



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: 22nd January 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and making the most of the current situation. Despite the anxieties and challenges we are currently facing, there are many things which can help us to maintain a positive outlook. There is also a lot to celebrate, not least the amazing small kindnesses we witness daily, and the appreciation we can show for others and for what they do – everyone is working together to get through this and we will get through it.

Since the start of this most recent lockdown, we have kept in contact with you via regular telephone calls, Class Dojo and email. It is important to touch base with you so that we can help if help is needed but also in order to keep our lines of communication open.

Google Classroom is working well - So many of our children are accomplishing great things which we love to celebrate every Friday at our Celebration Assembly. It was lovely to see so many of you today! Thank you for returning the Acceptable Use of Live Streaming Agreements – it is really important that we safeguard everyone: children and staff. It would be helpful if during the large virtual gatherings like Celebration Assembly, parents remain with the children, remain on mute unless unmuted by the school and keep all other interactive tools disabled as otherwise it can become quite tricky to manage the meeting.

I hope that you have all received the remote learning information and are finding it accessible and helpful. Many of you also managed to collect the learning packs – there are still a number awaiting collection. As explained in previous letters, we do not want to put you under any more pressure or cause any more anxiety but please continue to encourage your child to engage with the daily learning plan especially the live sessions. It is also really helpful to send in your child's work daily. This helps us to monitor the engagement of all our learners which is something we need to report on weekly to our trust, Plymouth CAST.

A daily structure is useful but you know what will work best for your family: short bursts of learning throughout the day or longer morning sessions with afternoons for family activities. Please let us know what is or what isn't working – we are here to help.

Finally, please continue to look after yourselves, to look out for one another, to speak with us when we call, and to encourage your children to engage with Google Classroom.

Stay safe,
Mrs F Gill
Headteacher



Friday 12/02/21
Last day of term

15/02/21—19/02/21
Half Term

Monday 22/02/21
Non-pupil day

The school will be closed to all children on the 22nd February for Trust-Wide staff training. This will include our vulnerable children and our key worker children.

Tuesday 23/02/21
Term recommences

02/04/21—18/04/21
Easter Holidays



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Our Catholic Life

Our theme next week is Follow Me

Jesus was walking by the lake, telling everyone about God's love, when he sees Andrew and his brother, Simon Peter, fishing. Jesus invites the brothers to "Follow me". Immediately they leave their nets and follow him. A bit further down the lake, Jesus sees James and his brother John. They are fishermen too and they are mending their nets. Jesus calls these brothers and they too leave everything to go with Jesus.



Let us Pray

*Thank you for inviting us all to follow you. Help me to follow you and to do all the good things you teach me. Help me to bring others to you by showing them how happy I am that you are my friend.
Amen*

TENTEN WORSHIP

Here at Holy Cross, we use a resource called Tenten to deliver some aspects of our collective worship and our Relationships Education. During lockdown, Tenten have made some wonderful resources available for you at home. Perhaps you would value the opportunity to gather together as a family to pray or to hold your own family act of worship. Here are the links for this week's resources. You don't need a user name or password – simply click on the link...

ASSEMBLY VIDEO FOR HOME w/c 25 January 2021

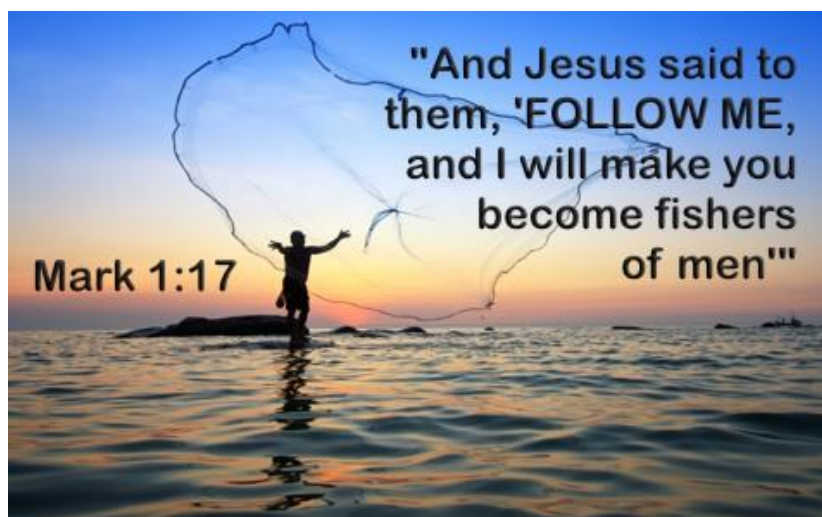
<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/234971346h4593454e34fh/>

DAILY PRAYERS FOR HOME w/c 25 January 2021

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/456-07549743872355-43/>

SUNDAY LITURGY FOR FAMILIES

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/sunday-liturgy-for-families>





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Wonders of the Week



This week I had the pleasure of leading our whole school Remote Celebration Assembly. Thank you to all our families at home for joining us. I hope you were all able to participate and had your fish ready for your prayer activity.

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

Julia Donaldson: Ralph for fantastic home learning. He is always so keen and excited to complete every task and share his learning with us. We were particularly impressed with his adapted story map of Dear Zoo, he is a super story teller!

Allan Ahlberg: Harry for demonstrating positive learning behaviour and showing determination to achieve. Keep it up Harry!

Roger Hargreaves: Aston for working hard and making good progress in his reading and writing.

Eric Carle: Olivia for outstanding effort in her home learning, working independently and making her parents and teachers so proud!

Michael Morpurgo: Georgia for working so hard at home in all her lessons; she has completed some very pleasing pieces of learning :)

Quentin Blake: Awaab for working really hard with his home learning and sharing such super ideas for his writing with us. Keep it up!

Roald Dahl: Aya for outstanding home learning - especially the research she put into her history leaflet on Skara Brae.

Philip Pullman: Lynn for some incredibly mature and thoughtful answers in our RE lessons this week.

Emma Carroll: Eitan for going above and beyond with his learning. He was inspired by his science home-learning to create a presentation on how salt crystals are formed!

J K Rowling: Boo for her hard work on her final piece of writing. She thought very carefully about her characters and how she could magpie ideas from our class text. It was a wonderful final piece! Well done!



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Gospel Values Awards



Julia Donaldson: Finch for Courage - for having the confidence to perform her story map and creating some super online videos of her learning.

Allan Ahlberg: Dylan for Courage - for having a determined and resilient attitude towards his online learning.

Roger Hargreaves: Riley for Kindness - for playing so beautifully with his friends at break and lunchtimes.

Eric Carle: Dolly for Courage - for not being afraid to give something a go even if it's tricky!

Michael Morpurgo: Eugene for Courage - for having the courage to persevere with his reading and this has resulted in him scoring well in his quizzes each week. Keep it up Eugene.

Quentin Blake: Jacob for Kindness and Compassion -for being such a great role model to everyone and making sure that everyone joins in with playing together.

Roald Dahl: Conor for Kindness and Compassion - shown in messages he has sent to his friends on Google Classroom

Philip Pullman: Tiago for Humility - for thinking about others- how they are feeling and how he can help them.

Emma Carroll: Alex B for Courage - for his incredible effort to power through his home-learning, even when he felt really challenged. It meant he ended up writing a great diary entry for his INVENT writing.

JK Rowling: Bobby for Courage - for his amazing attitude to his home learning. He has shown lots of our values in his work and conversations in our Google Meets. He works incredibly hard, always has a go at whatever task he is given, and he gives 100% to everything that he does.
We are very proud of you Bobby!



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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>



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

Or phone 01752 782758

LIVWELL - FIRST RESPONSE SERVICE

The Adult 24 hour First Response Service now has a free number to call, helping to reduce barriers for access to support when there is crisis. Livewell's First Response Service is available to contact 24/7 for people in Plymouth aged 18 or over experiencing a mental health crisis or if you are concerned about someone by calling 0800 923 9323.

LIVWELL CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE (CAMHS)

The Livewell CAMHS continues to work incredibly hard to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and meet the needs of our children, young people and families. In line with NHS requirements we have set up a 24/7 urgent advice line open to young people, parents/carers and professional who require advice out of hours. CAMHS 24/7 Urgent Advice Line 01752 435122

YOUNG DEVON COVID-19 WELLBEING TOOLKIT

Tips, Tricks and Techniques for maintaining positive mental health during lockdown and beyond.

<https://www.youngdevon.org/coronavirus-resource-hub-covid19-wellbeing-toolkit/>



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CJ's Education Services - [CJ's Free Covid Support](#) | [Commando Joe's](#)

Hello,

I hope you and your team are well during these testing times.

As a way of supporting young people across the country, we would like to offer your parents the opportunity to have 3 months' free access (no obligation) to our amazing new online parent portal.

Here is all you need to send to your staff and parents to get them up and running:

This link takes you straight to the page where they can create an account for their **FREE** three months' access - [Parent Portal FREE Access](#).

I have attached a useful image below for your staff/parents to assist with creating the account – it's super simple.

HOW TO ACCESS THE PARENTS PORTAL

STEP BY STEP

01 Go to <https://commandojoes.co.uk/product/cjsfreehomelearning/>

02 Click on the subscription you want i.e 1 child, 2 children, 3 children etc.

03 Add to basket
Click **view** basket

04 Click **proceed** to checkout and **input** your details. Enjoy the portal!

CJ'S Education Services

It would be great to catch up over the coming months to see how things are going.

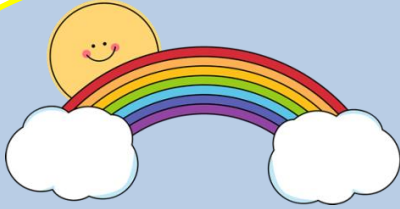
In the meantime, your staff and parents are more than welcome to share pictures and videos on our socials to share their great work.

[Claim your free access](#)



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Health & Wellbeing

Families play a hugely important part in supporting each other at times of uncertainty or concern. Be alert to how each member of the family is feeling - you might show your worry in different ways.

Most children's behaviours are their way of communicating to you that they are struggling with overwhelming feelings.

Ways you can help children cope with their feelings include:

- ✚ Provide a place where each child feels valued, safe and secure.
- ✚ Offer opportunities for children to write down or discuss their concerns or feelings.
- ✚ Take time to listen and respond with compassion.
- ✚ Support children with understanding what they are feeling, by encouraging them to recognise what it is (name it); Self-regulation comes from being able to identify what is being experienced – 'naming it is taming it'.
- ✚ Teach them relaxation techniques like slow, deep breathing, counting backwards, or tensing the body and then relaxing.
- ✚ Help the children understand that some circumstances CANNOT be changed, so they must be accepted. Help them identify things they CAN change.
- ✚ Discuss positive coping skills like walking, playing, exercising, jumping rope, reading, resting, writing down or telling someone their problems.
- ✚ Teach them to use positive self-talk like: "Everyone feels good and bad, now and then." "Even though I make mistakes, I can do many things well."
- ✚ Provide opportunities for them to talk about the future in a positive light, picture themselves being successful, and set goals.



Be safe, be kind and look after each other.

We miss you all very much!



Keep Smiling!

Mrs Gill

The love of a FAMILY is
LIFE'S GREATEST
Blessing♥



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Breakfast Club/After School Club

We continue to run Breakfast Club and After School Club as we try our best to support our key worker parents. However, for a variety of reasons, we have to place a cap of 10 on the number we can safely accommodate. Please make sure you have booked **one week** in advance. If you are not in need of the place, please cancel ahead so we can offer the place to someone who needs it. After School Club finishes at **5pm**.



When dropping off or picking up from wraparound provision, please ring the number on the red door as usual. However, we will have to bring your child to the pedestrian gate off the playground as we are having some work done in front of the church.

PUPIL RECORDS

With all communication now virtual, it is vital that we have current, accurate contact information for you. Over the last couple of weeks, I have discovered that several telephone numbers and email addresses are no longer current.

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

We need to stay connected!

Learning Packs

There are still a large number of learning packs awaiting collection from reception. The remote learning we have planned is not all screen-based and your children would benefit greatly from having these packs to work on alongside the online learning provided. Please contact the school office to arrange a time that is convenient for you to pop in and collect one for your child.



Have a lovely weekend! ☀️