

Dear Holy Cross families,

A message from Mrs Dowdeswell

Well, this feels like one of the shortest terms ever...and with a few bank holidays in there too!

I would like to start by saying a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils who took their SATs tests last week. The children and staff worked so hard in preparation for these tests, and it was a privilege to see how calm – and even excited - the children were to be sitting them. I thank the kitchen and breakfast club staff for providing a breakfast for the children so that they could enjoy a calm start to the day spent with their classmates. I can't tell you just how proud I am of each and every one of them – regardless of any test score they may or may not achieve. The letter on the back of this newsletter was given to each child and I would be so grateful if the Y6 parents could reiterate the words and sentiment it offers.

As always, we look to expand the curriculum enjoyed by our pupils, and I was delighted to invite Neil from Wild and Inspired into school so that each year group could experience outside learning through Forest School. The children absolutely loved it and experienced many things that were new to them. Here are some photos from the lessons – it was great fun!



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I am hoping to be able to invite Neil in for some further sessions for the children next year 😊

It has been wonderful to reintroduce class assemblies and feedback from parents has been that they are delighted to come and see their children perform. From hearing all about the Ancient Greeks in Y5, to listening to the tuneful ukulele playing in Y3, it has been a delight to witness the talents of our pupils – especially in public speaking, which is something the children have been working on in class. Thank you to those parents who have come to watch and support their child – as a working parent, I know it is not always possible, but we are so grateful so those who are able to attend.

We have held several sessions to support parents recently, including SATs, online safety and general parenting support. I am still waiting for the Ppt to come to me from our PCSO for the online safety, and as soon as I receive this, I shall post it on our website. In the meantime, here are a couple of the songs that we share with our pupils in school – these can be excellent to watch with your child at home as it provides an accessible platform to speak with them about such issues:

<https://youtu.be/G3M3FisOqrA> “Don’t get undressed”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IL07JOGU5o> “Pantosaurus”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1n9Jly3CQ8> “I saw your willy”

It is a worrying trend that younger and younger children are being groomed and persuaded to post online pictures of themselves and using videos such as these, allows you to open up conversations with your child.

I know from your feedback that you find these sessions extremely helpful and myself and my team are so pleased that we are able to support you in this way – bringing up children is not always easy (despite it often being made to look so on social media!) and by working together we can learn together. Please remember, we are always here to help and support you in any way we can. If you have any suggestions for the areas you would like covered through future parent support sessions, please do let me know.

Finally, I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all those parents and volunteers who come in to support our pupils throughout the school year. Whether that be for accompanying classes on school trips/visits, listening to children read, or helping with practical activities such as sewing or cooking, I know I speak on behalf of all staff when I say how invaluable this help is and we are so grateful to those who give up their time to support the school in this way: you truly are amazing!

Have a wonderful half term break spending time with loved ones and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday June 2nd.

Mrs Dowdeswell

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Religious Education



¹ When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. ² And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. ³ Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Acts 2:1-4

The children are learning about Pentecost as we prepare for one of the most important feast days of the year that concludes the Easter season and celebrates the beginning of the Church. We look forward to 6th June, when Father Lucas and Y3 will lead the Pentecost Mass in school.

The children in KS2 continue to attend Mass at Holy Rood Church on a Thursday morning. If you are able to assist with walking the children to church, please speak to your child's class teacher – we are always grateful to all volunteers who help with this.



First Holy Communion

We congratulate all those children who have recently taken their First Holy Communion or are about to do so soon. We are so pleased to be able to support the pupils of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School as they develop and grow in their faith.

Here is one of our pupils, Fay, as she celebrated her special day. Well done, Fay and I am so pleased that you had a wonderful day celebrating this special occasion with your loved ones. 😊

We still have some spaces available for those children who are due to start school in September. If you know of any family who would like their child(ren) to benefit from the excellent education we provide at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, please do ask them to contact the office and we can provide the information they need and offer a visit to the school. Here is the link to the video which shows how wonderful it is to attend our school, and this can also be found on our website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1n9Jly3CQ8>

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Birthday Cupcakes

Due to the number of children in school with allergies, we will no longer be able to accept and distribute birthday treats in school for children on their birthdays. We fully understand that our pupils enjoy sharing treats with their friends on their special day however, and therefore we have decided to offer birthday cupcakes.

From next term (Term 6), for £15 our catering team will make and deliver enough cupcakes for your child's class and the birthday girl/boy will present the cakes to their classmates on their birthday (or a day near their birthday if this falls at a weekend). We will be able to make up to a maximum of 4 class cupcake orders per day and this will be done on a first-come-first-served basis. To order cakes for your child, please contact the admin team via email on admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk at least a week before the day they are required. Once your order has been placed, payment will be allocated to Parent Pay and full payment will be required before the date of the cake delivery.

You will be able to order either vanilla or chocolate cupcakes and here is a picture of what the cakes will look like – the staff were the taste testers and we can confirm that they are delicious!!



When ordering, please remember to give the following information:

- Your child's name
- Your child's class
- Date of their birthday.

Sport

The pupils of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School benefit from an excellent PE curriculum and our sports coach, Jamie Pidgeon, is always looking for new ways to broaden the children's experience of different sports and outside activities.

Cricket

This term the children in Year 2, 3 and 4 enjoyed cricket sessions when we invited Aled Evans from Wiltshire Cricket to come in and run some lessons. The pupils learnt bowling techniques and practised batting and fielding. Cricket is a very popular sport among our pupils.



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Fencing

Pupils enjoyed learning how to fence when we had instructors from Fence Fit to deliver some taster sessions. The children really enjoyed learning all about the equipment needed and also had a go at some of the basic moves – they did really well and all enjoyed trying a new activity.

Athletics – STFC Foundation Park



The athletics team had a fun morning at the County Ground taking part in activities which included: 600m and 75m races; long jump; and a long distance throw. The team ended up placed 9th out of all of the schools who attended. Huge congratulations to Ziah Hanoun who picked up a bronze medal for coming 3rd in the girls' competition: an amazing achievement as 60+ girls were there competing! Well done, Ziah, and all who took part.



Year 5/6 Boys football team

Congratulations to the boys on a fantastic season. The boys finished 3rd in the Swindon central league and missed out on 2nd place by only 1 point. In the Swindon Shield competition, the boys reached the semi-finals only to be beaten in a very close match against St Catherine's. Mr Pidgeon is extremely proud of what the boys' team have achieved this season and is delighted with how much hard work and dedication the boys have put into both the training and the matches.

Swindon Mayor Visit

The school was very lucky to have had a visit from the Mayor of Swindon who came to talk to the children about the very important work he does on a daily basis. It was fascinating to learn about all he has achieved during his term of office and all that motivated him personally to take on such a role. This visit supports our 'World of Work' curriculum where we invite people from different business backgrounds and professions to come and talk to the children about the jobs they carry out. The children have learnt about all sorts of jobs, from engineers to NHS workers and politicians, and we hope this will inspire them

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to follow the jobs of their dreams. The children were so interested to find out about the roles and responsibilities of a mayor and asked lots of excellent questions!



Year 3 Trip to Avebury

To support their Stone Age topic, the children in Year 3 visited Avebury. They enjoyed visiting the stones and also the museum and the perfect weather meant they could spend lots of time outdoors 😊



Year 6 PGL Trip



The Year 6 residential trip is coming up and the children who are registered to go are very excited! Separate information has been provided to parents and we cannot wait for the children to experience all of the wonderful activities they will be taking part in. I know all families will join me in wishing them a wonderful few days away.

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Around and About Swindon - Cultural Capital

Definition of cultural capital:

- The values, knowledge or ideas that parents can pass on to their children, which can then influence their success at school and later in life.

In school, we work hard to give the children as many first-hand experiences as we can; however, we would love for the children to experience more. The term 'cultural capital' refers to the real- life experiences children have with their families, and these experiences have been proved to have a huge impact on a child's learning. Here are some ideas of places to visit in and around Swindon which you might enjoy with your child(ren).

Barbury Castle



Barbury Castle is an ancient iron-age hill fort that lies just outside of Chiseldon, Swindon. It is a great place for children to run off energy and especially good for kite-flying on a breezy day. There are some lovely spaces to enjoy a picnic and some great walks along the ridgeway path.

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/directory_record/8463/barbury_castle

Cotswold Country Park and Beach

This is a great day out and there is so much for the children to enjoy. From playing on the beach to swimming in the lagoon or playing on the adventure playground, this is a good day out for all the family. There are food outlets and water inflatables too. Please do visit the website for prices.

<https://www.cotswoldcountryparkandbeach.com/>



We hope you manage to get to visit some of the lovely places in and around our town during the coming half term break.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all they do for the pupils of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School and, as always, a thank you to our families for the ongoing support you show to the children and staff of our amazing school.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Week commencing 26 th May	Half Term Holidays
Friday 6 th June	Pentecost Mass Year 3
Monday 9 th June – 11 th June	Year 6 residential trip to PGL
Friday 13 th June	Aspen Class Assembly
Wednesday 18 th June	EYFS trip to Farmer Gow's
Thursday 19 th June	Year 6 Leavers' Mass at Clifton Cathedral
Friday 20 th June	Sports Day
Wednesday 25 th June	Summer Fair
Friday 27 th June	Teachers Training Day – school closed to all pupils.
Tuesday 8 th July	Move up day - classes meet their new teacher.
Thursday 10 th July	Move up day - classes meet their new teacher.
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 6 End of Year Production
Thursday, 24 th July	Last day of school. <i>We shall finish for all children at 1:15pm. Please ensure your child is collected promptly.</i>

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Dear Year 6,

Please remember, SATs are an opportunity to show all that you have learnt throughout your time at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School. But please know, that I am so very proud of you regardless of any score that you might or might not achieve; any answer you might or might not give; and any calculation you might or might not make. Do your very best and know that at every level, you are simply brilliant!

Mrs Dowdeswell

SATs don't measure sports
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music,
Or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty,
SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons,
You were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic,
How you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly,
You can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter,
Or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse,
Of who you really are.

So sitting at your table,
With a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are,
Remember **you're the best!**

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