



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. 24: 26th March 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

One year ago, Coronavirus came into our world. We couldn't have imagined what would change, how fast it would change, how strange it would feel, and just how long it would go on.

One year on, it is important to take some time to stop and think about where we have come from and pray for all those who have been affected in this time. This week, we took some time to reflect, to think about others, to be grateful for our families and friends and to dare to express hope for a more normal future.

Some, including my son, will be celebrating a second lockdown birthday as restrictions continue into the Easter holiday. We hope that the situation will continue to improve and that with more people being vaccinated and fewer active cases, we will begin to see a return to a more normal way of life.

After Easter we therefore hope to be in a position to offer more after school clubs. Some will be run by teachers and some by Premier Sports. We will continue to operate in bubbles however so initially these clubs will be bubble-specific. There will be further information about these on Monday.

At the moment we are unable to say whether swimming or off-site visits and trips can resume but we remain hopeful!

Thank you to everyone who managed to complete the Remote Learning survey for us. It really helped us to plan for the return of the children. It also provided us with useful feedback so that we can continue to tailor and improve our offer, although, hopefully, we will not need to provide whole school remote learning ever again! I have sent the summary of responses separately.

I hope you all enjoy a lovely weekend as the days become longer and warmer!

Stay safe,

Mrs F Gill
Headteacher



02/04/21—18/04/21
Easter Holidays

Last day of Easter Term is
Thursday 1st April

Good Friday 2nd April is a Bank
Holiday

Summer term 1
Monday 19th April – Friday 28th
May

Bank Holiday
3rd May

Half term
Saturday 29th May - Sunday 6th
June

First Holy Communion
Sunday 27th June 2021

Summer Term 2
Monday 7th June – INSET day
Tuesday 8th June – Thursday
22nd July

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



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Our Catholic Life

Our theme next week is *This is Holy Week*

Next week we will be learning about the events of Holy Week with the help of our GIFT (Growing in Faith Team) – our pupil chaplaincy group. They have shared their ideas with the teachers and have organised a whole school Stations of the Cross Liturgy which we are all very much looking forward to. They have chosen some beautiful readings, prayers and some very reflective music. The Stations of the Cross are a form of prayer as we reflect on the journey Jesus took to Calvary



Let us Pray

*Like St Peter, we are not perfect. Help us Jesus to be a good friend to you and to others.
Amen*

TENTEN

'Prayers for Home' ended on 8 March 2021. We are still providing [Assembly Videos for Home](#) and the [Sunday Liturgy for Families](#) on a temporary basis to the end of the Spring term. Please also view our video prayer, [Returning to Life in School](#).



*Thank you for your generous donations.
This year we raised £196.*

Agents of Change – making a difference to the lives of others.

As we approach Easter and come to the last days of Lent, we wanted to share with you some of the kind and generous actions taken by the children of Holy Cross to make the world a better place. The children worked together under the guidance of their teachers, to think of ways of helping those less fortunate and we are very, very proud of them!

They wrote letters, designed and made posters and are now turning to you, to help bring their ideas to fruition.

Quentin Blake Class: The children wrote to both Miss Buscombe and myself to tell us of their wonderful plan and to request a **Just Giving** page to be set up to support their 'Walk for Water'.

We will post the link on Class Dojo for you this weekend.





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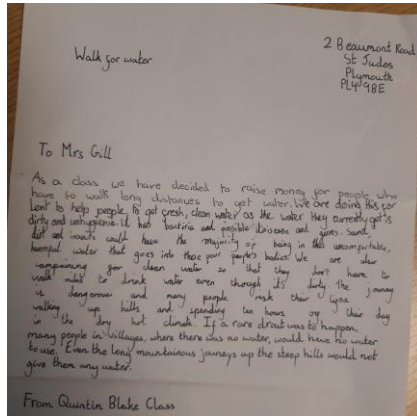
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Michael Morpurgo Class: The children have worked really hard to advertise their Food Bank collection and have designed wonderful posters to catch our eyes and hold our interest!



This is their message:

Michael Morpurgo (MM) class would love it if you could donate food to our local Plymouth Foodbank to help those in need. Please help us to make a *positive change in Plymouth today*. We aim to keep collecting food donations for the next couple of weeks; donations can be brought into school to class teachers and MM class will collect from there.

Thank you for supporting this worthy cause and helping us to make a real difference in real people's lives.

Mahi (Year 3) & Talia (Year 4)





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Global Warriors:

Miss Hannaford, our science lead and Miss Heaton, our geography lead have launched an exciting **Global Warrior** group to empower our children to make a difference to the world. We are the curators of our planet and have been entrusted with a world which we have a responsibility to care for. Our Global Warriors will lead us in this task and we are excited to see where this journey will take us!

Congratulations to the newly elected global warriors:

RH: Marie-Iulia and Meleia
AA: Dawson, Methuli and Abby
RD: Millie and Mason
QB: Lily and Esme
EMC: Eitan and Emily J

JD: Raeden and Thea
EC: Stefan and Ali
MM: Sam and Hollie
PP: Dylan and Saffron
JKR: Annouska and Evan



Wonders of the Week



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

Miss Buscombe led our Celebration Act of worship today and the school reflected on how Lent is a special time of growth when we can make space for others and for Jesus.

Julia Donaldson: *Sejal* for amazing effort in all her learning, we are really impressed!

Allan Ahlberg: *Vanessa* for being really determined to achieve her very best. Well done!

Roger Hargreaves: *Florence* for working hard to learn new sounds and using them in reading and writing.

Eric Carle: *Martha-Mary* for completely wowing us with her concentration and participation in phonics and English enabling her to make great progress! Well done!

Michael Morpurgo: *Katie* for having great planning ideas in her English innovation lesson, well done Katie!

Quentin Blake: *Theresia* for being a great friend to all and for always working hard in every lesson! We are proud of your achievements Theresia!

Roald Dahl: *Yuhan* for such a positive attitude to her learning. She takes on board all advice given to her to try to improve her work. This has been especially evident in her writing lately.

Philip Pullman: *Alice* for a fantastic week of learning in class and for also contributing her great ideas to others in the Pupil Chaplaincy meeting.



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Emma Carroll: Tilly for her incredible effort with her reading which has been reflected in her AR scores and her progress.

J K Rowling: Gerran for great leadership in small group work, including our Stations of the Cross and 'Chicken Care'.

Gospel Values Awards



Julia Donaldson: Johan for Courage – for settling in so well. He has tried hard and explored lots of new learning activities during choosing time.

Allan Ahlberg: Dawson for Kindness - for always showing kindness to others.

Roger Hargreaves: Lincoln for Compassion - for looking after his friends when they are hurt.

Eric Carle: Ruby-Rahyn for Kindness - for noticing her friend was upset and giving her a sticker to cheer her up.

Michael Morpurgo: Leo for Courage for having the courage to stand up in front of his peers and share some of his learning.

Quentin Blake: Giovanna for showing Courage – for having the courage to talk in front of the class this week and for joining in lots of our discussions!

Roald Dahl: The whole class for Kindness and Compassion - morning playtimes have been so enjoyable lately. All the children mix well with each other, they share the equipment and have been playing lovely games together. This has been wonderful to watch.

Philip Pullman: Alex for Integrity - for his conscientious attitude towards adults and his peers this week.

Emma Carroll: Shalintha for Forgiveness - for showing forgiveness, not just in words but in actions too.

JK Rowling: Joel for Humility - for his reflective thinking and his humble nature in everything that he does.



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Anniversary of the first lockdown...



On Tuesday 23 March, the Government declared a day of reflection to mark the first anniversary of the first coronavirus lockdown. Bishop Mark invited our schools to take part in marking the occasion in prayer. All schools in the Diocese of Plymouth were invited to join in a Day of Prayer at 12 noon on 23rd March. The children and staff held a time of prayer and reflection in all classes and reflected on our families, our friends, what we have been through and what we are hoping for in the future. All the prayers will be gathered to create a 'Rainbow of Reflections'. We look forward to sharing this with you when it is fully assembled as the children have written some very beautiful, heart-felt prayers.

Red hand prints = A prayer for family

Orange person = A prayer for friends

Yellow sunshine = A prayer for brighter days ahead

Green question mark = A prayer of thanks for what we have learned

Blue teardrop = A prayer for someone who we've lost

Purple heart = A prayer of thanks for the heroes of the pandemic

Pink stars = A prayer of thanksgiving for something we are proud of

In Emma Carroll Class the children were asked to think about giving thanks to the NHS. Alexander B suggested making a card for his mum who works for the NHS. He used his initiative and before his teacher knew what was happening, the card was made and signed by all the children. Here is a photo of Alex's mum sharing the card with her colleagues - a lovely thank you for thinking of them.





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Egg-citing News from Year 5/6

This week we welcomed two new arrivals to Holy Cross. They caused great egg-citement amongst the year 5/6 children and they all had a part to play in looking after them.



Message from Plymouth Veterans and Family Hub

We support Armed Forces Veterans and their families throughout the city, working in partnership with Plymouth City Council, The Royal British Legion, Shelter, Help for Heroes and many other service charities and organisations.

We look to support Veterans and their families with a range of services, from welfare and benefit entitlements through to carer's support including young carers, social events and much more.

Throughout the year we hold many family events, although, due to the pandemic, these have largely been virtual events over the last 12 months, we hope to be able to run some face-to-face events later in the year.

Please find attached our Easter competition that may be of interest to your students, we are happy for anyone to take part in this - it does not need to be a service or veteran family.



Supporting Veterans and their families

EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOP
PLYMOUTH VETERANS AND FAMILY HUB
MAKE AN EASTER SOCK RABBIT



Suitable for the whole family on 6th April at 10am.

Please get in touch for more details and to reserve a place.
phone 01752 201766 or email:
VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk





Supporting Veterans and their families

EASTER HOLIDAY COMPETITION
PLYMOUTH VETERANS AND FAMILY HUB
DECORATE AN EGG FOR EASTER AND WIN AN M&S HAMPER



Competition open to all.
Closing date 12 April 2021.

Email your entry to: VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk or check our Facebook page post to upload your picture.





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Music Lessons?



Enrol online today at rocksteadymusicschool.com
Or call 0330 113 0330 (Local rate) 8am-5pm Mon- Fri



Did you know? A recent Netmums survey highlighted that over 87% of parents are concerned about their children's wellbeing this Autumn/Winter.

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Hundreds of Headteachers say that Rocksteady's rock and pop band lessons are a fun way to build children's confidence and help them get the most out of school life, while also enhancing their overall wellbeing. There's even a one-month money back guarantee, if music isn't their scene. Why not give it a try!

Band lessons happen during the school day through a visiting tutor from Rocksteady Music School.

Here's all the details:

- Choose from **drums, electric guitar, keyboard, or vocals** subject to availability. Lessons take place during school time and are open to all year groups, with no experience necessary. All instruments are provided.
- Your child will learn their **favourite songs** in a ½ hour weekly band practice, led by a visiting Rocksteady Band Leader. A proven way of giving them a great musical grounding.
- Rehearsals build towards a **performance** each term. A fun way for your child to build their self-confidence and show you and their friends just how far they've come.
- A highlight of the week for £31.25 a month (*No payment in August*). There's a **money back guarantee** for the first month and you are free to **cancel at any time**.
- Rocksteady lessons boost confidence and promote wellbeing, while children have fun with their friends, and progress at school.

Places are offered on a **first come, first served** basis. If you would like to secure your child's place, sign up as soon as you can. Selecting different instrument options will also give you the best chance of getting a place in a band.

Find out more and book your child's place online at rocksteadymusicschool.com or call 0330 113 0330.

Kind Regards,

Mark Robinson
Chairman and Founder



Rocksteady is the UK's leading Rock School. Lessons are delivered in-line with government guidance and each school's individual policies. For more information rocksteadymusicschool.com/parentsbacktoschoolguide

Rocksteady Music School Ltd, Bisham Manor, Portsmouth Road, Uphook, GU30 7DL Registered in England 08111026



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COVID-19 Reminders

Please visit our website [COVID Risk Assessment for Parents](#) to view a parent friendly version of the risk assessment which will explain what we are doing and why we are doing it that way.

Staggered Drop offs and Pick ups

Please note that no cars should drive down White Friars Lane and that we request parents/carers wear face coverings on the school site.

Residents have complained about parents parking behind the garages - please respect resident parking areas.

Communication

Please return the yellow data sheets by next week. Thank you for your help with this.

Symptomatic of COVID-19

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, you should have your child tested and the whole household should self-isolate until you get the result.

Further action will depend on the result of the test.



LFD Testing

The government is now offering this same opportunity to parents of any school age child. Please visit this website for further detail. [lateral-flow-testing-for-households](#)

If you have a positive LFT result, please inform the school at this email

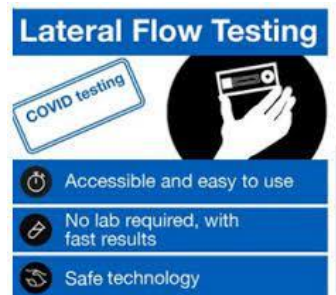
covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk

You and your household will need to self-isolate so you should not send your child(ren) to school.

You should then book a PCR test.

If the PCR test is positive, you should continue to self-isolate as a household for 10 days.

If the result of the PCR test is negative, the children may return to school. Please email us to let us know the result of the PCR.



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 once again at the main red doors to the church.



Have a lovely weekend!