

Message from Mrs Dowdeswell

I trust you all had a lovely break over half term and that the unreliable weather did not stop you from enjoying lots of outdoor activities. The children have settled back well and the staff are enjoying the relatively peaceful time before the excitement of Christmas well and truly takes over the children- okay, okay: it takes over some of the adults as well!

I would like to begin this newsletter with a huge thank you to all those who attended our Harvest Mass at Holy Rood Church on the rather drizzly evening of October 16th. The evening was a wonderful celebration – led by the amazing children in Year 5 - and it meant such a lot to the staff and the children to see so many of you there. I am delighted to tell you that we collected 30 crates of produce for Swindon Food Collective. The second collection at Mass also raised £575 for the Clifton Diocese Schools Project which reaches out to thousands of young people and their families in South-Western Uganda and aims to provide independent water resources for schools in the area. Wow! That is simply amazing and I thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.



Attendance

Overall school attendance for Term 1 was **95.4%**.

60% of our children achieved 100% attendance for Term 1. Well done to these families 😊



At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we understand the importance of regular and punctual attendance. Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and their wider development: for us, every day and every lesson matters. If a pupil's attendance falls below 95%, this is considered a cause for concern. Whilst some absence from school is unavoidable through illness, it is vital that you strive to bring your child to school every day.

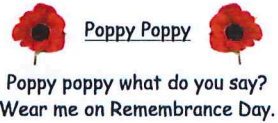
Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all those parents who attended Parents' Evening and I hope you enjoyed sharing your child's achievements. I would especially like to thank the bilingual staff members who stayed on to help those parents who have English as an additional language, and also the prefects who did an excellent job escorting parents and children to the correct places.

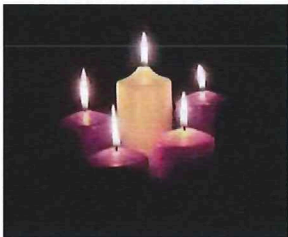
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Remembrance Service

On Friday 11th November we held our own Remembrance Service followed by a two-minute silence as the children lined up outside of their classrooms. The children were very respectful and made their own poppies.



Advent begins on 27th November.



“Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!”
Pope Francis

Poppy poppy what do you tell?
Many soldiers in battle fell.

Poppy poppy what should we know?
That peace on earth should grow, grow, grow.

Nativity

Holy Rood Church. **Tuesday 6th December, 3:30pm.**

We have decided to hold this year's Christmas performance at Holy Rood Church. The children will walk up as a whole school and will wear Christmas jumpers on that day. Any character costumes required will be provided by the school – parents will not be required to purchase costumes this year. Parents and families are warmly invited to come to the church to watch the performance which will begin at 3:30pm. **Please note, there will be no after-school clubs on this day and all children will need to be collected from church promptly at 4:15pm.** Please note that the office staff will also be coming to the church and therefore the school office will be closed from 1pm on that day.



Panto!

Wednesday 14th December



A real highlight of the year for all of our children is watching the Christmas panto. EYFS, Pine, Elm, Beech and Cedar will be watching Goldilocks and the Three Bears in school and Y3 – Y6 will be walking to The Wyvern to watch Beauty and the Beast. Please can you pay all contributions through ParentPay as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Christmas Dinner Day



Children will enjoy Christmas lunch on Thursday 15th December served by the staff. This will be a non-school uniform day for all and we look forward to seeing all of the children in their festive outfits! The menu is now available to view and book on ParentPay.

Q: Why should you never set the turkey next to the dessert? A: Because he will gobble, gobble it up!

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Christmas Fayre

We are bringing back the Christmas Fayre for the children this year. This allows each child to have an afternoon of festive fun and also gives the opportunity for them to buy a Christmas gift for a family member.

Our Year 6 children are working on a flyer giving full details, and this will be sent shortly.

Last Day of Term

The last day of this term is December 16th and we shall be finishing at 1:15pm on that day. **Please ensure all children are picked up promptly at 1:15pm.**

Dates for your diary

November

Monday 28th November TD Day – school closed to pupils

December

Friday 2nd December Nativity rehearsal at church

Tuesday 6th December Nativity performance at the church – 3:30pm

Wednesday 14th December Panto day!

Thursday 15th December Christmas lunch

Friday 16th December Christmas Mass in school

Friday 16th December 1:15pm finish for all children on this day

Open Mornings

There is an opportunity for prospective new parents to meet the fantastic staff and pupils at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, and to have a tour of the wonderful facilities we have on offer to our students.

I am pleased to advise that the school will be holding open day sessions at the following times:

Monday 5th December 1:45pm – 2:30pm

Monday 12th December 1:45 – 2:30pm

Visits must be by appointment and arranged via our admin team:

admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk



Community Fridge

Community Fridge

 [Print](#)

Swindon launched its first Community fridge in partnership with the [Hubbub Foundation](#) in June 2021. The fridge is based at Gorse Hill Baptist Church and is run by a group of volunteers. Open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 2pm.

The aim of the fridge is to reduce food waste and to prevent good food from being thrown into landfill. It is also helps reduce food poverty in local communities. Food is donated by local supermarkets and is free to everyone!

Perishable food, such as fruit, vegetables and bread are always available. Occasionally there are also some store cupboard items.

Everyone is welcome at Swindon's Community Fridge.

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CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Thursday, 15th December 2022

Roast chicken served with pigs in blanket, stuffing & gravy

A-2

OR

Vegan sausage served with gravy

A-2

*All accompanied with
Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Peas*

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Christmas ice-cream cup

A-7

Please order by **1st December** on ParentPay selecting the Meat or Vegetable option above. Thank you.

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