



Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 08/05/2026

This week:

This week year 4 went on their trip to We The Curious. They participated in a workshop about electricity and got to watch the 3D planetarium show.



On Wednesday, Year 5 had a brilliant time on board the ship The Matthew. They were lucky enough to set sail down the harbour and then back to dock to learn all about the ship and John Cabot. The children behaved impeccably and the sun shone - what a lovely way to spend an afternoon!



Today, Year 5 presented their learning all about their previous learning on biomes. They sang and performed beautifully and even impressed us all with their rapping. It coincided with Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday so it was a wonderful opportunity to think about our planet and what we can do to protect it.



Safeguarding:

This week we had a lockdown due to an incident outside the school premises and we called the police to attend as a precautionary measure.

I am aware that some of the children were making up their own versions of what happened which upset some other children. We will address this with them in our PSHE lessons next week.

Following parental feedback, I thought it would be useful to share school procedures during this type of event.

Our first priority is ensuring the children are safe and in a secure environment. This includes ensuring that any access to the building is stopped.

We then manage the situation as it arises, for example phoning the police and reassuring the children throughout the situation.

As soon as we are able to we return to usual classroom practice and continue to reassure the children.

There will then be communication between school and the police and we follow all of the advice they give us.

We will then communicate with parents as soon as we can after the lockdown has been completed. We may be waiting from the police to be able to do this.

We will not contact you whilst we are dealing with any situation as our main focus has to be to keep the children safe and reassured.

The children responded really well to the lockdown procedure and we hold lockdown drills 3 times per year to ensure they are comfortable and would know what to do in an emergency situation.

No children were at risk during the lockdown on Tuesday and the incident remained firmly outside the school premises.

I would like to also thank parents for their supportive comments about the police presence at the school at the end of the day on Tuesday.

Again, this was a precautionary measure which was taken to ensure safety.

School improvement and standards:

We have recently had a visit from the local authority to monitor standards in teaching and learning in Maths across the school. The feedback was very positive.

Some highlights are:

Pupils expressed that they enjoy Mathematics. Their books showed progress over time, pride in presentation, and good levels of productivity.

Teaching is consistent with high evidence of clear small-step progression. There is effective use of manipulatives to secure understanding. There is strong inclusive practice, particularly for SEND and EAL learners.

All classrooms displayed calm, purposeful learning environments with positive behaviour for learning.

Of course, there are also areas where we can continue to improve and the focus in Maths for the remainder of this academic year will be to continue to develop oracy in maths, ensuring pupils articulate reasoning with precision.

Thank you to all staff for their dedication to the children's progress and attainment in Maths and especially to Miss Ormsby for her leadership in Maths across the school.

Our next subject focus will be Science and I will update you on that review as soon as it is completed and checked.

Catholicity:

Last Sunday, children from our school made the sacrament of First Reconciliation at St Gerald Majella Church.

It was a wonderfully uplifting experience for them and we were so proud of how sensible, thoughtful and respectful they were.

Preparation for First Holy Communion continues and we look forward to a marvellous celebration in June.

Please continue to pray for the children and their families during this special time.

Sustainability:

We are constantly looking for ways to be more sustainable and to give the children opportunities to be part of the natural world.

If you have any ideas or experience of this, please get in touch with your child's class teacher to share good practice.

We will be thinking especially about not wasting food and energy this term.

The school day:

School finishes at 3:10 at EYFS and KS1 and 3:15pm at KS2.

Please ensure you collect your child on time or make arrangements for them to attend after school club.

We are very aware that children can become very distressed if they are the last to be collected and even waiting 5 minutes can feel like a really long time in a child's mind.

You may have noticed that the school office is not always open after school.

If you would like to collect your child before the first session of after school club has finished (4:15pm), and there is no answer on the gate buzzer, please ring the school office and press option 2 for after school club.

School lunches:

Please ensure you are up to date with any school lunch payments on the Arbor app.

We do not recommend going more than a week without settling the bill.

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

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

Term Dates 2025 - 2026 -

<u>Term Dates:</u> Inset days (no school):	Wednesday 22 nd July
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

Term dates 2026 – 2027

Inset days	Thursday 3 rd September 2026, Friday 4 th September 2026, Monday 2 nd November 2026, Monday 4 th January 2027 and Friday 28 th May 2027.
Term 1	Thursday 3 rd September – Friday 23 rd October
Term 2	Monday 2 nd November – Friday 18 th December
Term 3	Monday 4 th January – Friday 12 th February
Term 4	Monday 22 nd February – Thursday 25 th March
Term 5	Monday 12 th April – Friday 28 th May
Term 6	Monday 7 th June – Friday 23 rd 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	92.3%	94.2 %	7
Year 1	91.2%	90.3%	1
Year 2	92.4%	96.8%	5
Year 3	93.5%	96.1%	2
Year 4	93.6%	94.6%	7
Year 5	94.0%	97.4%	3
Year 6	93.4%	95.5%	9
Total	93.6%	94.2%	34

As Year 5 have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 15th May. Well done Year 5!

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 5

Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday Monday
Wednesday 6 th May	Y5 The Matthews Trip
Wednesday 6 th May	Bristol Parent carers Coffee morning 9:00-10:00
Wednesday 6 th May	Coffee Morning with Bristol Parent Carers
Thursday 7 th May	Y4 We The Curious Trip
Friday 8 th May	VE Day
Friday 8 th May	Y5 assembly
Friday 8 th May	PTFA Bingo
Week commencing 11 th May	SATS week and World Mental Health Awareness Week
Monday 11 th May	Y1&2 Summer Sing Bristol Beacon
Thursday 14 th May	Ascension Thursday Mass
Week commencing 11 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 19 th May	Y3 Arnos Vale trip
Thursday 21 st May	World Day for Cultural Diversity
Thursday 21 st May	Reception extended stay and play 9-10am
Friday 22 nd May	Y4 assembly
Friday 22 nd May	PTFA Bake Sale 15:15
Friday 22 nd May	END OF TERM 5

Term 6

Monday 1 st June	Start of Term 6
Wednesday 10 th June	Y5 trip to Bristol Museum
Friday 12 th June	Y4 trip to Bristol Museum Year 2 class assembly
Monday 15 th June	Y6 camp
Wednesday 17 th June	Y6 back from camp

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 Mrs Fraser.



Redcliffe Community Day

Parade Prop and Costume Creative Sessions:

Session 1 – Monday 11th May at Monday Youth Group at Faithspace 3.30–5.30pm

Session 2 – Monday 18th May at Monday Youth Group at Faithspace 3.30–5.30pm

Session 3 – Friday 22nd May at Redcliffe Hub from 2.30–4.00pm

Over 8's can attend independently, Under 8's are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent/carer. Please contact Katie for further details: 07359239499



Dear Parents and Carers,

All children and families deserve to feel welcome and to belong in the school community. We are pleased to advise that our school are receiving creative assemblies and workshops where the children will be exploring more about belonging through a project titled 'Roots of Belonging'

To complement their learning and create follow on conversations at home, you are warmly invited to a FREE parent / carer session focused on exploring children's belonging, wellbeing and helping children through challenging moments in life. It will be a relaxed and informal session where parents and carers are invited to participate or simply listen and reflect.

The session will explore:

- *Exploring resilience in children and young people*
- *The role of trusted adults.*
- *Understanding trauma and post traumatic stress.*
- *Guidance and support for families.*

The session will be delivered by creative education company Unique Voice CIC Unique Voice (UV) and the AWP CAMHS Asylum and Refugee Clinic (ARC) with support from Bristol City of Sanctuary (BCoS) - The project has been made possible from funding via Bristol City Council.

*The session will be held in person at school, **Monday 11th May at 2:15pm for 2:30 PM start.***

We hope to see as many people as possible for what will be a really informative and supportive session.

Warm Wishes,

Unique Voice, Bristol City of Sanctuary, Asylum and Refugee Clinic

PTFA



NEXT MEETING

Next Tuesday, April 28th, the PTFA will be hosting its quarterly meeting at Lounge on North Street at 6:30 p.m. Please come along if you'd like to help plan future fundraising events for the school!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

Holy Cross will be running a snack bar at the Kingston Road Street party (hosted by The Coronation pub on the corner next to school) on **Sunday May 3rd** from **noon to 2 p.m.** during the kids' Tip Top party.

♥
Please come along to help out or hang out!

FUTURE EVENTS

1



Bingo*

Friday, May 8th
17:30 – 19:30

2



Bake Sale

Friday, May 22nd
15:15

*Please donate any unwanted gifts for our bingo prizes.

CONTACT INFO

✉ ptfa@holycross.bristol.sch.uk



Mental Health Support Team

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) were established to support schools, helping them develop ways to look after the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) as well as the wider school community including school staff and parents/carers.

The MHST are now delivering online sessions which are free to sign up to. Please scan the QR code below to register for our next webinar.

NEW

Online Parent/Carer Sessions

An Introduction to Anxiety

NEW

To sign up, please
complete a registration
form here:



MHST Online Session



What is it? This session covers:

- What anxiety is, when it is useful, when it becomes unhelpful, and what keeps anxiety going.
- Our body's response to anxiety focusing on our thoughts, feelings, physical sensations and behaviours.
- Providing strategies for managing and overcoming anxiety

Who is it for? Helpful for parents and carers whose children may be struggling with mild anxiety.

When are they? Sessions will be run at 12pm-1pm every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

New topics and dates will be released regularly.

The MHST is a partnership between Off the Record (OTR) and CAMHS. We are working with selected education settings across Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos. To find out where we work, check out our webpage:

www.otrbristol.org.uk/what-we-do/mhst/



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See our socials for more info regarding Saturday openings

Kids Stuff Bristol, British Road, Bedminster, BS338W

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

PLANNING SESSION

EAST STREET COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

LED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS, SUPPORTED BY LOCAL SERVICES

Meet your neighbours!

Everybody welcome!

We want to make the East Street area safer, more welcoming and better connected.

Help decide what happens next. Join the resident-led planning session to agree priorities and next steps.

- Refreshments
- Kids' activity area
- Step-free access
- Hearing loop available

Thursday 30th April

at Southville Centre, Beaufey Rd, Bristol BS3 1QG

6pm - 8pm

Arrive from 6pm for refreshments - kick off at 6.15pm

Have a question or access requirement?
Contact Hugh:
hugh.o'boyle@bristol.gov.uk
07 467 736 699



KINGSTON ROAD STREET PARTY

HOSTED BY THE CORONATION

18 DEAN LN. SOUTHVILLE, BRISTOL BS3 1DP

- LINE UP -

12-2pm **Tia Top Party**
(kids entertainment)

2pm **Relaxa Records**
(90/00 pop nostalgia)

3pm **limi Guitars** (latin fusion)

4pm **Double Double**
(Americana, Jazz, Folk)

5pm **Relaxa Bristol Samba Reggae Band**
(1st show)

6pm **Boto Minimus** (rout/pop)

7pm **Relaxa Bristol Samba Reggae Band**
(2nd show)

8pm **Big Mamma**
(all female funk/rock/pop)

9pm **Glee and The Patrol**
(Kate Bush meets Jimi Hendrix)

10pm-11.30pm **Silent Disco**
feat. DJ De4dpeg4r

SUNDAY 3RD OF MAY
FOOD AND DRINKS SERVED ALL DAY
VEGAN AND NON VEGAN OPTIONS AVAILABLE

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GOFUNDME:
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