



# Holy Cross RC Primary School

## Newsletter – 2/12/2022

### This week:

On Thursday, Deacon Paul joined us for our Advent service.



On Thursday morning, Reception class visited the post office to post their letters to Father Christmas.



On  
Wednesday  
all children  
were invited  
to wear  
blue to  
celebrate St  
Andrew's  
Day.



## Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner has been ordered. Thank you to all the parents who gave their orders in on time.

We look forward to our annual Christmas dinner on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.



# September Intake:

Admission for our Reception class for next September is open. Please spread the word amongst about our school with your neighbours and friends! 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: [holycrossp@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:holycrossp@bristol-schools.uk)

To see more of the school please visit [www.holycross.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.holycross.bristol.sch.uk)

## **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 our children do 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-School-108722785310698/>



### **Term Dates:**

- Term 2: Monday 31 October 2022 to Friday 16 December 2022
- Term 3: Tuesday 3 January 2023 to Friday 10 February 2023
- Term 4: Monday 20 February 2023 to Friday 31 March 2023
- Term 5: Monday 17 April 2023 to Friday 26 May 2023
- Term 6: Monday 5 June 2023 to Friday 21 July 2023

### **Inset Days:**

- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June

## **First Holy Communion Information for St Gerard Majella Church**

First Holy Communion 2023 will be celebrated on Sunday 11th June 2023. Parents of children in Year 3 (or above) who want to prepare for their First Holy Communion can now apply to Fr George in person before the 6th January 2023. Please include the details below in your application: Full contact details for parents/guardians including names, address, email address, telephone numbers, full name and date of birth of child/children, details of the Mass you attend and frequency of attendance, a brief statement regarding why you would like your child/children to make their First Confession and First Holy Communion, details of your child's/children's baptism including a copy of their certificate, If you attend another parish for Mass please state where, and your reason for requesting St Gerard Majella. To help prepare your child for these important Sacraments it is essential that you attend Mass weekly with them and that your child also attends the preparation meetings which will most likely be held after the 10am Sunday Mass. Further details will follow in January 2023 once finalised.

### **Support for Families:**

- The rising cost of living is impacting people across Bristol in different ways. To help support people most impacted, including those who have not faced financial challenge before, the council has a cost of living support webpage: [www.bristol.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/costofliving)
- It provides advice and guidance on topics including housing, benefits and financial help, employment and skills, mental health and wellbeing, and provides links to useful websites and community organisations. It also includes information on the city's network of Welcoming Spaces where people can meet up, socialise, keep warm and access support relating to the cost of living crisis. There are now 37 spaces open in the city.
- Our Citizen Service Point, located at 100 Temple Street, BS1 6AG, is also on hand if you need help using the council's services or need access to a computer. The opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 5pm, Wednesday 10am to 5pm. The service is closed on bank holidays.
- You can also call the We Are Bristol phone line on 0800 694 0184, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm

### **Free Childcare places for 2-year olds in Bristol:**

There are hundreds of free early education and childcare places available in Bristol for two-year-olds. Funding is available for two-year-olds to receive up to 15 hours per week of free childcare at a range of early year providers, including Children's Centres, nurseries, pre-schools, playgroups and childminders. The rising cost of living is affecting a huge number of people across Bristol. With childcare costs also increasing, we want to make sure that families are getting the help and support they need. If you are a parent or carer of a two-year-old and you receive one of the following benefits, you could be entitled to a free place for your child:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- child tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- [Visit the Bristol City Council website to find out more about the eligibility criteria and to apply online.](#)

### **Bristol Welcoming Spaces:**

The first of Bristol's Welcoming Spaces are now open. As the cost of fuel and food continues to rise, a network of warm, Welcoming Spaces has been set up for people to go to, to alleviate cost of living pressures this autumn and winter. Each venue will be responding to community priorities which means what happens in each space will vary, but is likely to include wi-Fi, access to electrical charging points, activities and community meals. There will also be support and practical advice provided by city-wide organisations. More information about Welcoming Spaces and where to [find your nearest one is available on the Bristol City Council website](#). More spaces will be added over the coming weeks. If you need advice or guidance for yourself or someone you support, [we have also launched a cost of living support hub](#) on the Bristol City Council website. The cost of living support hub is a useful directory to access information on housing, bills, benefits, employment and skills and mental health and wellbeing. Please share this information with your staff and parents.

## **Attendance update:**

We are working in partnership with parents, carers and Bristol City Council to ensure all of our pupils maximise their attendance. We would like to thank parents and carers for the work you have done in ensuring your children have received education over the last few challenging years due to the pandemic. The usual rules on school attendance continue to apply, including:

- parents' duty to send their child to school regularly where they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability of local authorities to use legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court

If you are worried about your child attending school the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with us directly. Our staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with health and council teams who may also be able to help if needed. If you need to request time off for exceptional circumstance, please ask Miss Sims for a request of absence form. We would like to remind you that only requests for exceptional circumstances will be authorised. If your request is unauthorised, the absence will be looked at and if your child has more than 4 days off within a 10 week period, you could receive a penalty notice.

Class	Yearly Attendance	This week's attendance	Late sessions this week
Reception	94.8%	91.8%	8
Year 1	86.5%	79.6%	7
Year 2	94.8%	96.5%	9
Year 3	91.7%	90.7%	9
Year 4	94.1%	92.7%	9
Year 5	97.7%	99.4%	9
Year 6	95.6%	96.5%	7
Total	93.6%	92.6%	58

Thank you to those who attend regularly. Please remember to phone the school office if your child is going to be absent. 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 has low attendance and you would like to make an appointment and create an action plan for the rest of the year, please speak to Miss Sims. We understand that it is only the start of Term 2 and a few absences does amount to more percentage missed but we have a duty to inform you when your child has low attendance throughout the academic year. We hope that we can work with parents and support them to improve attendance.**

## PTFA Events and Messages:

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December – PTFA Christmas Disco 6-8pm**

If you have any donations that we could use for the following events, please hand to the office:

1. For the Christmas disco tombola. For example, toys, small household items and cosmetics.
2. Second hand Christmas jumpers. These will be sold at the Bingo night
3. Items for the Christmas hamper.

Also, if you work for or own your own businesses that have money allotted for charity work, the PTFA would be happy to receive funds. We are at present raising money for the Christmas Pantomime.



## Important Dates:

### Term 2:

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Selected children in Y5/6 Athletics trip
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Panto PM
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper day KS2 talent show AM Christmas Disco 6-8pm
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Choir club trip AM KS1 Nativity 1.45pm
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity 9.30am
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term 2 KS2 Carol Service 2pm

### Term 3:

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Inset day
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of term 3

**could you foster?**



**we urgently need foster carers in your area**

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding Provider

**nexus**  
fostering

We can help you to provide a young person with a stable, secure home.

Call us on 0800 389 0143  
Visit us at [www.nexusfostering.co.uk](http://www.nexusfostering.co.uk)

**WILDCATS!**  
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**FOOTBALL FOR GIRLS**

**WEDNESDAY 4-5PM**  
**AT WINDMILL HILL FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Starting on 10th August, our football sessions are open to girls aged between 6-11 years old.

Our sessions are free to take part in. For more information and to get involved please contact **Grace** at [grace.phillips@bcfc.co.uk](mailto:grace.phillips@bcfc.co.uk)



# SAVE SOIL WINTER FAIR

**SAT 3, DEC 1-4PM**

@CREATE CENTRE BS1 6XN

<https://SaveSoilBristol.eventbrite.co.uk>

Soil Talks & Films

Make soil sculptures & a mural

**FREE  
JOIN US!**

Soil education stand with games

Screen printing workshop

**Make:**

Christmas  
\*Decorations,  
\*Seed Bombs,  
\*Cards .

Free Tea and Cake,  
Music and  
Dancing

