



Holy Cross Primary
School
Governor newsletter
Term 3

We come to the end of yet another busy term and can you believe it that we are now at the half way point for the academic year? This term has been filled with very exciting learning opportunities for our pupils and they have loved every moment.

School improvement

We are constantly trying to improve the educational offer for your children here at Holy Cross and school improvement is central to that. This term staff have received in-house staff CPD (continuous professional development) centred around SEND, Maths, Art and design. Staff also had an opportunity to meet with other teachers within the Aquinas group (group of like minded Catholic Primary schools) in order to look at each others books, discuss assessment judgments and share best practice. This is always a brilliant CPD tool as it allows for an open professional dialogue among teachers and enables them to learn from each other. Senior leaders have had the opportunities to look at all children's English and Maths books. In the final week of term the other subject leaders will monitor their subjects and provide feedback.

We also welcomed lots of visitors this term including Mary Cox , who is the new director of education for the diocese. She was given a tour around our fabulous school and even popped into lessons to see our fabulous children at work. Earlier in the term we welcomed Dr Danny Doyle who is the CEO (Chief executive officer) of the Newman Catholic academy trust. He spent the morning in our Early years department in order to see the teaching and learning that is happening. It is always nice to show people around Holy Cross to see first hand the brilliant educational offer we have.

Highlights from the classrooms

Reception had an extended stay and play session as part of their Lunar new year celebrations. They have continued to take part in their Early number programme and are making good progress. They can use vocabulary such as more than and less than.

Year 1 in English have been story writing about the book Flotsam. In Maths they have been subtracting and adding numbers within 20. In topic, they have continued on with the migration of animals and got to track the migration patterns of turtles.

Year 2 have been learning all about flight and plants this term. They enjoyed a trip to the Botanical Gardens where they looked at different climates and exotic plant species. For flight, they learnt lots about the Wright Brothers and will continue to explore famous aviators next term.

Year 3 have enjoyed studying the periods during the Stone Age and exploring the question of 'Who were the first people?' They have learnt about the different ways of living using the book 'The Stone Age Boy' and have even created their own persuasive advert for a Stone Age Resort

Year 4 have really enjoyed their topic on the Vikings. They explored Viking long boats and created fact files on them.

Year 5 have been exploring the history of the theatre. As part of this they took a trip to the Bristol Hippodrome. They explored the whole theatre including going backstage and on stage. To further explore this topic they even put on a performance to their parents and peers of "Shakespeare rocks" The singing and acting was brilliant. Well done Year 5!

Year 6 have emerged themselves into their World War 2 topic this term. They took part in a workshop at the MShed based all around what life was like in Bristol during the war. They also performed a great assembly on this theme too!

NEU strike action

As we are sure you have been aware, earlier this term there was a national strike that teachers across the country took part in. Strike action is never taken lightly. Teachers at our school have always and will always prioritise their pupils education and wellbeing. They work exceptionally hard in order for your children to reach their full potential academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. There are further strike days planned within the next term but we hope that the situation nationally will be brought to an end before then.

Holy Cross video

We hope that you have all managed to see our fantastic video on our Facebook social media platform. We hope that it gives families both new and old a flavour of school life. Please share with families and friends in order to give them a taste of our wonderful school. We want to say a massive thank you to Remmy (Mia and Lawson's dad) for putting it together for us. We are incredibly grateful for the time and effort you put into this.

Social media

From this year, we are having a social media presence with pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. This is so we can share more readily all the wonderful experiences our children have in school. A permission slip went out this week, please complete the form and return it to Miss Sims asap. Please can all parents add/follow our accounts:

<https://instagram.com/holycrossrcprimary?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

<https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Cross-RC-Primary-School108722785310698/>

Twitter - @HolyCrossRCSch



Attendance

ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

How do YOU measure up?


Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

89% & Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%-90%
Cause for concern

100%-96%
Excellent

MISSING (SCHOOL) = MISSING OUT



Attendance is extremely important. Lessons are planned in sequences and if a child misses a lesson or series of lessons it can be hard for children to make up that lost learning time.

Of course, we understand that from time-to-time children may become unwell and the safest thing for all parties is for the child to stay at home but it is important that as much as possible children are in school which is why appointments should be made after school not in school time and holidays in term time will not be allowed.

Joining the governing body

Do you feel like you could make a difference to the lives and educational journey of our young pupils? If the answer is yes then why not join the governing body? We have two vacancies left for foundation governors. If you are interested please contact Angela Serjeant (Chair of governors) at aserjeant@holycross.bristol.sch.uk or enquire through the school office at 0117 3772199

Best wishes