



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs. J Kingston

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had such a busy time in school since I last wrote to you, and I have so many exciting things to update you on.

### **Year 6 SATs:**

Last week our Year 6 pupils took their end of key stage 2 assessment tests and we were so proud of how calm and maturely they conducted themselves, as it can be a stressful time for some pupils. The children really supported each other and many commented on how much fun the week had been! A special thanks must go to Mr Franks who cooked bacon and sausages sandwiches for the children to enjoy together every morning, which gave them a chance to relax before the tests began.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festivities:**

Last Friday we celebrated 50 years of Holy Cross at Dean Lane with a day full of fun. We started the day with Mass in the school Hall where we were joined by parishioners, former pupils and local teachers and head teachers. Everyone present commented once again on the fantastic behaviour of the children and their wonderful, uplifting singing. Fr Rupert blessed the children on this special occasion and we remembered all the people who have been involved with our school over the last 50 years.

After Mass the children wrote their feelings on 50 years at Holy Cross and what our school means to them, which will go on display for you all to see at our parent learning and sharing session next Friday. Some of the children's writing was so touching and examples have been put on the website for you to see how lucky we are to have such talented writers in our school.

In the afternoon we held a balloon release where we released 200 (environmentally friendly) balloons into the air all at once. The sight of 200 red, blue and gold balloons floating up into the skies of Bedminster was a wonderful emotional experience and one we hope the children will remember fondly in the future.

In the evening the PTFA organised a family BBQ and Ceilidh which was great fun. Both adults and children enjoyed dancing together on the dance floor and chatting with parishioners, present and former staff; and other guests. We are very grateful to the PTFA for all their hard work to organise and run this event. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated group of parents/carers and grandparents who support our school tirelessly, with the aim of making school the best experience for all our pupils.



## **Year 2 SATs:**

End of key stage 1 assessments have also been taking place this week for our Year 2 pupils. They are all trying so hard to show us their learning and we are very proud of them.

## **Road safety murals:**

On Thursday of last week Ben Barker from the Greater Bedminster Community partnership came to school with 2 artists Dave and Zoe to unveil the new murals on our walls in Dean Lane. The murals are the result of a lot of hard work by Ben and the council to help improve road safety around our school. Ben, Dave and Zoe came to Assembly to talk about the project and so we could show our gratitude for the work done on our behalf to ensure your children's safety remains a top concern within the local area. I am sure you will agree they look amazing and really brighten up the approach to school. May I take this opportunity to remind you about ensuring you are parking safely when dropping off or collecting children from school. I know some of you are also concerned about the parking of local residents and we have been working with the police and parking services on how to address this issue. More information will follow on this matter next week.

## **Arts' Trail:**

Last weekend saw the annual Southbank arts' trail. Our children's art work was displayed at St Francis church on North Street and the many different interpretations of 'Dreams' were a sensory delight. I would like to say thank you to all those who supported this event - it was a pleasure to see the children proudly show off their creations to parents, family and friends. I would also like to thank the members of staff who volunteered time on Saturday and Sunday to supervise the children's work.

## **Diocesan Inspection:**

Last week our Inspection report was published on the Diocesan website with the results of the diocesan inspection that took place at the end of March. We are very pleased to inform you that the school was judged to be "**good**" - overall and in every area. A particular strength of the school, as observed by the inspectors, was the behaviour of our children.

The Inspectors found that Holy Cross is a place with "a real sense of belonging; a place where pupils demonstrate care and respect for each other and have a positive attitude to learning." A place that is "open and welcoming; warm and inclusive."

Holy Cross is a truly special place and it is a privilege to work here, simply because of children and families that form the community. It is a wonderful sense of achievement that the Inspectors agreed with us that the focus on improving behaviour since our last Ofsted has proven successful.

Other highlights of the report are: "The school has strong, good leadership which is securing rapid and sustained improvements".

Please click on the link below to read the report in full: <http://schools.cliffondiocese.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Holy-Cross-Denominational-Report-March-2017-1.pdf>

## **Staff News:**

We are pleased to announce that Miss Stroud has been appointed as the permanent EYFS teacher, after a competitive interview process on Tuesday of this week. Miss Stroud is a wonderful teacher and has been a real asset to our school since joining us last September and we are delighted that she will be staying with us permanently.

Miss Isaacs, who has covered Year 2 earlier this year, has taken on the role of PPA/ Intervention teacher until the end of this academic year. This role became vacant when Mrs Alexander left us at Easter to take up a new opportunity in South Gloucestershire Council.

## **PTFA:**

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the hard work the PTFA have done for our school throughout the year. They are a small group of volunteers who organise events such as the termly cake sales, the Christmas disco and pantomime, parent work days and the summer fayre. Everyone is welcome to join the PTFA and it is a good way to get involved in school activities and meet other parents in a relaxed way. The PTFA are meeting in the Steam Crane next Thursday evening at 7:30pm to plan the summer fayre and everyone is welcome.

## **Foundation Governors:**

We are pleased to announce that Fr Rupert has joined the governing body as a foundation governor. Fr Rupert is a wonderful ambassador for our school and such a welcoming manner he can only be an asset to the team. We still have vacancies for foundation governors and are very keen to fill these positions as soon as possible. To be a foundation governor, as opposed to a parent governor, you need to be a Catholic and be willing to attend 2 meetings per term to plan and set the strategic direction of the school. We are particularly focussed on any applicants with HR, health and safety, and finance expertise who would be willing to be part of the team. If you are interested, or know anyone else who may be, please see Mrs Kingston to discuss.

## **Class Assembly:**

Year 5 presented their Assembly this morning on Signs and symbols, using the focus of 'Deaf Awareness' week. The children amazed us with their confidence when speaking and enthusiasm when singing, whilst also teaching us some important information.

## **Year 6 Den building:**

This morning our Year 6 had a den building workshop, as part of their Topic work on the Second World War. They made mini structures in the class out of pipe cleaners then went outside to build larger dens out of piping, bamboo and straw. They're behaviour was amazing and they had brilliant team work.

## **Parent Council Coffee Morning:**

Thank you to all those parents/carers who attended the parent council coffee morning today, where we discussed the school's attendance policy and practice and forest school. This is your opportunity to meet with myself and a governor informally to ask any general questions or queries you may have. If you would like to speak to me privately, I am available On Tuesday or Thursday mornings after drop off and most evenings by appointment. Alternatively, I am happy to speak to you on the phone if that is more convenient.

## **Visitors:**

On Wednesday morning we welcomed Reverend Nick from St Paul's Church to Assembly. He spoke to the children about how much he enjoys his job and he showed objects that he believed represented him, for example holy water, communion and a cross, then linked it to one of our favourite hymns: '10,000 reasons.'

The staff have been involved in Writing moderation with other schools this week to share good practice to improve writing and to compare the level of writing at Holy Cross with similar settings. We also had a follow up session on how to maintain staff well-being at busy times of the year.

## **Mobile Phones:**

Unfortunately, I need to remind parents again that mobile phones are not to be used on school premises. Please make sure they are turned off, especially during Assembly.

### **Social media:**

We would like to remind all parents that it is really important that they monitor their child's/children's internet use and speak to their children about acceptable behaviour online. Many of the sites our children are accessing are for children aged 13 and above, and therefore should not be using them. We have had further upset this week caused by things our children are seeing and sharing online at home. If you would like any advice or further information, please see Mrs Douglas before or after school.

### **INSET:**

The remaining INSET days for this year will be Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June. School will be closed to pupils on these days for staff training.

### **Homework:**

This week's homework is Reading Comprehension. Please also continue to read with your child, as well as practising their spellings and tables.

### **Attendance and Punctuality:**

Our attendance target for this academic year is 96.1%. Our current figure is 95.00%. Thank you to those who attend regularly. Please remember to phone the school office if your child is going to be absent. 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.

Last week 17 children were late to school. 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.

Thank you for your continued support and interest.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. J Kingston  
Head teacher

### **Term 5 Dates:**

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Chaplains trip
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Year 5 and 6 mass 9.15am
	-	Reception trip to farm PM
	-	PTFA Meeting 7.30 Steam Crane
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	-	End of Term 5
	-	9.15am Year 4 Assembly