



## 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. 1: 17th September 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for working with us as we continue to review arrangements at the end of the day. Our priority is the safety of the children and we will continue to review and make changes until it works well.

Thank you for working with us on this as I continue to receive emails from concerned residents concerning parking. Today, a car was parked across two garages and on Thursday there were two cars stopped in the middle of White Friar's Lane. There were three cars parked on double yellow lines on Beaumont Road. Parents waiting by the back gate continue to lean on parked cars and stand in private driveways. Please remember that White Friar's Lane is a private road and cars should not turn left down the lane towards the back gate of the school.

You may have noticed this week that we had a traffic warden in attendance on Wednesday afternoon and PC Musgrove, came along to support us on Thursday afternoon. We are trying our best to ensure everyone's safety and are very appreciative of your efforts to follow our directions when you come to pick up at the end of the day; Please remember that any measures we put in place are there to keep everyone safe. We are a city centre school and parking has always been and will also be difficult but parking ten minutes away and walking to the school would be the safer option for everyone.

On a happier, more positive note, this week we met Father Victor who will be joining us as school chaplain. He will celebrate our first Mass of the school year with us on Tuesday.

We also had a visit from Luke Pollard, MP and our newly elected School Members of Parliament were lucky enough to be able to interview him and get some helpful tips as they embark on their new role!

Our new Safeguarding policy is also available to view on our website at [Safeguarding at Holy Cross](#).

Mrs F Gill  
Headteacher



### **18th-26th September**

Plymouth Schools Big Green Week

### **20th September**

SEND Information/Coffee Afternoon for Parents at 2pm

### **27th September - 1st October**

Bike to school week

### **27th September**

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

### **27th September-15th October**

Year 5 Swimming details to follow

### **30th September**

Primary Cross-country Holy Cross team of years 3, 4, 5 & 6

**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



***This week we have been focusing on the Gospel value and virtue of humility, reminding ourselves to put others first, doing what is right without needing to be noticed. This links wonderfully with our Gospel theme for next week which comes from the Gospel of Mark.***

***Jesus' friends don't understand what Jesus has been telling them about how he will die and rise again. As they travel to the next village they end up arguing amongst themselves. Jesus asks them to explain what's been going on. The disciples are embarrassed and don't want to say, because they were arguing about who is the most important. Jesus tells them that they can only be important if they put other people first.***

***Each week we ask the children to complete an action to show their faith in action. Next week it will be to volunteer to help out at home before they are asked, at least twice during the week. Hopefully you'll all see them doing this.***

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

Dear Jesus, sometimes I want everyone to think that I am important. Help me to remember that serving other people is the only way to be like you and be really important  
**Amen**



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

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



**Julia Donaldson: Betsi - For being so kind to all her friends and looking out for them.**

**Allan Ahlberg: Bertie- For amazing recall and sequencing of our Meerkat Mail story in Guided Reading.**



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**Simon James: Victoria** - For giving her best in all of our lessons this week, particularly in maths.

**Judith Kerr: Maria-Iulia** - For working so hard in all areas of her learning and supporting her friends when they need help.

**David Walliams: Daria** For working so hard on her manifesto for school parliament and always trying her best.

**Cressida Cowell: Joy** - For coming up with brilliant ideas of how our school should be in her manifesto and sharing this with the class so well. Well done Joy!

**Roald Dahl: Conor** - Being brave in his delivery of an incredible manifesto to the whole class and for his contributions to class discussions.

**Louis Sachar: Jaisal** - His contributions when discussing talents and qualities, during RE, has inspired others to succeed.

**Emma Carroll: Sarah** - for being brilliant at partitioning in Maths and working hard with her writing.

**Malorie Blackman: Aswina** - For settling into our new class well, for developing the confidence to speak out more and ask questions, for working hard in her lessons and listening carefully to others.

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

**Julia Donaldson: Evelyn W** - For always being a positive role model and always doing the right thing.

**Allan Ahlberg: Piran**- For being humble and supporting friends when he can complete an activity independently.

**Simon James: Milkyas** - For taking onboard feedback in maths and for always wanting to improve himself and others.

**Judith Kerr: Minaal** - For being proud of her friends learning and always showing kindness.

**David Walliams: Gabriela** - For always being a positive role model because she knows it is the right thing to do - not just to receive praise.

**Cressida Cowell: Rosie**- For always thinking of others and being aware of how others are feeling and what she can do to help.

**Roald Dahl: Rosaleen** - for listening carefully to others and taking advice in her quest to improve the quality of her work.



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**Louis Sachar:** Jeroen - I have been mightily impressed with Jeroen's continuous selflessness. He always does what is right.

**Emma Carroll:** Ashley - For supporting others and being selfless, even when he finds things difficult.

**Malorie Blackman:** Mia - For always thinking about others, for listening carefully to what others think and feel and for being a role model in our class.



At Holy Cross we are committed to meeting the needs of every child in our care. Every child is unique and special, and all have the right to experience a rich curriculum where they can have fun, succeed and make progress.

If you have any concerns or would like to talk about your child please contact me via email, phone or class dojo. My email is [sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk)

Support and encouragement of parents is often the crucial factor in children achieving success. On Monday 20th September at 2pm there is an opportunity for parents to come into school to find out more about the ways we can support you and your child, enjoy some coffee and cake and have time to talk to me and each other.

Susan Buscombe  
SENDCO

On **Monday 27th September** at 2pm we will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Afternoon to raise money for this worthwhile cause. One in two of us will face cancer, and the money we raise will help everyone with cancer to live life as fully as they can.

We would welcome donations of cakes on the morning of 27th September and for as many of you to come along as possible. We look forward to seeing you all.



As a parent at Holy Cross, you are all members of our PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association). The hard work of the team ensures that we can provide events and fundraise which benefits all the children. We need your help and are looking for volunteers to support us and the children. Any time that you are able to offer will be greatly appreciated and many hands make light work.

If you are interested in finding out more come to our coffee afternoon on 27th September where Justine and Andrew will be happy to tell you more about what this might involve or email [ptfa@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk) or [sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk)



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This Harvest we are supporting CAFOD and joining other schools around the country by going green!

World leaders are meeting in Glasgow this November for a crucial meeting about the climate crisis and the future of our planet and its people. We are fundraising to support communities around the world who are protecting the planet.

To raise money, we're going to hold a bright, green or bright green mufti day on 1st October. The children will bring home a collection envelope to collect money for CAFOD.

### How our fundraising will help

We're raising money for CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, a charity working with communities around the world to build a brighter world.

Our fundraising will support people like Luana who lives in the Brazilian Amazon. When fires destroyed the crops and trees that Luana's community rely on to survive, CAFOD's local experts helped them to replant using sustainable methods so that they would have food to eat and to sell.

We have chosen to support CAFOD as a way for our pupils to put their faith into action. By raising money for Go Green, we will be supporting our brothers and sisters around the world, inspiring our pupils to become active global citizens and living out our school mission.

**We would like to give advance notice of the Tempest School Photographs for individual and family group photographs. This will take place on 16th November. If you would like a photograph with a sibling who is not at Holy Cross please come from 8am. Children with siblings in the school will have their photographs taken during the day.**





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## Reading with Austen



Children in Key Stage 1 had a zoom visit with Austen from Plymouth Library. Austen read Meerkat Mail which the children are exploring in English. He also read some other animal stories. The children loved listening to the stories and all joined in to answer the questions he was asking.



Today we were excited to welcome Luke Pollard MP to Holy Cross. He spent a wonderful couple of hours visiting our school, accompanied by a small group of our newly elected School MPs. After the tour, when Luke had met and spoke with all the classes, he was interviewed by our MPS and asked some really tricky questions!

*This is a snapshot of the discussion that took place - responses are paraphrased!*

### **Daria - What is your role?**

I am a member of Parliament, elected to represent the people of Plymouth and to change things for the better. Plymouth is a wonderful place to live and to go to school but there are some things that we can do to make Plymouth even better and that's my job.

### **Sam - Where do you work? Do you visit the Houses of Parliament in London?**

I work in two places; I work in Plymouth and I work in London. In London I work in an office right next to the Houses of Parliament but I prefer my Plymouth office. The London office is cold and we have floods! I live in Plymouth so I like to work in Plymouth.

### **Joy - How did you become an MP?**

I was elected by the people. There are lots of candidates representing different parties and I was the Labour candidate. I had to run a campaign and tell the people of Plymouth what I would do for them if they elected me. The people voted and they voted for me! That means I am elected for 5 years or until another election is called.

### **Kacper - How long have you been an MP?**

I stood for election in 2015 but I wasn't elected. So then I tried again, because that's what we need to do if we don't succeed the first time - we need to keep trying. So when I stood for election in 2017, I did a better job and I was elected. And, I am a better MP now, 4 years later, than I was on my first day because the longer we do a job, the better



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we get! In Plymouth, the election is always very close between the Red party and the Blue party so we always have to work very hard to be elected.

### **Stewart - What inspired you to become an MP?**

My mum! She always told me that if I see something that's not right, I have a choice. I could think to myself "They should do something about that" (meaning the government or the council or somebody else); or I could say, "I need to do something about that". That's how we change things for the better and make things right.

### **Stewart - What have been your greatest achievements since becoming an MP?**

I have brought about several changes to laws but my greatest achievement, the thing that makes me most proud is my proposal to make Plymouth Sound into a National Marine Park. We have National Parks like Dartmoor and other great places but I think it doesn't have to be just the land. We need to take care of our oceans and sea life and now Plymouth Sound is the first National Marine Park in England.

### **Joy - What are you currently working on?**

Oh, that's a tricky question! At the moment I am working to get more money for Plymouth. We are also working to improve the trainline and I am trying to get more trees planted - especially on busy roads so that we can make the air cleaner and make the people of Plymouth healthier. I like to keep busy and you might see me on the News sometimes.

### **Sam - What are the biggest challenges you face as an MP?**

My biggest challenge is to win the election campaign and stay elected so that I can continue to work hard for the people of Plymouth and the city of Plymouth. Sometimes Plymouth is ignored by the other members of Parliament in London because we are so far from London. I need to keep reminding them about Plymouth and about what Plymouth people need. I want to make sure Plymouth gets its fair share - money, jobs, housing, transport and support to improve the environment. In some other parts of the country, schools get more money for each child than we get for our children in Plymouth and that isn't fair on our schools or on our children.

### **Stewart - We were elected yesterday! What advice can you give to us in our new roles?**

1. Work as a team; work together as a team but also work with other children and with your teachers to make changes happen. You can't do it all by yourself!
2. Remember what you promised; things will get very busy with lots of jobs to do and sometimes we forget what we set out to do so we need to keep reminding ourselves of our promises.
3. Enjoy your role - I look forward to seeing you campaign in Plymouth when you are older!



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## School Parliament 2021-2022

Class	
Allan Ahiberg	Callum and Tommy
Simon James	Afnaan and Thomas
Judith Kerr	Aston and Minaal
Roald Dahl	Laith and Israelle
Cressida Cowell	Joy and Kacper
David Walliams	Sam and Daria
Emma Carroll	Atene and Ashley
Louis Sacher	Karolina Stewart
Malorie Blackman	Alex B, Annie and Esme



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### COVID19 Information

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. If the PCR comes back negative, your child can return to school. If the PCR is positive, your child will need to isolate for the full ten days from the onset of symptoms or the date of the test is asymptomatic. Any positive PCR tests should also be shared with us along with the date of the positive test.

*See flowchart for further explanation.*

#### **The guidance has now changed.**

If a child or member of staff tests positive, NHS track and Trace will carry out contact tracing.

Close contacts will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace and advised appropriately.

If there is a positive case in school, we will inform the parents of the affected class **but** we will not do contact tracing or send whole classes home.

If not contacted by NHS Track and Trace, you can assume that your child has not been identified by them as a close contact.

**However**, we all know how closely children interact within the classroom so we would advise you to book a PCR test for your child when informed of a positive case in their class. They can continue to attend school whilst waiting for either the test or the result. If the PCR is positive, then they should isolate.

We would also advise you to be vigilant and to monitor your child for symptoms if informed of a positive case within their class. They should not attend school if they develop symptoms and should book a PCR test immediately.

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.

Further action will depend on the result of the test.



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### **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](mailto: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.**

***Have a lovely weekend!***



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