



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.18: 21st January 2022



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a good week here at Holy Cross with lots of activities taking place around the school, leading to high quality learning and involving lots of fun along the way.

Some of the highlights include healthy wrap making (and eating!) in Year 1 and 2; exciting recipe design and cooking in Year 5 and 6; netball at Marjon's and exciting story writing in Years 3 and 4.

We also had a lovely visit from Canon Mark O'Keefe who brought Father Anil to meet us. Father Anil has recently come to England from India and will be supporting Holy Cross in Father Victor's absence. We were delighted to meet him and found out lots about him. Canon Mark was very generous with his Dojos when visiting classes! Father Anil came back again today to lead the enrolment of the children who are making their First Holy Communion this year.



I continue to wage war against the mounting collection of lost property and sadly, there were not many of last week's collection claimed. Please make sure your child's name is clearly visible as sometimes the ink wishes away. We don't have anywhere to store the huge collection which has built up.

Mrs F Gill
Headteacher



26th January
Rowing festival

31st January
Athletics Final

31st Jan - 11th Feb
Festival of Literature

4th February
NSPCC Number Day

8th February
Safer Internet Day

21st Feb - 28th Feb
Half Term

28th February
Non-Pupil Day

2nd March
Ash Wednesday Mass

3rd March
World Book Day

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

7th - 11th March
Careers Week

14th-18th March
Science Week

15th and 17th March
Parents' Evenings

Please note change of date
21st -1st April

Big Walk and Wheel Week
23rd & 24th March

Afternoon Tea for mums
23rd March

World Maths Day

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



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Our Catholic Life

In the Gospel this week we hear about the fulfilment of God's promise. Imagine the scene. The people are praying in the synagogue. Jesus stands up and is handed the Torah scrolls. The portion Jesus reads says that God promises to send someone to save everyone. The Messiah will bring good news to poor people, give sight to the blind and set prisoners free. The Jewish people have been waiting hundreds of years for this prophecy to be fulfilled. Rolling up the scroll, Jesus tells the people that he is the Messiah. What a moment!

St. Paul says that the Christian community is like a body. A hand is not an eye and a foot is not a nose but we need all of these different parts to make up one body. In the same way, Christians are Jesus' body on earth. We are all different, but we are working together for God. It is up to us to carry on Jesus' work of loving and caring for people. We are Jesus' eyes, hands and feet on earth today.

*Next week we will be focusing on the Gospel Value of **Humility**.*



Let us Pray

Dear Jesus,
Help me to work with you to make God's promises come true. Help me to bring your good news to everyone.

Amen



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Wonders of the Week

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



Julia Donaldson: Eli: for his amazing independent writing and applying the new set 2 sounds.

Allan Ahlberg: Johan- for showing improved confidence **and** independence when applying his phonic knowledge in writing.

Simon James: Milkyas - For showing confidence and resilience with his learning this week.

Judith Kerr: Lullah- for impressing all of the adults in Judith Kerr with an excellent attitude towards learning and trying her best at everything she does.

David Walliams: Jack for writing a brilliant suspense story using the features from our class text 'Staying Out'.

Cressida Cowell: Tory- For writing an ambitious suspense story which drew the reader in and used all the features we have learnt this year!

Roald Dahl: Thomas for his continual display of curiosity and resilience.

Louis Sachar: Tomas - continues to approach all areas of our curriculum with immense enthusiasm and for aiming so high with his descriptive writing.

Emma Carroll: - Charlie for a fantastic first attempt at suspense writing.

Malorie Blackman: Luwan - for his enthusiasm in his food technology lessons. Luwan was confident in sharing his own knowledge with his team mates, and was also excited to learn new things. He worked really well with his partner and was incredibly creative with his recipe creation. Well done Luwan!



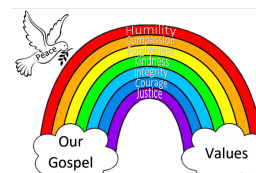
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Gospel Values Awards:

This week we have all been trying to show **Courage and Justice**.



Julia Donaldson: Elin - for being brave and showing courage throughout the day.

Allan Ahlberg: Sajid- ensuring all class members are treated fairly.

Simon James: Archie - For showing courage by trying to be more confident, especially when offering answers in front of the whole class.

Judith Kerr: Ruby- for showing courage when working on her maths independently and giving things a go even when it's tricky! Well done, Ruby!

David Walliams: Grace for showing such courage by being independent in her learning this week.

Cressida Cowell: Poppy for showing courage by working independently during English this week. We are very proud of you!

Roald Dahl: Blake J for the courage to challenge himself - particularly in reading

Louis Sachar: Joshua has had the courage to challenge himself - to look to improve and hone his skills.

Emma Carroll: Bobby and Garima for being very courageous and taking on a huge task with our cooking this week which proved to be very successful.

Malorie Blackman: Isabelle - For having the courage to try new things across all of her learning - for trying new recipes in DT, for trying new skills in maths and for experimenting with words and writing skills in her English. Well done Isabelle!

Top Table Awards



Julia Donaldson: Betsi for always playing nicely and taking care of other children.

Allan Ahlberg: Vanessa for her beautiful, polite manners.

Simon James: Bradley for always being polite to adults and other children.

Judith Kerr: Ruby for being polite and helpful.

David Walliams: Melody for her lovely manners and her helpful, kind actions.

Cressida Cowell: Maisy for always being such a wonderful role model for others.

Roald Dahl: Thomas for being so helpful during tidy up time in the playground.

Louis Sachar: Tomas for his polite manners.

Emma Carroll: Saffron for being polite and helpful in the hall.

Malorie Blackman: Jacob for always being polite towards others.



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Julia Donaldson:	91%
Allan Ahlberg:	87%
Simon James:	98%
Judith Kerr:	97%
David Walliams:	95%
Cressida Cowell:	93%
Roald Dahl:	81%
Louis Sachar:	88%
Emma Carroll:	95%
Malorie Blackman:	91%
Whole School	91%



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Spare clothes - Julia Donaldson Class

We are running low on spare underwear, tights and socks. If you have any spare or items that are too small, we would be very grateful for any donation. Please pass them to Miss O Heaton, Miss Mooney or into the office. Thank you



On Friday 4th February we will be celebrating Number Day and raising money for the NSPCC. Children (and staff) are invited to dress up for digits and wear an item of clothing with numbers on it. This could be a sports shirt or cap or even a onesie. Or why not get more creative and dress as a calculator or a dice. We ask that all donations are given via our just giving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Holy-Cross-Catholic-Primary-School1

During that week the children will be invited to participate in a range of Maths competitions with the finals taking place on Friday 4th.

We're really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support. All the money we raise at Holy Cross will make an enormous difference to children today and help the NSPCC be there for children tomorrow.



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Congratulations to Atene and Julian - Certificates arrived for them from The Children's Happy Hospital Fund.

There was also a letter of thanks:

Dear Students, Staff and supporters of Holy Cross,

We are writing to thank you for your fantastic donation of £172.50 to help provide resources for the children that are in hospital. We are aiming to purchase arts and craft equipment to help provide entertainment and distraction whilst they are on our wards.

We understand that the funds were raised via a Bake Sale which was organised by Atene and Julian and who did a lot of the baking. Thank you both for all your hard work - it is really appreciated by all our patients and staff.

Thank you for all your support, hard work and generosity

Children's Happy Hospital Fund





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Master Chef at Holy Cross

This week, Year 1 and 2 made healthy wraps as part of their learning in Design Technology. They learned about food hygiene, healthy food and enjoyed eating their creations afterwards!





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Year 5 and 6 were also busy creating delicious recipes - the aromas coming down the corridors were mouth-watering!



National Careers Week 2022



7th to the 12th of March 2022

We will be teaching our children about different careers open to them in their future! We are looking for parents and friends to talk to the children about their jobs. If you think this is something you would be interested in or would like to find out more, please contact Mrs King on dojo or email: mrs.king@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk





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PLAY SAFE - NEW NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING CAMPAIGN (FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION)

The Football Association and the NSPCC have launched 'Play Safe', a national campaign to focus attention on the vital importance of safeguarding in football. At the heart of the campaign are three short films to emphasise the importance of safeguarding for key groups of people, crucially children themselves. One aspect of the campaign is prompting parents to ask questions: Do you know your child's club Welfare Officer? If so, do you have their telephone number in your phone, as well as that of the NSPCC? Are you up to speed with your child's club's safeguarding policies and procedures? Do you regularly check-in with your child to see what they are enjoying/not enjoying and why? More information can be found here: <https://www.thefa.com/PlaySafe>

CHAT HEALTH

Chat Health is a Health Visiting and School Nursing text service. Parents, carers and young people, if you'd like some health advice or support, but are a bit worried about seeing or talking to a professional our Chat Health is perfect for you! Simply text one of the numbers below and one of our team will text you back. 0-5 Parents Service: 07480 35188, 5-19 years Parents Service: 0748035189, 11-19 years Young People's Service: 07480 635198

ICAN "TALK" PARENT WEBINARS

This exciting addition to ICAN's family support offer consists of four webinars aimed at parents of children aged 18 months to 2 ½ years who are concerned about their child's language development. The webinars are led by a speech and language therapist. In each webinar, we will talk through a range of targeted activities and approaches that you can put into practice with your child at home. In total, we have four different themed webinars, with one webinar taking place per fortnight. You can attend one or all of the webinars depending on your interest in the topics presented. Find more information here: www.ican.org.uk

Parental Survey 2021

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey. We want to make sure that we are providing your children with the best education possible and your input, views and suggestions help us to re-align our provision and make improvements.

Here are the results of the survey. We will be following up with further consultation on homework and other helpful suggestions made, so that we can work together to support the children's learning with you at home.



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Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Strongly Agree+ Agree
Holy Cross is a good school.	72%	26%	2%	0%	98%
My child enjoys school.	67%	31%	2%	0%	98%
My child feels safe at school.	74%	24%	2%	0%	98%
Pupils with additional needs are supported well by the school.	40%	51%	7%	2%	91%
My child is making good progress.	61%	30%	9%	0%	91%
The school gives me information about events and activities.	72%	28%	0%	0%	100%
I feel welcome at the school and comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem.	65%	30%	5%	0%	95%
I find it easy to contact my child's teacher.	72%	28%	0%	0%	100%
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best.	65%	33%	2%	0%	98%
Most children behave well.	42%	54.5%	3.5%	0%	96.5%
Attendance has a high profile and I am encouraged to have my child at school every day.	68%	32%	0%	0%	100%
The school provides appropriate homework.	39%	47%	12%	2%	86%
My child is not bullied at school.	37%	54%	9%	0%	91%
There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable.	42%	51%	5%	2%	93%
The school seeks opportunities to reach out to the wider community.	40%	51%	9%	0%	91%
The school is led and managed well.	53%	40%	3.5%	3.5%	93%
Overall, I am happy with this school.	66.5%	28%	3.5%	2%	94.5%



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The final question in our Parent Survey was about whether you might be interested in becoming a school governor. We were delighted to receive 14 expressions of interest. If you are interested, please can you message or email me (Mrs Gill!) and we can discuss this further.

We really do need your help!

COVID19 Information

Following updated Government guidance published 5th January 2022

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.

In primary schools, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. Staff are strongly encouraged to test twice weekly at home.

There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to regularly test, unless they have been identified as a contact for someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 and therefore advised to take lateral flow tests every day for 7 days.



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Update 14th January 2022

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Breakfast Club/After School Club



30 places available at Breakfast and After School Club.

Please ring or email the office at 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**.

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.