



Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 22/05/2026

This week:

Year 3 had a wonderful day visiting Arnos Vale Cemetery. We looked for signs of diversity throughout the grounds of Arnos Vale and used magnifying glasses, mirrors and trowels to search for insects and other living creatures.



This week:

What a wonderful day Year 2 had at Noah's Ark Zoo Farm. We looked at the animals then in an African workshop, we touched a tortoise, a snake and an African snail. After lunch we had so much fun in the soft play. What amazing memories were made.



This week:

What a fun week year 4 have had! We got to play football at Ashton Gate stadium and perform our amazing assembly all about Ancient Egypt!



From term 6, Year 5 will be trialling a new spelling scheme. This scheme will be taught daily and therefore will remove the need for weekly spelling tests and words being sent home regularly. This will allow time for children to practice common exception word or year group words at home. They will also be trying out a new system for homework where dojos can be earned and children will have some choice in which tasks they complete. We will update you if any of these changes are fully implemented.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding Reminder for Half Term

Safeguarding Reminder for Half Term

As we head into the half term break, we would like to remind families of a few important safeguarding messages.

Stay Safe in the Sun

With the weather forecast showing a heatwave during the holiday, please help keep children safe in the sun. We encourage all children to wear sunhats, apply sunscreen regularly, and drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay hydrated and protected from the heat.

Online Safety and Device Monitoring

Children are likely to spend more time on electronic devices during the break. Please ensure you continue to monitor your child's online activity, including the games they play, apps they use, and the content they engage with. Regular conversations about online safety and appropriate use of technology are important in helping children stay safe online.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe both in the community and online.

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	92.1%	87.6%	5
Year 1	91.5%	97.7%	4
Year 2	92.4%	93.0%	9
Year 3	93.9%	100%	1
Year 4	93.3%	93.6%	9
Year 5	94.2%	95.7%	5
Year 6	93.6%	93.5%	12
Total	91.6%	92.3%	45

As Year 3 have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 5th June. Well done Year 3!

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,

You are warmly invited to an online event introducing *Safer Together*, a film and conversation resource created with young people, designed to help families and communities talk about the realities and risks of knife crime, and how to move from these concerns towards hope and change.

About *Safer Together*:

Young people have come together through creativity and film to share their feelings, fears and hopes. The *Safer Together* film is a powerful piece created with young people, for young people, and aims to open up honest, informed conversations at home and in the community.

Parent / Carer Session Details

 Thursday 21st May

 Online - 12:00-13:00

 Open to parents, carers and guardians of young people

This supportive and informative session will:

- Introduce the film and accompanying conversation resource
- Offer ideas for how to speak with your child about knife crime in a trauma-informed way
- Signpost helpful organisations such as CrimeStoppers and Fearless

If you would like to attend the online CPD event, click [here](#) for the zoom link.

Meeting ID 818 9669 1482

The session will be recorded and available to watch from our Unique Voice website shortly after this date.

Website: uniquevoice.org

With thanks,

Unique Voice

PTFA



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

Thank you to everyone who attended the Kingston Road street party as well as our bingo event.

..... ♥
Together, the events raised
£158.34
for our school community.
..... ♥



FUTURE EVENTS



Summer Fayre
Friday July 3rd
15:15–17:30

Needed: Class PTFA Reps

The PTFA is hoping to recruit two representatives from each class to help us put on fundraising events for our school.

The time commitment is very minimal, especially with many hands on deck.

In particular, we are in need of reps for Reception and Year 1.

Please contact us at the email below if you are interested. Thank you!

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/



To exit full screen, press Esc

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- ✓ Lessons available 7 days a week
- ✓ Structured lessons for all abilities
- ✓ A safe, supportive environment for children

Simply scan the QR code and complete the form to enter.

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*Terms apply.



everyoneactive.com

everyone ACTIVE

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10-2 Wed-Fri

Supporting local families, building community



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We believe that raising a family shouldn't cost the earth, so we have created **kids stuff**.
"Pre-loved children's items at great prices"

Quality pre-loved clothes from birth to 10yrs, school uniform & shoes, books & toys, fancy dress & coats, puzzles, games, loads of baby items & much more...

"Such a fab community spirit! lovely people, with a great range and prices. Thank you!"

See our socials for more info regarding Saturday openings

Kids Stuff Bristol, British Road, Bedminster, BS338W

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LEARN CODING
Learn coding in a fun, beginner-friendly way

THINK & SOLVE
Improve problem-solving & logical thinking

ROBOTICS FUN
Boost creativity & confidence through technology

£14 PER CLASS
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QR Code

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WHY KIDS LOVE OUR CLASSES

- Hands-on projects they enjoy
- Real skills for the future
- Encourages creativity & curiosity
- Builds confidence & resilience

Redcliffe Community Day

Parade Prop and Costume Creative Sessions:

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

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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

KINGSTON ROAD STREET PARTY
HOSTED BY THE CORONATION
18 PEAN LN. SOUTHVILLE, BRISTOL BS3 1DP

- LINE UP -

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

3pm **Retro Revolver** (90/00 pop nostalgia)

5pm **Jimmi Gastero** (Latin fusion)

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

5pm **Belata Bristol-Jambo Reggae Band** (1st show)

6pm **Reto Minimum** (rock/pop)

7pm **Belata Bristol-Jambo Reggae Band** (2nd show)

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

9pm **Olga and The Patsies** (Kate Bush meets Jimi Hendrix)

10pm-11.30pm **Electric Blues** feat. DJ De4dpeg4r4r

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

Proudly sponsored by: **ONPOINT** and **COFUNDME:**

Help fund the annual Kingston road community street party!

MAY MADE EASY
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BOOK NOW FOR 20% OFF

Use Code: **Early Booker**

Offer ends 17/05/2026
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QR Code

Shine HOLIDAY CLUBS

SOUTHVILLE

Redcliffe Community Festival

TheHub*

Sat 23 May | 1-5pm

Prewett St and Churchyard

Everyone welcome



 Procession
  Shared Food
  Bouncy Castle
  Henna

Cuban Ecology

zine making workshops!
for ages 9-13

Participants will explore wildlife, culture and the natural world through story and craft.

Saturdays 10am-12pm
23rd, 30th May
6th, 13th 20th June

At Windmill Hill City Farm

Hosted by biologist **Cathy Beedie**

Featuring photography and insights from award-winning Cuban photographer **Jose Alberto** @photonaturatours

£95 for the full 5 weeks
£20 for individual sessions

Book Now ➔ 



Acting Out DRAMA CLASSES

Now welcoming young performers

DRAMA & ACTING FOR SCREEN CLASSES

Discover the Fun of Film Acting

Play, Create Characters & Make Movies Together

Our drama club helps children to find their own voices and develop creativity, make friends & grow in confidence in a safe and fun environment.

Our Sessions Include:

- ★ games
- ★ vocal work
- ★ imagination
- ★ storytelling
- ★ improvisation
- ★ lots and lots of fun!



DETAILS:
Southville Centre
Mondays 4-5pm (term time)
Ages 4-11 years

CONTACT:
07956 962422
enquiries@actingoutdrama.com

SCAN TO BOOK

www.actingoutdrama.com

PLAY. ★ CREATE. ★ PERFORM. ★ SHINE!



Does your child love making new friends?

The award-winning makers of *The Dog House* are casting for a brand-new BBC series about friendship.

We are looking for children aged 5 to 8 from Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, Wiltshire & South Gloucestershire who are sociable and enjoy making new friends.

If your child is interested (with no pressure to take part) please apply at:

makingfriends.tv



May Half Term Activities

Crafts 10:00-13:00

Pay-as-you-can

Shop-play-cafe open as usual 9:30-2:30

Wednesday 27th



Busy Table!

Friday 29th



Plant pot decorating & sunflower seed planting

Thursday 28th



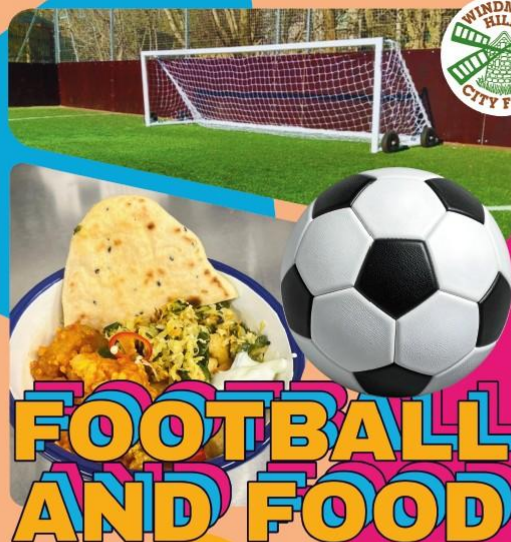
Dancing balloon monsters

Friday 29th



Garden Party! 11-2

shop play eat



FOOTBALL AND FOOD

Tuesday 26th May & Wednesday 27th May

2pm - 4pm: Football with a local coach
4pm - 5pm: Hot meal served in our Outdoor Kitchen (families can join in too!)

Free and open to children 8-12 years old.

Booking is essential

Contact nicky.orr@windmillhillcityfarm.org.uk for more info and to book on.

Funded by:



ACCESS SPACES NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

FARM CLUB

Come and get involved at the farm by feeding the animals and doing a nature activity.

TUESDAY 26TH MAY

10:00AM - 12:00PM

SCAN HERE

SONGTREATS

MUSIC CLUB

MAY HALF TERM

(KS2)
Years
3 - 6

Two days of music
activities to
inspire Bristol's
budding
musicians

"Highlight of the school holidays!"

9am-3pm Tue 26th Wed 27th May 2026

Beacon Music Centre
35 Stanton Rd, Bristol, BS10 5SJ

£40 per day, bursary spaces available.
Contact sam@songtreats.com for more information.

Sign up at songtreats.com or scan the QR code:
In partnership with Bristol Beacon & Earthsong Foundation.

