



Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 23/01/2026

Important message:

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026 –

I am very pleased to say that First Holy Communion will be on Sunday 7th June 2026, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi at the 10.00am Mass in St Gerald Majella church. There will be a meeting for parents soon, so please keep an eye on the newsletter.

Children should be of school year 3 and above. Details of the preparation will be provided at the meeting.

To help prepare your child for this most important Sacrament it is essential that you do your utmost to attend Mass weekly with them and that your child also attends the preparation meetings which will be held after the 10.00am Sunday Mass.

This is a very important moment in every child's life of faith.

I'm excited to share that I'll be running the London Marathon to raise money for Mind, a charity that does incredible work supporting mental health. To help with fundraising, I'll be holding after school cake sales (weather permitting!) with cupcakes and doughnuts available for just 50p. Donations of any amount would be hugely appreciated by anyone who would like to support this important cause. Thank you so much for your support!

Dates: 30th January, 3rd February, 6th February (after school and school disco).

Miss Bird

We are very grateful to the PTFA for their generous donation to the school. The School Council suggested the wonderful idea of using this money to purchase additional books for our classrooms to support learning.

Useful links for parents:

Dear Parents and Carers,

For your convenience, we have included a selection of useful links below for your reference. We hope you find them helpful and informative.

[Access to Food - South Bristol Children's Centres](#)

[Bristol FOOD Club - Family Action](#)

[Bristol Family Hubs](#)

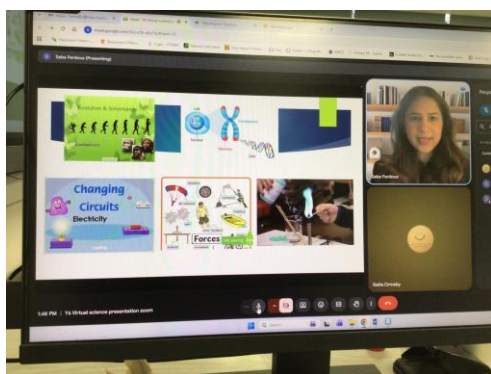
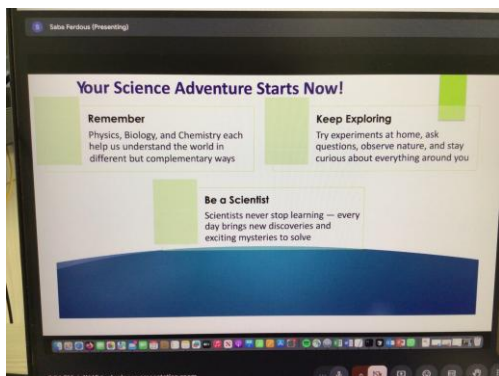
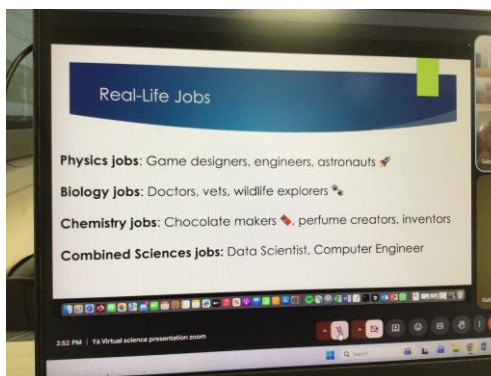
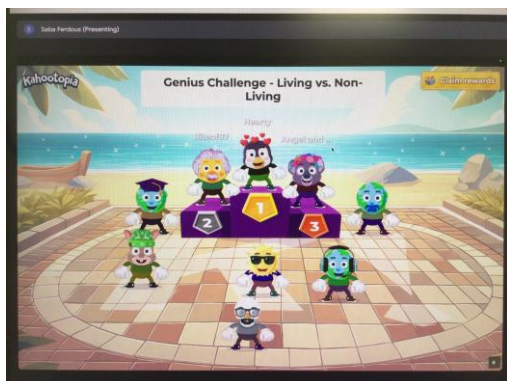
This week:

This morning Year 6 shared their learning on WW2 to the whole school and we could not be prouder of them. From clear speaking to solo singing they were amazing and really got across the message - we want an end to war and conflict in our world. The costumes and singing were amazing and they truly did us all proud. Remember: Keep Calm and Carry on!



This week:

Also, this week Year 6 took part in a STEM workshop with Scientist Saba Ferdous, where she taught us all about Biology, Physics and Chemistry. She was impressed with our knowledge and understanding of the sciences and even challenged us to a game of Kahoot! where we all scored 100%. She reminded us that we are all scientist and all capable of changing the world one small step at a time.



Admissions:

The deadline for submitting Reception class applications for next September is closed.

Please speak to Miss Sims if you need support in submitting a late application.

Please spread the word about our school with your neighbours and friends! We have spaces in some classes if you know anyone who has moved into the area or looking for a new school. If you are able to put a flyer up in your window, please ask Miss Sims for one. Anyone is able to call the office and organise a visit.

Holy Cross RC Primary School

At Holy Cross everyone is warmly welcome



Be part of our small, diverse, nurturing school with lots of outdoor space where the focus is on safe, happy children who are valued and make good progress.

If you are still deciding on the best school for your family, please visit Holy Cross RC Primary

Rated **Good** by Ofsted

Wrap-around care from 8.00am - 5.30pm

Please contact the school office for more information on

0117 377 2199

email: holycross@bristol-schools.uk

To see more of the school please visit www.holycross.bristol.sch.uk

Term Dates 2025 - 2026 -

<u>Term Dates:</u> Inset days (no school):	Tuesday 2 nd September Monday 3rd November Monday 5 th January Monday 23 rd February Wednesday 22 nd July
Term 1:	Tuesday 2 nd September – Friday 24 th October
Term 2:	Monday 3 rd November – Friday 19 th December
Term 3:	Monday 5 th January – Friday 13 th February
Term 4:	Monday 23 rd February – Thursday 2 nd April
Term 5:	Monday 20 th April – Friday 22 nd May (Bank holiday on Monday 4 th May)
Term 6:	Monday 1 st June – Wednesday 22 nd July

Attendance update:

Throughout this academic year, Mrs Kingston and Miss Sims will be working with parents to improve attendance and support any families who need it. Please speak to Miss Sims if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss any worries you may have.

if you need to request a leave form, please speak to Miss Sims and she will support with this. All parents need to do this in advance of the leave and need to give as much detail as possible so we can code the absence correctly. If you have 10 sessions (5 day) of unauthorised leave within a 10-week period, you will receive a penalty notice. Please see the following page on the new law for attendance.

We would like to remind parents that children are expected to attend school each day unless they are too unwell. Please use this link from the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. Also, there are times when children will be absent from school for an exceptional circumstance. Parents need to inform the school prior to the absence and complete a leave of absence form which is available at the school office and on the school website. Please remember to phone the school office if your child is going to be absent, do not use Class Dojo. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you and then may also make a home visit if we are unable to contact you.

Thank you to those who arrive on time. Remember, children can go straight to class from 8:45am or attend breakfast club from 8am if necessary. If we receive pupil premium funding for your child then breakfast club is free. If your child is constantly late to school this can affect their self-esteem and they could be missing out on valuable reading, phonics or Maths activities and interventions. When your child is absent from school, please ensure you have contacted the school office rather than teachers or Mrs Kingston. If your child is later than 9.30am this is classed as an absence and will be unauthorised. Please see the next page for some more information on unauthorised absences.

Class	Yearly Attendance	This week's attendance	Late sessions this week
Reception	93.4%	90.2%	6
Year 1	92.6%	87.3%	5
Year 2	91.9%	90.4%	14
Year 3	92.2%	90.0%	4
Year 4	93.3%	92.4%	10
Year 5	94.1%	94.4%	9
Year 6	92.6%	91.5%	13
Total	90.9%	91.0%	61

As Year 5 Class have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 30th January. Well done Year 5 Class!

School Attendance: The law is changing

From 19th August 2024



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing

The government is introducing a new National Framework for Penalty Notices

5 days of unauthorised absence

Penalty Notice fines may be issued for any term-time absences that are unauthorised (for example, a 5-day term-time holiday) - whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a rolling period of 10 school weeks

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any 10-week period

Penalty Notice fines will also be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any rolling period of 10 school weeks

**A school day has 2 sessions:
1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day**

A **school week** means any week in which there is at least one school session. The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 6 sessions of holiday plus 4 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

What is a Penalty Notice?

A Penalty Notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behaviour they are unlikely to be most appropriate tool. Therefore, from August 2024, only 2 Penalty Notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second Penalty Notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. Any further offences may result in criminal prosecution.

The law will be clear that where a Penalty Notice threshold is met – in each individual case, the school **must** consider if a Penalty Notice is appropriate

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

Reduced to: **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

Second Offence (in a 3-year rolling period)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance to the **same parent** for the **same child** the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

There is no reduction in the amount.

Third Offence or Any Further Offences (in a 3-year rolling period)

The third time an offence is committed for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance by the **same parent** for the **same child** (including those by other Local Authorities) a Penalty Notice will NOT be issued but will be referred to Bristol City Council's Education Welfare service for **Prosecution** which may result in fines of upto **£2,500** per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in a Magistrate's Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate.

Bristol City Council have the discretion to issue Penalty Notice fines before the above threshold is met in cases where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold, or for repeated absences for birthdays or other family events.

Unchanged

Penalty Notice fines are issued **Per Parent, Per child**. This means that fines are issued to each parent, for each child who is absent. For example: If 2 siblings are absent for a term-time holiday this will result in each parent receiving 2 separate fines.

Important Dates:

Term 3

Monday 5th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 6th January	Whole school Mass: Epiphany Y5 swimming start date (weekly sessions)
Week Commencing 19th January	Energy Saving Week
Monday 19th January	Virtual science presentation zoom
Tuesday 27th January	Holocaust Memorial Day Y2 Aerospace trip
Wednesday 28th January	Rags for Riches
Wednesday 28th January	Reception NCMP Measuring and Vision Screening
Thursday 29th January	Y4 Viking workshop
Thursday 29th January	Reception extended stay and play session 9-10
Tuesday 3rd February	Y1 farm trip
Tuesday 3rd February	Parents' Evening 5:30-7:30
Wednesday 4th February	Parents' Evening 3:30-5:00
Wednesday 4th February	Y3 Museum trip
Wednesday 4th February	Midnight in the Toyshop workshop Reception-Year 2
Friday 6th February	Reception reptile visit
Friday 6th February	NSPCC Number Day
Week commencing 9th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 12th February	Reception animal day
Friday 13th February	END OF TERM 3

Arbor:

All parents have been sent an email to sign up for Arbor. It is essential that all parents have the app as this is how we will be sending out messages, booking clubs and paying for trips etc. If you do not have the app you will not receive the messages. If you need support with downloading it please speak to Mrs Fraser.

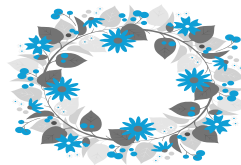
Term dates for next academic year:

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A Spring Family Disco

Bring your 50ps for drinks, hot food and snacks.



Spring Crafts

Friday 6th February

Time: 17:30-19:30

In the School Hall

EVERYONE WELCOME 😊



Well Done Everyone

A big thanks from ASDA for the beautiful Christmas cards for older people in our community.

We have raised just over £725 since July 😊

£125 is for Year 6 leavers hoodies.

£300 is being allocated to come back into school. The school council will meet in the coming weeks to make some suggestions.

The remaining money will be used for future events.



Future Events

Please save the date, everyone is welcome

Event	Date	Time
Spring disco	Friday 6 th February	17:30-19:30
World book day book stall	Thursday 5 th March	8:45
Bingo	Friday 24 th April	17:30-19:30
Bake Sale	Friday 22 nd May	15:15

Donuts will be back on sale when the weather is brighter.

If you wish to help out at any event or join the PTFA we would love to have you. Please say Hello, you are most welcome.

Keep an eye out for our chalk board as a reminder



Parent carer letter / newsletter text

New online CBT service for local children and young people

The local NHS has launched a new online CBT service, SilverCloud, which offers support for children and young people experiencing low mood and anxiety. Children aged 12-plus can self-refer to the service at feelingmixedup.uk and support is also available for parents of children aged five-plus.

The service is a part of a range of local wellbeing support for children and young people that also includes Kooth and Off The Record. You can find out more about these services in the *Directory of Mental Health and Wellbeing Services for Children and Young People* for your area, available on the local NHS website at <https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing/>

Please be aware that the school also has a dedicated mental health support team which can provide direct face-to-face support for your child if needed. Please contact the school directly if you feel this support would be helpful.

CHORISTER for the day

Saturday 28 February 2026



"Being a chorister is full-on, but worth it for the experience and the memories."

Sam, chorister, age 12

"I love being a chorister and it really feels like a part of me! I can't wait to leave for choir every Monday."

Liam, probationer, age 10

"It makes me feel happy to be part of something so big and historic."

Chloe, probationer, age 11

"I would recommend it because the singing makes me feel really happy."

Toby, chorister, age 12

Be a Chorister for the Day...

Does your child

- enjoy singing?
- show potential?

We invite budding musicians in Year 4 and their families to join us for a day of singing fun, activities, and Choral Evensong.

- meet the music staff
- meet the choristers
- try on robes
- enjoy a singing workshop
- meet chorister parents over coffee
- learn about Evensong and chorister life

...become a Chorister for Life

- Choristers receive an **exceptional musical education**
- they learn to **work in teams**
- **sing with adults as equals**
- sing on **national TV and radio** and for dignitaries
- tour foreign countries
- receive **funding for instrumental lessons**
- receive **free singing lessons**
- and are educated at **Bristol Cathedral Choir School**

For more information or to book a place contact
Tim Popple, Music & Liturgy Officer, or scan the QR code
tim.popple@bristol-cathedral.co.uk | 0117 946 8173



Bristol Parent Carer Forum
Shaping the Future Together

Free online & in person support sessions

Daryeelka doreenka qoyskaa SEND Online Taladso-3rd Feb 7:00PM-8:30PM 	Tageerada asagaa Fishponds Old Library Khamis-5th Feb 9:00AM-11:00AM Inns Court, BS4 Khamis-5th Feb 10:30AM-12:30PM Greenway Centre, BS10 Khamis-12th Feb 9:15AM-10:30AM 	Aan kaa wada hadalnoo caafimaadka iyo kalkalinta skoolka Online Khamis- 5th Feb 7:00PM-9:00PM 
Ilmaha Neurodiverse iyo Hurdada Online Taladso-10th Feb 7:00PM-8:00PM 	Halkan scan qree si aad u hesho faahfaahinta kulamadan iyo kuwo kale  https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp	Tageerada asagaa Baahiyo cafiimaad oo aadag Greenway Centre, BS10 Khamis-12th Feb 11:00AM-12:30PM 
Ciyaaraha kombiyuutarka iyo SEND Online Khamis- 12th Feb 6:30PM-8:00PM 	Tageerada asagaa Online Taladso- 24th Feb 7:00PM-8:00PM 	Horumarinta Agantaa Luqadaha Ilmahaga St Anne's House, BS4 Khamis- 26th Feb 10:00AM-1:00PM 

Bristol Parent Carer Forum
Shaping the Future Together

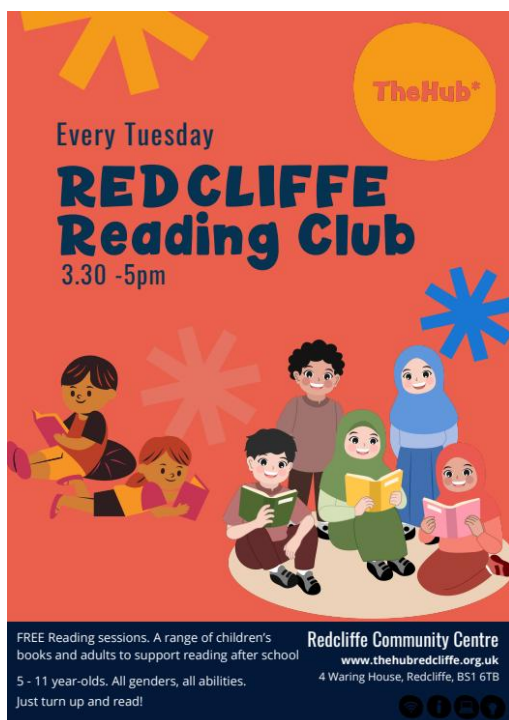
Bezpłatne sesje wsparcia online i osobiście

Dobre samopoczucie sensoryczne rodzin ze specjalnymi potrzebami edukacyjnymi W sieci Wtorek 3 lutego 19:00-20:30 	Wsparcie rówieśnicze Fishponds Old Library Czwartek 5 lutego 9:00-11:00 Inns Court, BS4 Czwartek 5 lutego 10:30 - 12:30 Greenway Centre, BS10 Czwartek 12 lutego 9:15-10:30 	Porozmawiamy o pielęgniarstwie środowiskowym i szkolnym W sieci Czwartek 5 lutego 19:00-21:00 
Twoje neuroodmienne dziecko i sen W sieci Wtorek 10 lutego 19:00-20:00 	Zeskanuj tutaj, aby uzyskać szczegółowe informacje na temat tych sesji i nie tylko  https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp	Wsparcie rówieśnicze Złożone potrzeby zdrowotne Greenway Centre, BS10 Czwartek 12 lutego 11:00-12:30 
Gry i SEND W sieci Czwartek 12 lutego 18:30-20:00 	Wsparcie rówieśnicze W sieci Wtorek 24 lutego 19:00-20:00 	Rozwijanie umiejętności językowych Twojego dziecka St Annes House, BS4 Czwartek 26 lutego 10:00-13:00 

Bristol Parent Carer Forum
Shaping the Future Together

Free online & in person support sessions

Sensory Wellbeing for SEND Families Online Tuesday 3rd Feb 7:00PM-8:30PM 	Peer Support Fishponds Old Library Thursday 5th Feb 9:00AM-11:00AM Inns Court, BS4 Thursday 5th Feb 10:30AM-12:30PM Greenway Centre, BS10 Thursday 12th Feb 9:15AM-10:30AM 	Let's Talk About Health Visiting & School Nursing Online Thursday 5th Feb 7:00PM-9:00PM 
Your Neurodiverse Child and Sleep Online Tuesday 10th Feb 7:00PM-8:00PM 	Scan here for details on these sessions and more  https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp	Peer Support Complex Health Needs Greenway Centre, BS10 Thursday 12th Feb 11:00AM-12:30PM 
Gaming and SEND Online Thursday 12th Feb 6:30PM-8:00PM 	Peer Support Online Tuesday 24th Feb 7:00PM-8:00PM 	Developing Your Child's Language Skills St Anne's House, BS4 Thursday 26th Feb 10:00AM-1:00PM 



Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of Holy Cross R C Primary** if they sign up by Saturday 24th January 2026. Parents should quote HOLX240126 when they book their free session by going to perform.org.uk/try or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at perform.org.uk/try. Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

The nearest classes to Holy Cross R C Primary are as follows (please click for a map and further details):

Perform Bedminster (Drama for 4-7s)
(0.2 miles)
Tuesdays at 4pm

The Elephant House
1 Dean Street,
BS3 1BG

Perform Bedminster (Drama for 7-12s)
(0.2 miles)
Tuesdays at 5.05pm

The Elephant House
1 Dean Street,
BS3 1BG

Perform Brislington (Drama for 4-7s)
(1.8 miles)
Fridays at 4pm

St Christopher's Church Hall
90 Hampstead Road,
BS4 3HN

Perform Brislington (Drama for 7-12s)
(1.8 miles)
Fridays at 5.05pm

St Christopher's Church Hall
90 Hampstead Road,
BS4 3HN

Perform Clifton (Drama for 4-7s)
(1.8 miles)
Saturdays at 9.30am

Redland Park United Reformed Church
Whiteladies Road,
BS6 6SA



Holiday Activities

February 2026

Ashton Park Sports Centre Holiday Activity
Programme for children aged 4-14



Monday 16th - Friday 20th February

All bookings MUST be made online via; <https://ashtonparksports.schoolactivity.co.uk/>
Childcare Voucher Payments are accepted. Please enquire via email:
enquiries@ashtonparksports.com



Ashtonparksportscentre1



Ashtonparksports



@ashtonparksport



ashtonparksports.schoolactivity.co.uk

Standard Day: 9:00am - 4:00pm ED*: 9:00am - 5:00pm (8am drop off available as an extra £4) Full Day - 8am-5pm



Reg:2788667

t: 0117 3773300

e: enquiries@ashtonparksports.com

w: www.ashtonparksports.com

Blackmoors Lane, Bower Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2JL