Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter –16/10/2026

Today, as a school, we have shown our support for *Show Racism the Red Card*. It was wonderful to see so many children wearing red and supporting this important cause in the fight to end racism.

This morning Year 2 did an excellent job presenting their learning all about Bristol and the Bristol Giants. The took us on a tour of all the different Bristol landmarks and also reminded us of the importance of looking after God's creation. They impressed us with their superb acting and beautiful singing! Well done Year 2!

School lunches from September and update on free school meals

We have been informed by our catering company that children in KS2 who are not entitled to free school meals will be charged £3.05 per day.

From September 2026, eligibility to Free School Meals will be extended to all children where a parent is in receipt of Universal Credit. This is opposed to the current rules, where a parent needs to be on Universal Credit and earning less than £7,400 per year to qualify. The Government would like for **ALL** parents to complete the form if you are not currently entitled to free school meals, including children in KS1 who are using the Universal free school meals.

Benefits of being eligible for free school meals:

- Free school lunches in KS2
- Extra funding for schools to support your child
- Supermarket voucher during half term (Council dependant)

Please use this link to complete the online form to see if you are eligible - Free school meals

If you need support with this, please speak to Miss Sims or Ms Fraser.

Primary Admissions:

The deadline for submitting Reception class applications for next September is open from 12th September using this link: **https://parent.bristol.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/admissions** Please speak to the school office 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 the school office for one. Anyone is able to call the office and organise a visit.

Messages from Mrs Kingston:

Internet Outage: Unfortunately, we are continuing to experience a lack of internet access from our provider in Bristol City Council. As you are aware this is a city-wide issue and work is continuing behind the scenes to rectify this as soon as possible. I am so grateful to the teachers for their hard work in ensuring high quality teaching and learning continues across the curriculum. I am also very grateful to the children who have adapted so well. We are hoping we will be back online as soon as possible. Please continue to contact us through the Arbor app to send any messages or, in case of an emergency on the number 07384450567. You can send a text message or leave a voicemail if it is not answered. This line is checked regularly throughout the day.

Safeguarding update: As a result of Benedict's Law, please make sure that any food brought into school does not contain any allergens such as nuts, sesame, etc.

Please also ensure that your child has an in-date inhaler in school (reminders have been sent to parents whose child's inhaler is nearing the expiration date) and we are aware of all medical needs your child has.

Please continue to check your child/ren's screen and device usage. Please make sure you have parental monitoring features activated and you know who they are talking to or playing with and what they are watching online. Children under the age of 16 should not be using WhatsApp.

School improvement and standards: Senior leaders have continued to conduct lesson observations, drop in sessions and book looks across the school during the last week. We have been particularly impressed with the standards of teaching and learning in English and Maths. It is also very noticeable how ready to learn the children are. They are demonstrating active listening skills and we can really see them putting in a good level of effort in their work.

Catholicity: If you would like your child to make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in May next year, please give their name to the Office to add to the list. Mrs Kington will be leading the preparation in St Gerald Majella's Parish. Classes will start in January.

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.

Payments: Please ensure you are up to date with any school lunch, breakfast club or after school club payments on the Arbor app.

Please remember to only book through the Arbor app. Any email or Class dojo/Tapestry requests will not be booked from Monday. This is to ensure that parents are able to keep on top of payments and not lose track of arrears.

Parental engagement: Thank you for all your continued support. "Stay and play" sessions for Year1 continue every week as does "Stay and Read" for Years 2 to 6. Doors will open at 8:40am on Thursdays and the session ends at 9am.

HOLY CROSS RC PRIMARY

PTFA EVENTS

WHAT'S COMING UP!

FRI
2 OCT

BINGO NIGHT!

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Eyes down for a fun family night of bingo, prizes and snacks.

SUN
29 NOV

TABLE TOP SALE

12:00pm – 3:00pm

Toys, books and bargains galore. Tables £5 each — email the PTFA to book one!

FRI
11 DEC

CHRISTMAS PARTY

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Disco lights, music and festive fun to finish off the term.

All welcome! Organised by the Holy Cross RC Primary PTFA — every penny we raise goes back to our school.

HOLY CROSS RC PRIMARY PTFA

TABLE TOP SALE

Bargains, toys, books and treasure for everyone!

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER

12:00pm – 3:00pm

SCHOOL HALL

Holy Cross RC Primary

WANT TO SELL? BOOK A TABLE!

Tables are just £5 each and places are limited. To book yours, email ptfa@holycross.bristol.sch.uk

All welcome — every penny raised goes straight back to our school!

Important Dates:

Term 1

Monday 19th October	Start of safety week
Tuesday 20th October	Parents evening 5-6.30pm
Wednesday 21st October	Parents evening 3.30-5.15pm
Friday 23rd October	End of term 1 Safety week assembly

Term 2

Monday 2nd November	Inset day - no school
Tuesday 3rd November	Start of term 2
Thursday 5th November	Year 2 Fire Station visit
Tuesday 10th November	Year 4 trip to Museum The Chaplains trip to get commissioned and the Cathedral AM
Friday 13th November	Year 4 class assembly Year 1 trip to the Matthew AM Year 6 Theatre trip PM
Thursday 19th November	Year 3 trip to Cheddar Caves
Friday 20th November	Year 1 class assembly
Thursday 26th November	Years 3 and 4 forest trip
Friday 27th November	Year 3 class assembly
Monday 30th November	Explorer Dome workshops
Tuesday 1st December	Explorer Dome workshops AM
Wednesday 2nd December	KS2 choir Bristol Beacon trip
Tuesday 8th December	Years 1 and 2 to the Spiegel Tent
Friday 11th December	KS2 talent Show AM

Term dates for the academic year:

Inset days	Thursday 3rd September 2026, Friday 4th September 2026, Monday 2nd November 2026, Monday 4th January 2027 and Friday 28th May 2027.
Term 1	Thursday 3rd September – Friday 23rd October
Term 2	Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December
Term 3	Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February
Term 4	Monday 22nd February – Thursday 25th march
Term 5	Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May
Term 6	Monday 7th June – Friday 23rd 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	96.88%	92.5%	4
Year 1	94.61%	98.00%	1
Year 2	91.65%	92.5%	1
Year 3	98.42%	98.89%	3
Year 4	98.33%	98.46%	4
Year 5	93.15%	91.79%	11
Year 6	96.38%	96.09%	8
The Hub	94.67%	96%	1
Total	95.34%	95.23%	33

As Year 3 have got the highest attendance this week they will receive a non-uniform day next Friday. Well done Year 3!!

Attendance

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.

GET YOUR CHILD INTO SWIMMING

AND BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN 3 MONTHS FREE SWIMMING LESSONS*

Everyone Active is pleased to be working in partnership with your school to help more children build confidence in the water.

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- Expert, qualified Swim Teachers
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Simply scan the QR code and complete the form to enter.

One winner will be selected at random at the end of the promotional period.

*Terms apply.

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*Conditions apply. Expiry 11/10/26

HELP! My Child is Dyslexic (I Think?)

Interested in ideas to support your child? Join this 4-session course for parents/carers led by a Specialist Dyslexia Teacher and parent of dyslexic children.

- Session 1 : Signs and Diagnosis
- Session 2: Dyslexia & Parenting
- Session 3: Dealing with School
- Session 4: Secondary School

Where: BS3 Community, Southville Centre

When: Weds 4, 11, 18 & 25 November, 18:30-20:30

Cost: £15 (incl. refreshments) Pick and choose individual sessions, or block book all 4 for a £10 discount

Scan the QR Code to book your place

By Laetitia Tempelman
Email: LT20275@gmail.com

BRISTOL FLYERS COMMUNITY HUB SESSIONS

VENUE: The Park Centre BS4 1DQ
DAY: Monday
TIME: 6pm - 7pm
FOR: Primary and secondary students

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NEW DATE ADDED DUE TO DEMAND

FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Before the bell:
Supporting the Morning Struggle

20th October @ 4pm

and Julia Middeke - Assistant Psychologist & Counsellor

with Amy O'Hare - Training Manager Counsellor/Sleep Coach

The Exchange and NeuroPathways are coming together to address a common and often misunderstood reality for many neurodivergent children, young people, and their families.

The school day starts long before the classroom door. Join us for **Before the Bell** as we explore the realities, challenges, and solutions surrounding school attendance for neurodivergent children. This session will help families understand what's really going on and, crucially, what they can do to help.

The Exchange NeuroPathways CLINIC

Book your place now:
neuropathwaysclinic.co.uk/community

Bristol Autism Team Family Support Phone Line

A dedicated phone line for parents/carers to access immediate support from Bristol Autism Team

- Advice, guidance and someone to listen
- Help identifying pathways and different routes to access support
- Signposting and information on local services, support groups and resources

The phone line will be open to call on Thursday mornings between 8:30 and 12.
Phone number: **07387242320**

Please be aware that the mailbox is not monitored so voicemails will not be returned

You can also access support from Bristol Autism Team using the QR code or by emailing Bristol.Autism.HotLine@bristol.gov.uk

Parent/Carer Request for Bristol Autism Team

OFFICIAL

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OTR

NHS
Avon and Wiltshire
Mental Health Partnership
NHS Trust

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/

MHST
Tools to thrive

Two friends. Two tasters each.
Lots of Mighty Netball fun!

Book your two-session Mighty Netball taster in one of our Year 1 & 2 classes by 31 October, and a friend can join both sessions completely FREE.

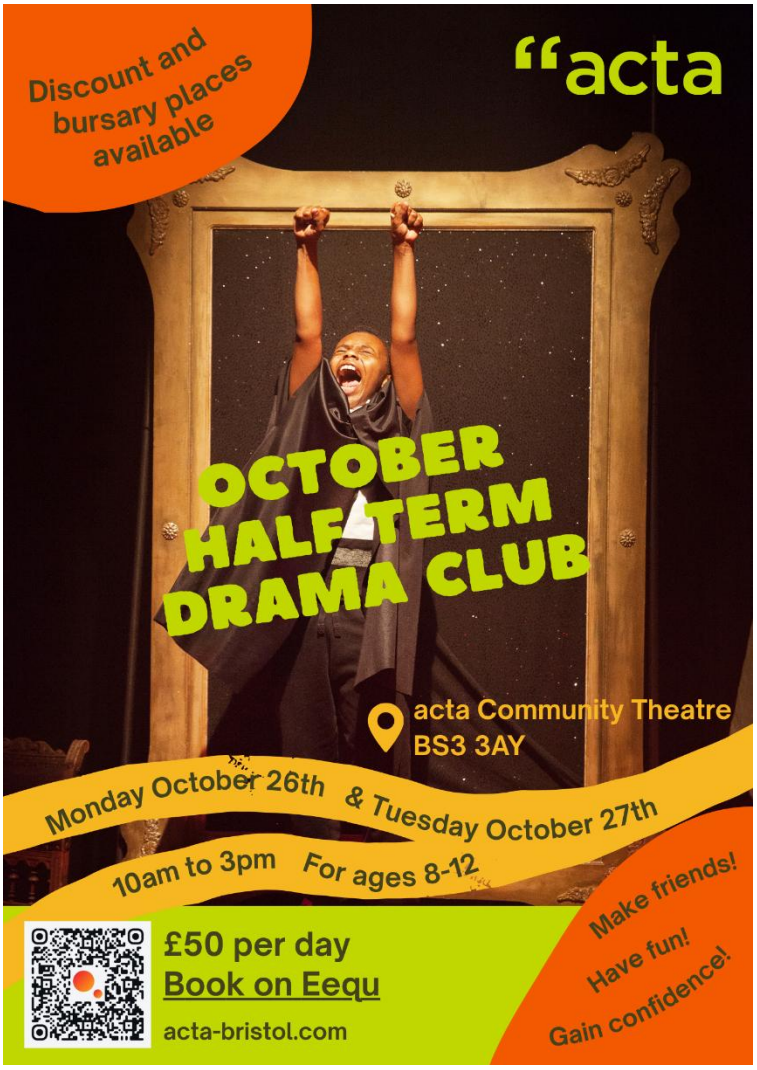
1 **Book**
Book your child's **two-session** taster. This automatically includes **two sessions.**
(£22 indoor / £19.80 outdoor venue)

2 **Share**
We'll send you a **unique code** to share with a friend, so they can book their **two-session taster** for **FREE**.

3 **Play Together**
Enjoy **two Mighty tasters together**

Book your space
https://mightynetball.co.uk/book/

T&Cs: Year 1 & 2 classes only. New customers only. Offer applies when booking a two-session taster. One friend can book a two-session taster for free. Offer must be booked by 31 October 2026. Taster sessions may take place after this date, up to and including 30 November 2026. Subject to availability.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WED 28th UV DODGEBALL & GYMNASTICS
THURS 29th CRICKET & HOCKEY
FRI 30th HALLOWEEN PARTY & TREASURE HUNT
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