



# Holy Cross RC Primary School

## Newsletter – 21/11/2025

### This week:

We explored Gough's Cave and Cox's Cave, learning about how they were formed and what life was like there long ago. We also watched a short video about the history of Cheddar and discovered fascinating facts about early humans as we walked around the Prehistoric Museum. It was an exciting day full of learning and adventure.



This week our chaplains travelled to Clifton Cathedral to take part in the official Chaplaincy Commissioning with Bishop Bosco. Hundreds of chaplains from all over the south west

During the ceremony, Bishop Bosco spoke about the importance of kindness, friendship and community connection- values that lie at the heart of chaplaincy work. Our new chaplains were commissioned alongside others, each reaffirming their commitment to care for those they accompany in their daily roles.

The day offered not only a formal commissioning but also a chance to meet fellow chaplains, share encouragement, and reflect on the year ahead. We're grateful for the Chaplain's dedication and excited for the continued impact of their work within our community.



Year 3 delivered a wonderful assembly all about light. The children shared what they've been learning through demonstrations, songs and interesting facts. They spoke with such confidence and enthusiasm.



# 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](mailto:holycross@bristol-schools.uk)

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

## Term Dates 2025 - 2026 -

<b><u>Term Dates:</u></b>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
Inset days (no school):	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b> Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Term 1:	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
Term 2:	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
Term 3:	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
Term 4:	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February – Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Term 5:	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May (Bank holiday on Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May)
Term 6:	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> 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	93.1%	85.0%	6
Year 1	93.1%	90.4%	6
Year 2	92.9%	91.1%	13
Year 3	92.1%	83.3%	5
Year 4	85.5%	84.5%	15
Year 5	93.8%	92.5%	9
Year 6	94.9%	92.5%	19
Total	91.0%	89.6%	49

**As Year 5 and 6 class have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 28<sup>st</sup> November. Well done Year 5 and 6 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 2

Monday 3rd November	Inset Day
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Whole school Mass: Saints National Child Measurement Programme Y6
Week Commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bulling week
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Y2 Fire visit
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Y4 Class Assembly
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Y3 Cheddar trip
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Y4 Anglo Saxon/Viking Workshop
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Y3 class assembly
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6 Air Raid and Mshed Visit
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Y4 Saxon workshop at MShed
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Y5 Y6 Liquid nitrogen show
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Reception Class Post office trip 9:30-10:30
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Y5/Y6 Class Mass
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Disco
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 winter sing
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Y1 and Y2 winter sing at the Spiegel tent
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Choir rehearsals Bristol Beacon
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception extended play and stay 9-10
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 choir visit to Osborne Court Care Home
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Panto- Red Riding Hood
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity 2-3 pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service 2-3 pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>END OF TERM 2</b>
	<b>No afterschool clubs are running on last day of Term 2</b>

### 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:**

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**Timetable for Term 2 Teacher Clubs: All Clubs finish at 4:15 pm.**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Adult in charge</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Spaces</b>	<b>Price per week</b>
TT Rockstars	Mrs Ormsby	Years 3-6	30	No charge
Choir Club	Miss Lugg	Selected children	20	No charge
Football Team	Mrs Ockwell	Selected children	15	No charge
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Makaton	Miss Bird/Miss Martin	All children	25	No charge
Film club	Mrs Douglas	All children	20	No charge
<b>Thursday</b>				
Christmas/Winter craft club	Mr Adams	Years 2-3	15	No charge
French Club	Miss King	All children	25	No charge

## Sports and Wrap Around for Term 2

Wrap around care can now be booked on the school app with the following sessions:

### **Session 1 – 3.15pm – 4.15 pm costing £3**

Children can choose to stay in our after school club room or take part in the following sports:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Adult in charge</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Spaces</b>	<b>Price per week</b>
Multisports	Mr Smart	All Children	20	£3 per session
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Dodgeball	Mr Smart	All children	20	£3 per session
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Multisports	Mr Smart	All children	20	£3 per session
<b>Thursday</b>				
KS1 football	Mr Smart	KS1	20	£3 per session
<b>Friday</b>				
KS2 football	Mr Smart	KS2	20	£3 per session

**These sessions need to be book in the app. You choose Session 1 ASC and choose the day required for the sport you would like to select.**

### **Session 2 – 4.15pm – 5.30pm costing £4 (with food)**

All of these sessions need to be booked and paid for in advance through the school app (School Gateway). Club sessions need to be booked by 12pm of the day of the session.

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](https://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



# CHESS CLUB IS BACK!!

## FOR CHILDREN AGED 8+ AND THEIR FAMILIES



IF YOU'VE PLAYED BEFORE OR YOU'VE NEVER  
TRIED IT,  
COME AND JOIN US ON MONDAYS 4-5PM  
RESTARTING 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER UNTIL 8<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER

AT BEDMINSTER LIBRARY

NO NEED TO BOOK – JUST TURN UP!

Tel: 0117 903 8529 Email: [bedminster.library@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:bedminster.library@bristol.gov.uk)



**TheHub\***

Every Tuesday

# REDCLIFFE Reading Club

3.30 - 5pm

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!

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

**Bristol Family Hubs**

**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: **pssso@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.

**nbee** **Wellspring Settlement** **Central Bristol Children's Centres** **EBCC** **South Bristol Children's Centres**

**Ashton Park Sports Centre**

# Holiday Activities

## December 2025

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

**Monday 22nd - Tuesday 23rd December**

All bookings **MUST** be made online via: <https://ashtonparksports.schoolactivity.co.uk/>

Childcare Voucher Payments are accepted. Please enquire via email:

**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  
Blackmoors Lane, Bower Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2JL

**Ofsted** Reg: 2788667 **t: 0117 3773300 e: enquiries@ashtonparksports.com w: www.ashtonparksports.com**

