



Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 9/01/2026

Important message:

Happy New Year! Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2026.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. They all look so smart and are very excited to be back with their friends and teachers.

Class newsletters have gone out today telling you about the exciting things happening this term. There are some changes to PE and forest days as we have welcomed Ms Fairbairn back from maternity leave and she is covering PPA for Key Stage 2.

Please continue to communicate via Arbor or class dojo or Tapestry with the school and your child's class teachers.

We have set the dates for the term for Assemblies, parents' evenings and other events for your diaries and they are published below.

Please ensure any toys or expensive coats are kept safely at home and that any nail varnish and make up is not worn to school.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the weekend.

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:

On Tuesday we began the New Year with a whole school mass to celebrate the Epiphany. Father Michael and Deacon Paul alongside Year 5 and 6 children led the mass. It was also the first time that our newly trained altar servers were able to apply their skills in a real life setting. The children were thoughtful in their responses and it was a wonderful way to welcome everyone back together after the break.



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.

<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">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</p>	<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Please contact the school office for more information on 0117 377 2199 email: holycross@bristol-schools.uk</p>
--	---

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

Term Dates 2025 - 2026 -

<u>Term Dates:</u>	Tuesday 2 nd September
Inset days (no school):	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	93.7%	93.5%	6
Year 1	93.3%	83.3%	6
Year 2	92.4%	91.8%	11
Year 3	92.3%	87.5%	5
Year 4	93.4%	97.4%	5
Year 5	94.1%	91.0%	5
Year 6	92.7%	92.7%	12
Total	90.4%	91.4%	50

As Year 4 have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 16th January. Well done Year 4!

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)
Monday 12th January	Reception animal day
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
Thursday 29th January	Y4 Viking workshop
Thursday 29th January	Reception extended stay and play session 9-10
Tuesday 3rd February	Y1 farm trip
Wednesday 4th February	Y3 Museum trip
Wednesday 4th February	Midnight in the Toyshop workshop Reception-Year 2
Friday 6th February	NSPCC Number Day
Week commencing 9th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet 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 Miss Sims.

Term dates for next academic year:

<u>Term Dates:</u> Inset days (no school):	Tuesday 2 nd September Monday 3 rd November Monday 5 th January Monday 23rd 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

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.

Free online & in person support sessions

Peer Support
Greenway Centre
Southmead, BS10
Thurs 13th Nov
9:15AM-10:30AM



Family Voices
St Werburgh's
Community Centre, BS2
Thurs 13th Nov
10AM-12PM



Peer & EBSA Support
Fishponds Old Library
Fishponds, BS16
Thurs 13th Nov
9AM-11AM



EBSA Support
Greenway Centre
Southmead, BS10
Thurs 13th Nov
11AM-12:30PM



Scan here for
details on these
sessions and more



Peer Support
Online
Tues 18th Nov
7PM-8PM



Direct Payments &
Personal Budgets
St Werburgh's, BS2
Weds 19th Nov
10AM-12PM



Peer Support
Inns Court
Knowle, BS4
Thurs 20th Nov
10:30AM-12:30PM



Autism and
Christmas Change
Online
Mon 1st Dec
6:30PM-8:30PM



TheHub*

Every Tuesday
REDCLIFFE Reading Club
3.30 -5pm

Redcliffe Community Centre
www.thehubredcliffe.org.uk
4 Waring House, Redcliffe, BS1 6TB

FREE Reading sessions. A range of children's books and adults to support reading after school 5 - 11 year-olds. All genders, all abilities. Just turn up and read!

Bristol Family Hubs
Bristol City Council

Bristol Parenting Groups

- Are you pregnant or a parent of a 0 - 8 year old?
- Would you like to add ideas and skills to your parenting toolbox?
- Would you like to develop more confidence in your parenting?
- Would you like to understand your child better?

Free groups for adults run by Bristol Children's Centres

Scan here to find out more and register your interest!

Your parenting toolbox:

- Listening
- Play
- Praise
- Nurture
- Empathy
- Connection

For more information please call: 07721 311 497 or email: psoo@bristol.gov.uk
Once you have registered your interest via: www.bit.ly/BristolParentingGroups we will be in touch to find the best group option for you.

nbcc
Wespring Settlement
Central Bristol Children's Centres
EBCC
South Bristol Children's Centres

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



To exit full screen, press **Esc**

BEDMINSTER MULTI-SPORTS HOLIDAY CAMP

5-12 YEAR OLDS
9AM - 3PM
4 YEAR OLDS
9AM - 1PM
*DROPOFF FROM 8:30AM

**AGES 4-12
YEARS
OLD**

**FREE HAF
SPACES
AVAILABLE**



MULTI-SPORTS CAMP

PARSON STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL BS3 5NR

5-12 Year Olds to 3pm

4 Year Olds to 1pm

£22.50 Per Day **£17.50** Per Day

[U-SPORTS.CO.UK/HOLIDAY-CLUBS/BEDMINSTER-SPORTS-CAMP](https://u-sports.co.uk/holiday-clubs/bedminster-sports-camp)

