for all children regardless of ability and experience. Parents must also complete the online consent form <https://forms.gle/TTATpmersWoWoGD28>

### Balance- ability for Foundation Stage

Foundation will be taking part in balance-ability in the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> May. The children will take part in 4 sessions spread out in the afternoons. A letter was sent home on Wednesday explaining the programme. The consent form should be returned as soon as possible. You can also send the consent form in via the link below.

<https://forms.gle/VBVD6hXCu8AQRwe76>

The school is covering the cost of the course as part of our membership with the Plymouth Sports Partnership. Y3 and Y6 Children will be required to bring bikes and helmets to school. If you have any problems with sourcing a bike and/or helmet, please do get in touch with your class teacher as soon as possible. Please complete the separate consent form and return it to school as soon as possible but no later than Monday 17th May as we need to ensure that we can gather all of the equipment we need.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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One of Plymouth CAST's Strategic 5 Year Goals for all CAST schools is that we work towards reducing our carbon footprint. Becoming carbon neutral by 2030 is an ambitious target and it will require real personal and professional effort from each one of us.

One of the first steps towards achieving this goal is raising awareness. All CAST schools have been asked to sign up to the 'Let's Go Zero 2030' campaign for UK schools. We will be sent further information and guidance about how we can actively reduce our carbon footprint, and in doing so, work towards fighting climate change and safeguarding the planet for future generations. This also ties in beautifully with the work that we are already doing in relation to Laudato Si.

Our Eco-Warriors will be leading us in this campaign so we look forward to hearing their ideas!

## COVID19 Important Testing Reminder

As Lateral Flow Testing continues in schools and homes, could we remind you to report any positive results to [covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk) or to **ring the school office immediately**, with self-isolation taking place until a confirmatory PCR test result is received. Whilst awaiting the result, we would have to send home the affected bubble(s) and report to Plymouth City Council as well as Plymouth CAST.

If the PCR comes back negative, we can then invite the bubble(s) back to school.



Any positive PCR tests should also be shared with us along with the date of the positive test.

Please remember that if an individual (child or adult) has any of the COVID19 symptoms a PCR test should be booked straight away. Use this link to book: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. You should not take a **Lateral Flow Device (LFD)** test if you are symptomatic even if LFD testing is part of your routine. **LFD tests are for people who are asymptomatic** – i.e. not showing any symptoms. If you are not sure whether you have one or more of the symptoms then book a **PCR** test.

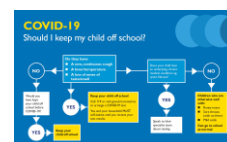
Please note that this applies to anyone in your household as well.

For further information on testing go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

If your child presents with a new continuous cough, a fever or is experiencing any loss of or change in their taste/smell, please do not send them to school.

If your child presents with any of these symptoms while at school, we will call you immediately. You should have your child tested and the whole household should self-isolate until you get the result.





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Further action will depend on the result of the test.

### Breakfast Club/After School Club

20 places available at Breakfast and After School Club.

**Please ring to book places one week in advance.** Staff will be allocated to particular bubbles for the week ahead so that we can follow the track and trace guidelines effectively. 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!***