



Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 03/10/2025

This week:

This morning Year 6 performed their class assembly on the theme of Crime and Punishment throughout history. We travelled back in time and learnt about the various punishments used. Year 6 read with conviction, passion and sang beautifully. We left everyone with the message that all choices have consequences but whether those consequences are positive or negative depends on the choice you make. We are extremely proud of them and their performance.



This week year 4 had an exciting and educational trip to the Wessex water plant. Children learnt how sewage is cleaned and pumped back into our rivers.



On Thursday, Year 2 enjoyed a visit to the Suspension Bridge and the Bristol Downs. We found out all about the history of the Avon Gorge and discovered wildlife that lives in and around Bristol.



On Tuesday, Year 1 had the first of three visits to Windmill Hill City Farm - and what a day it was! The weather was glorious and we had so much fun with the animals. As it's now Autumn, we picked some apples, cut them up and juiced them to make our own apple juice which was delicious. We saw all of the animals and were brave enough to stroke and feed them. A highlight was the chickens eating food out of our shoes! We can't wait to go back in Spring to see what changes we can see.





Harvest Donations – Week Commencing 6th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are inviting families to donate non-perishable food items during the week commencing **Monday 6th October**. Suggested donations include:

- Biscuits
- Breakfast cereals
- Long-life milk

Please **do not send any fresh or chilled products**, as we are unable to store them safely.

All donations will be gratefully received and passed on to those in need within our local community.

To mark the end of this special week, **Year 2 will be leading our Harvest Assembly**, sharing messages of thanks and the importance of giving.

Thank you for your continued support!

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 3 rd 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	91.5%	95.5%	4
Year 1	89.4%	88.9%	1
Year 2	93.9%	92.0%	6
Year 3	89.6%	88.0%	2
Year 4	89.8%	90.9%	11
Year 5	90.8%	92.3%	9
Year 6	95.9%	98.2%	12
Total	91.2%	92.5%	46

As Year 6 class have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 10th October. Well done Year 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 1

Monday 15 th September	Bike ability Level 2 (children who signed up)
Tuesday 16 th September	AM – Bike ability level 2 (children who signed up) PM –Bike ability 1 (children who signed up) Year 6 swimming
Sunday 21 st September	Arts Trail
Friday 26 th September	Y5 class assembly Macmillan coffee afternoon 2:30-4:00
Tuesday 30 th September	Year 1 Farm trip Year 6 swimming
Wednesday 1 st October	Year 4 water plant visit
Thursday 2 nd October	Year 2 suspension bridge and Avon gorge visit
Friday 3 rd October	Year 6 class assembly
Tuesday 7 th October	Y5 SS Great Britain Trip
Wednesday 8 th October	KS1 drama workshop am Y5 and Y6 Old Vic trip
Thursday 9 th October	Y6 children's book show workshop
Friday 10 th October	Y2 assembly
Tuesday 14 th October	Y6 Forensic theme day
Thursday 16 th October	Individual photos
Thursday 16 th October	KS2 author event with Ben Miller at the Cathedral
Friday 17 th October	Y1 Assembly
Tuesday 21 st October	Y3 WTC-Light workshop and planetarium Year 6 swimming Parents evening
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parents evening
Friday 24 th October	End of term 1

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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Parent & Carer Coffee Morning

Monday 20th October at 9:15am

Our theme this time is Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing and we will be joined by a professional working with the school.



Ellie is the Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP) for Holy Cross. She uses Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) techniques to support children struggling with anxiety. She's in school once a week and families can access her support on a referral basis.

Ask questions about children's mental health and how to access support

Learn about the difficulties that Ellie can support with, as well as difficulties best supported by other agencies (CAMHS, Family Help, School nurse)

Tell us what you would be interested in learning about in a parenting group or workshop (e.g. responding to anxiety, sleeping difficulties.).



Sirona
care & health



Community Children's
Health Partnership



Avon and Wiltshire
Mental Health Partnership
NHS Trust



- Friday 24th October - After school book sale.
- Friday 7th November - Bingo Night – Times to be confirmed.
- Friday 5th December - Christmas Disco – Times to be confirmed.

Food and refreshments will be available at all events.

If you can volunteer at one of these events, we would be very grateful. Please contact

ptfa@holycross.bristol.sch.uk

Or leave your contact details at reception.

NATURAL NETWORKS: SUMMER PROGRAMME

**8-15
year olds**

CAMPFIRE
GROUP GAMES
ROPE SWINGS
CLIMBING NETS
DEN BUILDING
WHITTILING
FORAGING
AND MORE,



SCAN TO BOOK

FOREST SCHOOL

HARTCLIFFE
KNOWLE WEST
STOCKWOOD
BISHOPSWORTH
REDCLIFFE




ON STAGE. BACKSTAGE. WHATEVER STAGE YOU'RE AT.

**TRY A
FULL
SESSION
FOR FREE**

PQA BRISTOL
FRIDAY 6-18 YEAR OLDS | 5.15PM - 8.30PM
SATURDAY POPPETS - 4-5 YEAR OLDS
9.45AM - 11.15AM & 11.30AM - 1PM
SATURDAY 6-18 YEAR OLDS
9.45AM - 1PM & 1.45PM - 5PM
COTHAM SCHOOL, BRISTOL, BS6 6DT
pqacademy.com | carly.bond@pqacademy.com

FIND OUT MORE
PQACADEMY.COM



THE PAULINE QUIRKE
ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

Kids' Clothes Swap

Sat 27 September, 10:30am—12:30pm
Windmill Hill Community Centre
Sustainable Fashion Week® 2025 fringe event



Refresh your kids' wardrobe in an affordable and planet-friendly way

Swap your good quality unwanted kids' autumn and winter clothing (3-11yrs) for things you need. Drop off up to 6 items of kids' clothing in advance of the swap.

To ensure a feel-good swap, only contribute freshly washed, good quality things you'd be happy to take home yourself.

We'd like to receive:

- Jumpers, trousers, long-sleeved tops, dungarees, dresses, skirts, tights
- Winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves
- Wellies, winter shoes, trainers
- Warm nightwear and dressing gowns
- Halloween costumes and Christmas-themed clothing

Find out exactly how it works and get your ticket (£5/household + fees) at makingmends.org/clothes-swap-bristol or scan QR code >>>

As well as clothes swapping, expect textile repairing, crafting, kids' play corner and more.

makingmends.org



BE SCHOOL READY

Starting school is a big step – for you and your child

Our Be School Ready guide and Be School Ready hub are packed with tips, tools and advice to help you both feel prepared and confident

What's inside:

- ★ Simple steps to get your child ready for school life
- ★ Expert-backed advice on developing routines and independence
- ★ Support for managing your own and your child's emotions
- ★ Clear information on how schools work and what to expect
- ★ Ideas to help you feel more connected to your child's school community

Follow us on social media for **FREE** weekly printables to help your child prepare for reception.

Read our Be School Ready guide and explore the Be School Ready hub:



Starting school with SEND?

Explore our **SEND** hub for expert advice and tips!



2025

Parentkind



We'd like to invite you to our
Supper Club



Come with your children and stay for the session for a warm welcome, a shared family meal and children's activities

Every Tuesday 5-7pm

The Café at Windmill Hill City Farm

Price: Free!

For more info or to book in, please contact Nicky on nicky.orr@windmillhillcityfarm.org.uk

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!

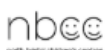


Your parenting toolbox:



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.



Bath Royal
Literary and Scientific Institution

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

JULY - OCTOBER

Did you know about the Academy of Imagination's fantastic summer activities?

Design a T-shirt Competition

All summer

Storytelling with Objects

7th AUGUST

Gaming!

26th AUGUST

Drawing from Fossils

28th AUGUST

Playing with Printing

12th/14th/19th/21st AUGUST

Children's Exhibition Tours

16 Queen Square, Bath
 www.brlsi.org

