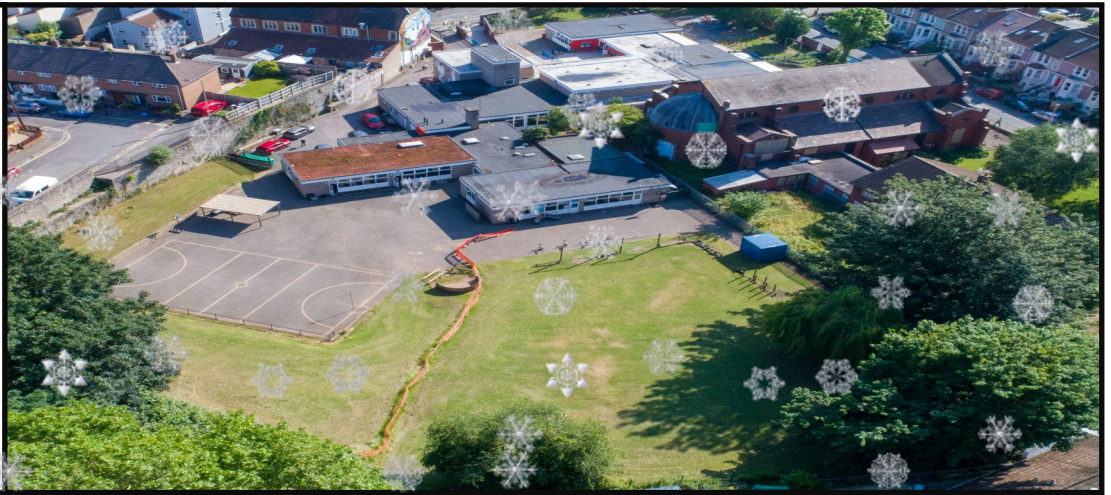




**Holy Cross RC  
Primary  
Governor  
Term 2 newsletter**



### **Message from our chair of Governors**

Seasons greetings to one and all. Unbelievably, We come to the end of the second term of the new academic year and what an incredible term it has been. This is the first governor newsletter of the Year and, as governors, we will write to you at the end of each term giving you highlights from across the school, school improvement updates and to reiterate messages from the school. Over the last two terms we have had some incredible events that have welcomed our community together as one family including; a great BBQ on the KS2 playground where we had great food, soak the teacher and a brilliant DJ with some excellent dance moves from parents, children and teachers to be seen. Speaking of dance moves, we also had a Diwali dance workshop which was enjoyed by all! We have also had school Mass', class Masses and an Advent service. Last week we had a Christmas disco, it was a huge success and really show cased our community spirit. We have also had the KS1 Nativity-Bethlehem's buzzing and the KS2 carol concert. Such beautiful singing from all!

### **School improvement**

At the beginning of each academic year, the governors come together to observe presentations from class teachers and subject leaders depicting what went well last academic year and what they want to improve on this academic year in order to continually improve the educational offer for our pupils. Governors saw presentations on English, maths, Curriculum, science, Humanities, music, RE, Art and design and Design technology, PE, computing and SEND provision. The teachers showed an excellent understanding of the strengths of their subjects and articulated well what they want to improve upon this year. As governors, we asked questions in order to challenge and hold leaders to account for what they do in school. We have already been into some classes to observe how the school looks at mental health and wellbeing. We met with Leaders including Miss Hunt (School SENDCO) and visited classrooms to observe small snippets of mindfulness being done. It was clear that the school takes great pride and care when considering pupils mental health and there was a clear established sense of regular mindfulness sessions being taken part in. Mrs Kingston has been into classrooms to do formal lesson observations to check on the teaching and learning of all pupils and the SLT (senior leadership team) have completed book looks and planning scrutinises to see the wonderful work that our children have created. This term, Jenny Brookes, our School improvement officer, came into school to look at how we teach Early reading. She observed Phonics lessons, saw adults reading with pupils and looked at reading logs. She was very impressed with what she saw and it was amazing to show what we do well here at Holy Cross.

### **News From the classrooms.**

Reception children have really settled well into school and to new routines. They are playing well together and making good progress across the EYFS curriculum. In year 1 this term they have been learning about migration patterns of birds and where they live in the UK. In Maths they have been looking at adding and subtracting and have been writing in English about the Snail and the Whale. Year 2 have been learning all about the great fire of London. They have baked bread, made a model of London and created lots of wonderful pieces of writing around the topic. They have really enjoyed learning all about the Great fire In Year 3, have enjoyed their topic this term about rocks, especially the geography about understanding natural disasters! Their focus has been writing to inform and the class have produced non-chronological reports about different types of natural disasters. The children have enjoyed making their volcano in D.T and choreographing a 'tutting' dance in P.E. We look forwards to the next topic in the New Year! This term, year 4 have travelled back in time to the Anglo-Saxon invasion doing everything from becoming a member of an Anglo-Saxon tribe to stepping into the shoes of the archeologist Basil Brown who discovered the burial of an Anglo-Saxon warrior King at Sutton Hoo. At Wessex Water we learnt about what happens to the things we flush down the loo and how this links to the water cycle in our Science lessons. Year 5 have been to infinity and beyond in their space topic. They looked at different Historical events, different significant individuals and explored what space travel may look like in the future. Year 6 have explored the first world war this term. They found the topic interesting and thought provoking.

**Social media:**

From this year, we are having a social media presence with pages on Facebook and Instagram. This is so we can share more readily all the wonderful things that our children do in school.

Please can all parents add/follow our accounts:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Holy-Cross-RC-Primary-School/100085310302367/>

<https://www.instagram.com/holycrossrprimary/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D>

**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](mailto:aserjeant@holycross.bristol.sch.uk) or enquire through the school office at 0117 3772199

Best wishes

The governing body.

