

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Harvest Mass in October. The children from Year 5 did an excellent job supporting Father Lucas and a large donation of goods was made to Swindon Food Collective. I know that families in need will be so grateful for your generosity and kindness and I thank you on their behalf.

Parents' Evenings went well and I would like to say a huge thank you to the prefects who escorted parents to the classrooms and children to the hall. The children did an excellent job and were an absolute credit to the school. I also thank Alistair and Margaret, who spoke to many parents about the important role they carry out as school governors. If you are interested in becoming a governor, then please do visit the school website for details of how to apply. **OUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!** 😊



Attendance

Overall school attendance for Term 1 was 95.7% and the best class for attendance during Term 1 was Pine – huge well done to all the pupils and parents of Pine Class. The government's acceptable level for school attendance is 95%, so thank you to everyone who has helped the school to meet this target.

Lateness

We need your support with this please.

We have a number of children who regularly arrive late to school and this is becoming a real cause for concern. The child walking in late is often anxious about walking into a class that has already started; they miss valuable learning time (English or maths are typically the first lessons of the day); the lesson is disrupted which is unfair on the children who ARE in on time; and the teacher is having to stop their lesson to restart for the benefit of the latecomer. It also causes a lot of work for the office staff at what is already a busy time of the day. This really is unfair on everybody 😞



In Term 1, we had **57** occurrences of children being late.

Please can I ask that all parents ensure they leave home in plenty of time to ensure their child is in class for 8:45am; this way, all children and staff in the class have a positive start to the day.

Thank you so much to those parents and children who arrive every day on time – you are HEROes! Thank you to each and every parent for your understanding and support in this matter.

Remembrance Service



On Friday 10th November we held our own Remembrance Service followed by a two-minute silence. The children were very respectful and shared their thoughts about why it is important we remember the sacrifice made by so many. The children learned all about Armistice Day and what different colour poppies represent. Photographs will be added to the website shortly.

Learn, Grow, Love, Live

Advent

Advent begins on 3rd December. We shall celebrate our Advent Service in school on Friday 1st December.



Madame Ouldrige



It will be mixed feelings that we say 'au revoir' to a much-loved member of staff who has worked at the school for 30 years, both as a class teacher and French teacher. Marie is a good friend as well as a very well-respected colleague, and she will be greatly missed by pupils and teachers alike. I am sure you will join me in thanking Marie for all of her hard work and dedication to the many thousands of pupils she has taught at our school, and we wish her many happy and sunny days holidaying in Portugal with her husband, Neil.

Merci beaucoup Marie. Vous serez toujours un membre très aimé de la famille Sainte-Croix.

Christmas

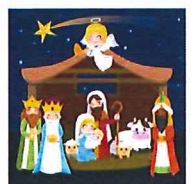
Christmas is fast approaching and myself and the staff look forward to all of the wonderful events that happen in school at this time of the year. For children, Christmas remains a magical time and we look forward to offering them lots of wonderful experiences, including the pantomime which is always their favourite event of the year! Please could I remind all KS2 parents to pay for the panto via ParentPay as soon as possible. We are lucky to have secured 'earlybird' tickets which are at a lower price and we need to collect the money in asap. Thank you so much.



Nativity

Tuesday 6th December, 3:30pm.

After the success of last year, we have decided to hold this year's Christmas performance at Holy Rood Church once again. The children will walk up as a whole school and will wear Christmas jumpers on that day. In order to keep costs to a minimum, any character costumes required will be provided by the school. Parents and families are warmly invited to come to the church to watch the performance. Doors will open at 3:15pm and the performance will start 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; no children will be allowed to walk home on their own.** The office staff will also be coming to the church and therefore, the school office will be closed from 1pm on that day.



Christmas Dinner Day – Thursday 14th December.




Children will enjoy Christmas lunch on Thursday, 14th 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!

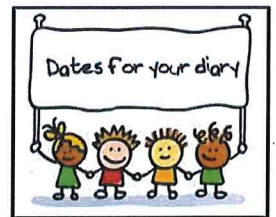
Learn, Grow, Love, Live

Christmas Fayre – Wednesday 15th December 3:30pm – 5pm

A separate letter has been sent giving all the details for the fayre. This is one of the main fundraising events for the school and provides lots of fun for all the children. Children will not be allowed at the Christmas Fayre without an adult and so we would ask that all children are collected and brought to the fayre by a member of their family. Children who usually attend After School Club will need to bring some money to spend at the fayre and will be taken there by Mrs Fernandes and Mrs Bannon. Please can donations for the fayre be brought in as requested and if you are able to help run a stall, please let the office staff know 

November

Thursday 23 rd November	Year 1 Come and Read 2:45pm – 3:15pm.
Thursday 23 rd November	EYFS Glow and Read 5pm – 6pm.
Monday 27 th November	TD Day – school closed to all pupils.



December

Friday 1 st December	Advent service for pupils.
Tuesday 5 th December	Dress rehearsal at the church.
Wednesday 6 th December	Nativity performance at the church. Doors open at 3:15pm for 3:30pm start.
Friday 8 th December	Panto at the Wyvern for KS2.
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Fayre 3:30pm – 5pm.
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas lunch for children.
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Mass in school.
Friday 15 th December	1:15pm finish for all children on this day.

January

Tuesday 2 nd January	TD Day – school closed to all pupils.
Wednesday 3 rd January	Start of the new term and all children return to school.

Please note that the last day of term is Friday December 15th. School shall finish at 1:15pm for all pupils and no after school facilities will be available on this day.



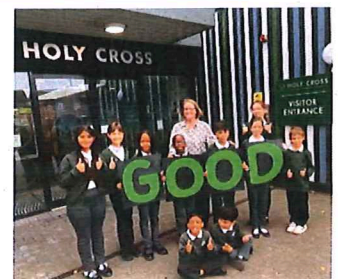
Swindon Advertiser

I trust you have all seen the piece in the Swindon Advertiser about the school's Ofsted rating – here is the link in case you missed it on the day:

<https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/23895252.hard-work-leads-holy-cross-school-improving-ofsted-rating/>

Spaces Available

As explained in the article, we have spaces available in some year groups. If you know of anybody who would like their son or daughter to come to our wonderful school, please ask them to contact the office on (01793) 527679 or email admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk and we can arrange a school visit.



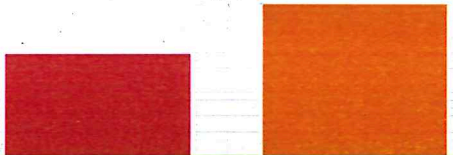
Learn, Grow, Love, Live

School Council

The school councillors did some research across the school on how our children feel about road safety and produced an excellent presentation on their findings. The full presentation will be placed on our website and I encourage all parents to take a look so that can take note and act upon the worries and wishes of the pupils of our school. Here is some of the information they found:

We completed a survey with the children in our school about how they feel. Here are our results:

Does it make you feel unsafe when people park outside of the school?



76% of children said that they did not feel safe when people park outside of the school!



We have pupils aged from 4 years old at the school.

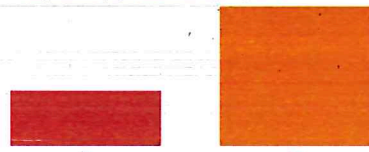


Some children at our school have higher levels of need and disabilities.



We completed a survey with the children in our school about how they think about people crossing roads. Here are our results:

Have you ever seen people cross the road dangerously outside of our school?



91% of children had seen someone cross the road dangerously to get to school. Traffic lights are there for a reason and the road is so busy it could cause a bad accident.



Here are some of the children's comments:

"I believe it is very dangerous because they know it's wrong but they still choose to do wrong"

"It's scary because some children walk alone and there are lots of young kids"

"Terrible in my opinion as it can danger a child's life"

"They are kind of lazy and they are dangerous because there are small children."



Children themselves are scared because of the dangerous actions of adults.



PLEASE KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

Learn, Grow, Love, Live

November 23

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

14TH DECEMBER 2023

Roast chicken served with pigs in blanket, stuffing & gravy A-2

OR

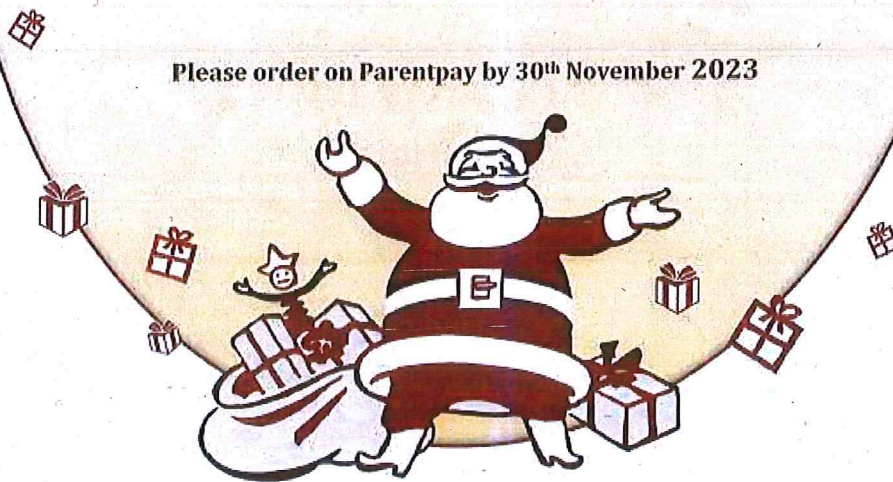
Crispy vegetable burger A

Served with roast potatoes, carrots & peas

Dessert

Christmas pudding muffins A2-4-7

Please order on Parentpay by 30th November 2023



I wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024.

Mrs Dowdeswell

Learn, Grow, Love, Live

