



## 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. 11: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020



### Our Catholic Life

#### Our theme next week is Stay Awake



Jesus talks to his disciples about what it will be like when he returns. He describes it as being like a man going on a journey and leaving his servants in charge. The master has given each of his servants a job to do. The doorkeeper's job is to stay awake so he can let the master in when he gets back. Jesus' message is simple: we must be alert and ready. We do not have to literally stay awake all the time, but when we are awake, we should be trying to do what God wants.

**This Sunday marks the beginning of ADVENT and a new year. The children have made Advent wreaths for every class and each Monday we will have a whole school Act of Worship (via Zoom) to mark each Sunday of Advent.**



#### Let us Pray

The circle shape of the wreath reminds us that your love for us goes on forever. It has no beginning and no end. Please fill us with so much love that we never run out of it. **Amen**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now entering the season of Advent and the school is preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Traditionally, we would be busy practising our Nativity and singing Christmas Carols, excited at the prospect of performing for you all. Due to COVID, we need to think differently about these preparations but we hope that what we have planned, although different, will bring as much joy and hope at this special time of year.

I have attached our 'Advent at Holy Cross' poster to give you a taste of the events and activities planned and we will send out further details via Class Dojo next week.

Please be assured that whatever activities are planned, they have all been carefully risk assessed in line with government guidelines and the current restrictions, as our priority is always to ensure the safety of our children and staff.

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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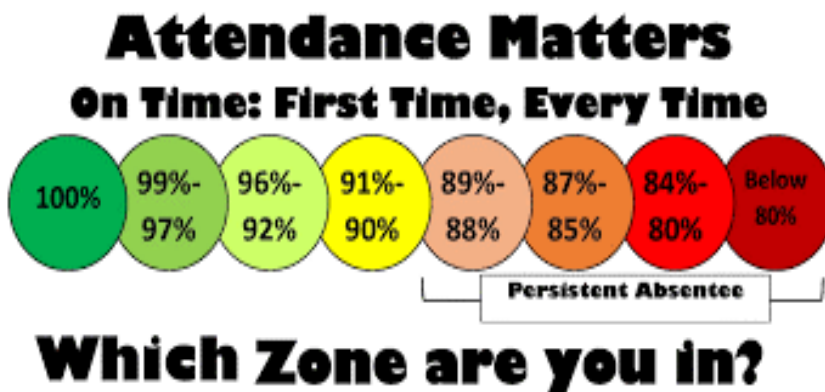


### Why Does Attendance Matter?



The guidance continues to be that every child should attend school every day despite the Tier 2 restrictions following lockdown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



This week's attendance at Holy Cross was 96.6%.  
PLEASE always ring the school number 01752 225420 to report an absence. Thank you

Class	Attendance
JD	100%
AA	98.6%
EC	97.3%
RH	88.7%
RD	96.5%
QB	99%
MM	95.8%
EMC	98.3%
PP	92.7%
JKR	98.3%



This week **Allan Ahlberg Class** helped Mrs Dyson with our Celebration Assembly.

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

**Julia Donaldson: Amelia** for being reflective and thinking about all the wonderful things that she has learnt so far.

**Allan Ahlberg: Harry** for great perseverance with some tricky writing.

**Roger Hargreaves: Oli** for his wonderful writing this week.

**Eric Carle: Sebastian** for super effort and progress in all areas of learning.

**Michael Morpurgo: Katie** for having a great attitude towards her learning and always being ready to learn.

**Quentin Blake: Laura** for writing an incredible story using exciting and ambitious vocabulary. Keep being proud of yourself!

**Road Dahl: Melissa** for being such a hard-working and polite member of our class.

**Philip Pullman: Darragh** for his fantastic newspaper writing this week.

**J K Rowling: Nathan** for his amazing effort and concentration in his 'Survivors' writing - producing an amazing final newspaper report! Also, for his reading to the whole class in his Alan Turing Enigma Code presentation!

**Emma Carroll: Ali** for his fantastic improvement on Accelerated Reader...he just keeps on getting better!



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### Gospel Values Awards

**Julia Donaldson: Frankie** for kindness - for always being a welcoming and kind friend to everyone in his class.

**Allan Ahlberg: Leo** for showing **compassion** and looking after our school resources carefully.

**Roger Hargreaves: Bonnie-Leigh** for her **kindness** and understanding of others.

**Eric Carle: Joy** for Kindness - for always showing kindness to the children and adults in Eric Carle.

**Michael Morpurgo: Jack** for **Kindness** - being kind to his peers making sure they have someone to play with.

**Quentin Blake: Kacper** for always showing **compassion** to his friends and showing humility by allowing others the books and toys he is using.

**Roald Dahl: Ezekiel** for Forgiveness - he came to me to tell me that another child had hurt his finger, but immediately added "but it's okay Miss, I forgive him!"

**Philip Pullman: Jesse** for kindness - for helping our new classmate feel welcome this week.

**J K Rowling: Olivia** for always being **kind** and **compassionate** to others in the class. For always wanting to do the right thing and for helping others to do the same.

**Emma Carroll: Karolina** for her consistent demonstration of **integrity** - always doing what is right and expected.



## Millionaire Reader

We have our first Holy Cross 'Millionaire Reader'! **Kiana** (in JK Rowling Class) is the first member of our school family to have read **1, 000, 000** words! She will be the first person to be added to our amazing Millionaire Reader board so that everyone can celebrate her achievement! Well done Kiana, we are so proud of you!

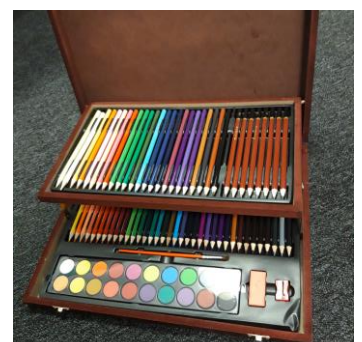
Who will be next? It could be you! If you are in Key Stage Two, make sure that you are reading your Accelerated Reader book every day and you are talking to those at home about what you have learnt and what has happened in your book. This means that you will be prepared for your quiz, and ready to move on to the next book. Once this happens, your 'words read' count will go up. And up. And up!

I look forward to seeing who will be next to reach 1, 000, 000 words!

Miss McCalley

### Road Safety Competition

Our grateful thanks and appreciation to NASH & Co for the wonderful prizes they sent to the school for the children who won the Road Safety Competition last week. The children were absolutely delighted with the beautifully boxed art sets! **Thank you**





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### School Council 2020-2021

Congratulations to our new School Council Team.

AA	Harry, Methuli, Gwendoline
EC	Stefan, Dolly
RH	Thomas, Bonnie-Leigh
RD	Jaisal, Nikola
MM	Mahi and Tristan
QB	Rosie and Jacob
EmC	Shalintha and Atene
PP	Tillie, Tiago, Sasha and Lynn
JKR	Arianne, Daria

The School Council will meet regularly with Mrs King to share their ideas, make suggestions and discuss issues at school level. Their discussions will be minuted and brought to the Senior Leadership Team for discussion. We look forward to hearing their ideas and the ideas of their classmates and wish them every success in their new and very important role and as **leaders** in our school.



### 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 30<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm and be repeated on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm.



The zoom links are as follows:

#### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72795098802?pwd=YlBjWXVraEZ2bzJUcINXNCtXRVh0Zz09>

#### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71750034393?pwd=VE9sQlRrZjR5WTN2aHVrb2lzZDRTZz09>





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### ADVENT AT HOLY CROSS

Despite the restrictions and perhaps because of the restrictions, we want to ensure this Advent and Christmas can be special for our community here at Holy Cross. We have planned several events which we hope will give everyone an opportunity to be both thankful for our blessings and bring us joy and hope during these challenging days. Please join us and keep an eye on Class Dojo for more details.

*Advent at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School*

Hold a prayer to our Advent tree by the church door.

Look out for our Nativity in the top playground. If you have a nativity scene at home, we would love a photo of it to display as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Dress up as a nativity figure on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November we be launching our Advent Community Larder. During these challenging times we want to reach out to those in our community who need our help. We invite you to add an item or take an item, dependent on your circumstances.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December Year 5 will lead Christingle services for all bubbles. Every child will bring a Christingle home to share with you.

Post your Christmas cards by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Make a card for an unnamed member of our community and we will deliver it to someone who needs a friend.

Look out for our reverse Advent Calendar

We invite you to prepare alongside us.

Watch this space!!

Our Christmas tree on the altar will be beautifully decorated ... by us! We are making decorations for our school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Save the Children CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Next week look out for our **Advent Tree** which will be placed in front of the Church doors. The children have already spent some time reflecting on how they will prepare for Christmas and the coming of Jesus. We also think about His second coming and how we must be ready to greet him. Each child will write an Advent prayer or promise on a length of purple ribbon to be tied onto our Advent tree. There will be ribbons available (and pens) if you would like to add a prayer to the tree.

Also, under the tree will be 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.



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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.

### 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)*



### 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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## PROJECT POLLENIZE REWILDING SEEDS FOR SCHOOLS



We have been asked to support this amazing project which seeks to give children the opportunity to have a positive impact on climate change. This sits well within our Mission – giving children opportunities to be ‘agents of change’.

**We have an amazing opportunity to unlock a potential £30,000 extra funding from Plymouth City Council. The fund is called 'City Change Fund'. We need to reach 25% of our target to unlock this funding. Help us get there!**

*Please visit*

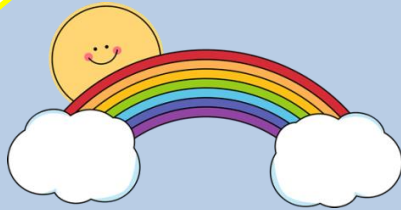
[Project Pollenize | Rewilding Seeds for Schools - a Environment crowdfunding project in Plymouth by Pollenize CIC \(crowdfunder.co.uk\)](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/project-pollenize-rewilding-seeds-for-schools) to find out more.





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## Health & Wellbeing



Connect



Be Active



Take  
Notice



Keep  
Learning



Give

## 5 Ways to Wellbeing

### Connect ...

Connect with the people around you. With family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. At home, work, school or in your local community. Think of these as the cornerstones of your life and invest time in developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

### Be active ...

Go for a walk or run. Step outside. Cycle, play a game, work, school or in your local community. Think of these as the cornerstones of your life and invest time in developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

### Take notice ...

Be curious. Catch sight of the beautiful. Remark on the unusual. Notice the changing seasons. Savour the moment, whether you are walking to work, eating lunch or talking to friends. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you.

### Keep learning ...

Try something new. Rediscover an old interest. Sign up for that course. Take on a different responsibility at work. Fix a bike. Learn to play an instrument or how to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you will enjoy achieving. Learning new things will make you more confident as well as being fun.

### Give ...

Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Join a community group. Look out, as well as in. Seeing yourself, and your happiness, linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and creates connections with the people around you.







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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!** 