



Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 07/11/2025

This week:

On Wednesday, Year 5 took part in a very interesting workshop all about the sun. Children learned about the surface of the sun and were lucky enough to go home with some special solar glasses which allowed them to look safely at the sun! What a great way to start their Science topic on Space!



Today we had a mass to celebrate All Saints day and the first mass of the new term. Canon Michael and Deacon Paul led us through a beautiful service where we talked about being the light of the world.

All Saints Day and First Mass of the Term

Today, we gathered for a special Mass to celebrate **All Saints' Day** and mark the **beginning of the new term**. Canon Michael and Deacon Paul led us through a beautiful service reflecting on what it means to be *the light of the world*. It was a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together in faith, gratitude, and hope for the term ahead.



Parent Governor Vacancy

Would you like to be more involved in your child's education? If you would, why not consider becoming a School governor. There is currently a vacancy for a parent governor at this School.

What do school governors do?

Oversee the budget

Help recruit staff

Monitor the performance of the School, e.g. in examinations and key stage tests

Advise on School policies and procedures

Provide a vital means for parents and the community to get their views heard by the governing body as a whole

Are you interested?

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor but feel a little daunted by the responsibility you may be taking on, remember that full training will be available, and you will always act as part of a team.

What skills are required?

You will need an interest in the School and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. Currently, the governing body particularly needs governors who have expertise in finance, premises, HR and/or legal expertise; however, we would wish to encourage those with a wide variety of other skills to support the existing Governing Body.

Governors need the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information.

Your Commitment

If you become a governor, you will be taking on the following commitments to help make sure the School is well managed:

Share the responsibilities of the governing body as summarised above.

Attend and participate in governors' meetings on a regular basis –

Undergo appropriate training

You may also be invited to sit on appointment panels or attend committee meetings etc.

You will be required to sign the governing body's code of practice, and to apply for a DBS enhanced disclosure.

What do you need to do next?

Read the guidance/nomination form which has been sent with this newsletter that explains the process for appointing parent governors. The closing date is 12pm/noon on Friday 24th October 2025.

If you would like to know more about the role of parent governor or the appointment process, you are welcome to contact Thelma Maslen, Clerk to Governors, via email clerk.clerk@holycross.bristol.sch.uk or another serving governor at School.

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):	Tuesday 2 nd September 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	95.5%	87.4%	7
Year 1	93.5%	92.1%	2
Year 2	93.1%	95.0%	9
Year 3	87.6%	78.3%	4
Year 4	92.7%	94.4%	10
Year 5	90.4%	87.5%	6
Year 6	95.3%	90.8%	11
Total	91.4%	88.4%	49

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

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.

Monday	Adult in charge	Age	Spaces	Price per week
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
Tuesday				
Makaton	Miss Bird/Miss Martin	All children	25	No charge
Film club	Mrs Douglas	All children	20	No charge
Thursday				
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:

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



Bring your 50ps for drinks and snacks



Family Bingo – with PRIZES

Friday 14th November

Time: 17:30-19:30

In the School Hall

EVERYONE WELCOME 😊



So far from last term, we as a school have raised
from the events and the tuck shop

£185.00

£125.00 will be going towards year 6 end of year
celebrations.

The remaining £60 will go towards future events.

We are hoping that we will be able to continue to raise money
to support the children, with your help.

Please join in on our events and keep supporting our little tuck
shop.

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 **10TH NOVEMBER UNTIL 8TH**
DECEMBER
AT BEDMINSTER LIBRARY

NO NEED TO BOOK – JUST TURN UP!

Tel: 0117 903 8529 Email: bedminster.library@bristol.gov.uk



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

Nurture

Praise

Empathy

Connection

For more information please call: **07721 311 497**
or email: psso@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.



****Half term special****

Bring your repair pile *and* your kids
for a morning of mending and
scrap-fabric crafting

Tuesday 28 Oct: 10:00-12:00
Southville Centre Community Café

- Work together to fix up your Halloween costumes ready for trick-or-treating, or mend holey leggings, jeans, t-shirts, jumpers...
- Upcycle old clothes with colourful scrap fabric patches
- ... or make a pumpkin or cat badge.

Beginners, pros and everyone in between welcome.
Up to 2 children per adult, age 7+



£5 (+fee) or pay what you can.
Tickets and more details at
makingmends.org or scan the QR code:



SUPERHERO DISCO!

£4
on the
door

Friday 24 October
The Southville Centre
5-7pm

Fun and games!
Aimed at age 4+

UV lights and
face paints!

Dancing! Music!
Tuck Shop!

Superheroes
come in all
shapes, sizes and
costumes. Dress
up, dress down,
dress to impress, or
be your super self!

Make a cape,
mask or badge
at the craft
table