



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.16: 7th January 2022



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back!

Despite the wet and windy start to the term, the children have returned refreshed and full of energy ... and the staff too!

Unfortunately COVID is very much still here but we need to manage it and live with it. The guidance continues to evolve everyday with a severe shortage of LFTs and PCRs not just in this country. Staff continue to test twice weekly and we are monitoring absence carefully, keeping an eye on the number of symptomatic cases. Thank you for notifying us straight away when your child or member of your family tests positive as we are not notified by Track and Trace so our only way of finding out if we have positive cases at Holy Cross is by your telling us. If you are really struggling to get a PCR test, let me know as we have a small number available.

Please remember to dress your children warmly with layers they can put on and take off easily as it can be quite chilly with windows and doors open. Our main preventative measures are still

- hand hygiene
- respiratory hygiene
- ventilation
- testing/vaccinations

That said, we are keen to build on our sporting successes of last term and Mr Boyle has booked several exciting events which are still set to take place over the coming weeks. All risk assessments prioritise measures to mitigate the transmission of COVID and the Plymouth Sports Partnership (the organisers of the events) are very mindful of the need to protect everybody whilst at the same time, look after the children's physical and mental health by involving them in fun and competitive exercise.

Mrs F Gill
Headteacher



10th January

School Parliament meeting

11th January

No ASC due to staff training

w/beg 17th January

Year 6 Netball event

19th January

LGB Meeting

26th January

Rowing festival

31st January

Athletics Final

31st Jan - 11th Feb

Festival of Literature

8th February

Safer Internet Day

15th and 17th February

Parents' Evenings

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

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

This week we have been celebrating the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany comes from a Greek word which means to show. God shows us what he is like through the wonderful world around us, through God's word in the Bible and the very best way is through Jesus. This is what Christians mean by revelation, God reveals what he is like through Jesus.

In the Gospel this week everyone is getting very excited-it looks as though John the Baptist is the saviour God has promised to send. John explains that he's not the one they have been waiting for. John is pointing the way to the Messiah who will baptise everyone with the Holy Spirit, not just with water. When Jesus comes to John for baptism the Holy Spirit appears in the form of a dove and a voice from heaven says, "You are my Son, the Beloved." In this Gospel story we see all three persons of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity shows what love is like. When we are baptised we join God's family. We are all God's children and God loves us very much.

Here is a link to the tenten newsletter which will share some of our themes for worship this month and prayers for home.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>



We will begin our preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation this term for children in Year 3 and above. If you would like you child to take part please can you email me on sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk

There will be a meeting for parents only via zoom on Wednesday 12th January at 4pm. If you would like your child to take part it is important that you attend this meeting. Please email or send a dojo message to confirm your attendance.



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Let us Pray

Father God,

**Thank you for your special invitation to be part of
your family and be called your children.**

Jesus,

Thank you for sharing with us the good news!

Holy Spirit,

Help us to live as the children of God that we are.

God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We say 'YES' to your invitation!

Amen

Wonders of the Week

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



Julia Donaldson: Ryan - for trying really hard in his writing this week and beginning to write sentences!

Allan Ahlberg: Poppy- for amazing independence and recall of our writing toolkit when writing a wishing tale.

Simon James: Thea - For showing wonderful effort and independence, making big steps across all her learning.

Judith Kerr: Florence- Fantastic effort in class and taking advice and feedback on board to improve her work. Well done!

David Walliams: Sadie for being the first child to achieve gold in our maths Going for Gold times table challenge.

Cressida Cowell: Daisy- For working hard on improving her writing and for working towards her target to help her improve! Well done Daisy!

Roald Dahl: Riley and Wiktor for showing resilience and curiosity in mathematics this week.

Louis Sachar: Ezekiel - for his continued excellent effort in all areas of the curriculum, but particularly in Maths - great determination to succeed.

Emma Carroll: Faustas - For working really hard in all lessons this week.

Malorie Blackman: Iris - For being a wonderful member of the class who supports others and always works hard.



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

Julia Donaldson: Rosie - for always being such a kind and caring friend to her peers.

Allan Ahlberg: Cerys - for showing great kindness and selflessness when supporting her friends.

Simon James: Ruby-Rahyn - For always being compassionate to others in our key stage and wanting to help everybody around her.

Judith Kerr: Clara - For being a kind friend to all, always looking out for everyone in class and offering a helping hand.

David Walliams: Mahi for supporting friends with their learning and helping in the classroom.

Cressida Cowell: Ziva - for helping other members of our class in every aspect of our day. You have really been a super friend this week!

Roald Dahl: Tristan - for being a kind and thoughtful member of the class

Louis Sachar: Joshua is always there to help others, whether classmates or as a sports leader with our younger children.

Emma Carroll: Atene - For supporting a friend when they were upset in class this week.

Malorie Blackman: Jacob - For supporting others in the class and always being there to lend a helping hand.

Top Table Awards



Julia Donaldson: Benji and Anmar for always eating so nicely.

Allan Ahlberg: Leo for always trying hard to do the right thing.

Simon James: Ruby for her lovely, polite manners.

Judith Kerr: Sonia for being so fantastic with another child who needed her help

David Walliams: Annika for always being polite and considerate to others.

Cressida Cowell: Dominik for coping so well with a poorly leg.

Roald Dahl: Nicola for her lovely manners.

Louis Sachar: Marcus for being polite in the hall.

Emma Carroll: Marian and Faustas for always being considerate to others.

Malorie Blackman: Harlow for her exemplary behaviour in the hall and in the playground.



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Lower Key Stage 2

Design Technology

Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic time investigating the strength of different structures when designing and making tents this week.





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Key Stage 1

The Story of Pirate Tom

To introduce our new story in English, KS1 children found a message in a bottle that had a treasure map.

We followed the map around the school and finally found a chest full of treasure in the Prayer garden.



We found treasure!!!



PIC•COLLAGE



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Julia Donaldson:	92%
Allan Ahlberg:	93%
Simon James:	92%
Judith Kerr:	95%
David Walliams: :	87%
Cressida Cowell:	93%
Roald Dahl:	100%
Louis Sachar:	97%
Emma Carroll:	93%
Malorie Blackman:	97%



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Poppy Playtime?

We have been alerted to a video game which is causing anxiety and worries among our younger children.

Poppy Playtime is a horror game made by a small independent team ([MOB Games](#)). The game involves an unnamed protagonist investigating a mystery in an abandoned toy factory. As the player, you roam around the factory and collect VHS tapes to solve the mystery of what happened. You must solve puzzles while trying to survive the “vengeful toys” left behind. The factory’s most popular toy “Huggy Wuggy” – a giant, horrifying blue creature with bulging eyes, wide red lips, and long limbs – actively follows you around as you try to complete the game. He appears in the dark unexpectedly to try and catch you. If you get caught, Huggy Wuggy bears his wide and sinister grin and eats you. Players complete Chapter 1 by finding Poppy the doll.

Poppy Playtime features frightening images and themes that are paired with child-friendly items. This may be especially upsetting to children who have not yet developed the resilience to deal with disturbing content.

For further information follow this link:

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2021/12/03/poppy-playtime-online-safety-review/>



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Holy Cross Athletics.



Well...they not only won the recent cluster Indoor Athletics, they've been invited to the Finals! Well done everyone and what an honour. The finals take place on 31st January with this time, a further two field events. I'm sure they will all be wonderful.

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 6th January 2022

Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

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.

Please note - there is no After School Club on Tuesday 11th January due to Staff Training.