



Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 24/01/2025

This week:

Our school chaplains attended a special day of Hope at Clifton Cathedral with Deacon Paul. We went on a mini pilgrimage as part of our Jubilee preparations. Next week, the chaplains will lead a day of pilgrimage at Holy Cross as part of the launch day for our Year of Hope. A Jubilee year comes around once every 25 years so we are very proud to be a part of this special celebration. Year 6 performed their class assembly all about World War 2 this morning. They sang beautifully some of the songs from the time. They also spoke clearly, sharing their learning all about rations, work and evacuation. Well done Year 6!



Next Week – SEND Coffee Morning -

You're invited to our next SEND coffee morning with Bristol Parent Carers on **Wednesday 29th January from 9-10.30am**. This session is open to all parents and carers of children with neurodivergent needs, such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, Tourette's, learning disabilities, developmental language disorder, or mental health needs. **Your child doesn't need a diagnosis to attend.** It's a safe and supportive space to share experiences, get advice, and work together on ways to improve inclusion for neurodivergent children in schools and get your family or child any help that you might need.

Bristol Parent Carers

PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSION OF NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS (PINS)

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS

**WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY
@9AM-10:30 AM**



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

Next PTFA Event:



You are hereby invited to the
'Harry Potter School of Magic'
Holy Cross Primary School

Guest of Honour: Potion Making Class will be
sharing their Potion-brewing skills with us!

Friday 31st Jan 6-8pm

Potion Making Class
Craft and Food stalls/Tombola/Raffle
Dress up optional

Buy your tickets online:
<https://ptfa-holy-cross.sumupstore.com>

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	95.2%	92.3%	5
Year 1	93.8%	93.1%	4
Year 2	96.7%	97.5%	4
Year 3	93.9%	95.2%	2
Year 4	94.6%	96.8%	2
Year 5	93.7%	92.8%	4
Year 6	93.8%	97.1%	5
Total	94.0%	95.1%	26

As Year 2 have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 31st January. Well done Year 2!

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 3

Monday 27 th January	Children can wear bright clothing
Wednesday 29 th January	SEND Coffee morning
Friday 31 st January	Year 5 class assembly 9.10am Harry Potter evening
Tuesday 4 th February	Year 3 Museum trip
Friday 7 th February	Numbers day Year 4 class assembly 9.10am
Wednesday 12 th February	Y6 trip to Mshed and Air Raid Shelter
Friday 14 th February	End of term 3 Year 3 class assembly 9.10am

Term 4

Monday 24 th February	Start of Term 4
Tuesday 25 th February	Y1 farm trip
Monday 3 rd March	Secondary school offer day
Tuesday 4 th March	Parents evening
Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday service 9.15am Parents evening
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Friday 7 th March	Year 2 class assembly 9.10am
Monday 10 th March	Science week
Tuesday 11 th March	Y2 trip to Aerospace
Wednesday 19 th March	Y1 trip to Slilmbridge
Friday 21 st March	Year 1 class assembly 9.10am
Friday 28 th March	Reception class assembly 9.10am
Friday 4 th April	End of term 4

Term Dates:

Inset days:

Monday 2nd September
Monday 4th November
Monday 6th January
Monday 21st July
Tuesday 22nd July

Term 1:

Monday 2nd September – Friday 25th October

Term 2:

Monday 4th November – Friday 20th December

Term 3:

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February

Term 4:

Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April

Term 5:

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May (Bank holiday on Monday 5th May)

Term 6:

Monday 2nd June – Tuesday 22nd July

Parenting is not always easy. Although watching your child/children change and grow up can be a unique and rewarding time, it can also be fraught with stress, uncertainty and conflict. Here are some ideas of how to support your child to become independent whilst making sure that you also look after yourself in the process.



You and your child/young person

If you think your child is struggling with their behaviour and or their mental health, it's easy to be hard on yourself as a parent and a sense of blame can sometimes come into this. Below are ideas for any parent who is worried about their child and or parenting skills.



Ensure that you know you love them, and you are proud of them.

Life can feel incredibly busy and stressful and when you feel in survival mode it can be overwhelming. Try to praise your child for what they do well and encourage them to learn from trying new things and giving it a go. Praise the effort made and not the outcome!!



Be clear about what is and is not acceptable – and make them understand why.

Children benefit when adults are clear about the boundaries and that there are agreed limits to their behaviour. Being clear and consistent and making sure you follow through with a set boundary is key. Otherwise, children may feel anxious and confused and will stop respecting the boundaries.



Role modelling vulnerability, where you can be honest about your own feelings

We all make mistakes and can say unkind things we later feel we wish we hadn't said. If this happens, try to say sorry to your child and explain clearly what happened. They will hopefully learn to make mistakes that they then go on to learn from – making such mistakes does not make them a bad person.



Own your parent role – as a parent it is important to not shy away from making tough decisions or having difficult conversations with your child.

If your child sees you are scared of their reaction and always give in to them, it can make them feel very powerful, which can be frightening. Children need to know that you are there to keep them safe.

First Holy Communion:

The next session will be on Sunday 9th February.

New App:

All parents have been sent an email to sign up for our new app – 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.

Hall hire:

The School Hall is available for hire for parties and events during the weekend. If you are interested in hiring our School Hall, please contact the Office and request a copy of our Lettings policy.



TAKE YOUR GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL

THE FLYERS COMMUNITY HUBS ARE A GREAT WAY FOR ASPIRING BASKETBALL PLAYERS TO PLAY MORE BASKETBALL AND TAKE THEIR GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF OUR TEAM OF QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED COACHES.

FLYERS BASKETBALL COMMUNITY HUB

BECOME A BETTER BALLER

DATE	THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7TH - DECEMBER 19TH
LOCATION	ST. BERNADETTE'S, BS14 9LS
SESSIONS	SCHOOL YEARS 7 - 11 - 4.30PM - 5.25PM SCHOOL YEARS 3 - 6 - 5.35PM - 6.30PM
PRICE	£6.50 PER SESSION DISCOUNT PROVIDED WHEN BOOKING WHOLE TERM

TO BOOK 
0117 9630 683

Free support sessions



Join us for free information and support sessions covering a variety of topics both in person and online. Or pop along to a peers support session (children welcome!) to find hints and tips on how best to support your family. No diagnosis is needed to access these sessions.

For more info visit: www.bit.ly/Getbookednow

Peer support sessions

Greenway Centre
Inns Court

ADHD, a conversation,
with Jacob Kelly

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
AND JACOB KELLY



Speech and Language
in Early years (0-5)

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
AND SMALL TALK



An introduction to
Makaton

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
AND ALLI PENNINGTON



Transport-Home to
School travel update

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
AND BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL



Legal responsibilities and
absence for SEND pupils.

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
AND NEUROTEACHERS



How to be a strong
advocate for your child

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
AND LISA BAKER-MURRAY



Epilepsy Peer
Support Session

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
AND YOUNG EPILEPSY



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

Support for Inter-Parental Communication



FREE support available for one or both parents

- Do you have a child or children aged between 8 and 14?
- Do you find it hard to get on with your partner or your ex?
- Do you argue or shout at each other?
- Or have you stopped talking to each other because it's too difficult?

If so, then this SIPCo project could help.

Support is available for either one or both parents. The help on offer will either be relationship therapy (delivered by the couple therapy charity Tavistock Relationships) or a local practitioner will help you access online resources which can be used at your own pace. If English is not your first language, translators can be provided.

Please contact Gina Pazienza:

- relationshipsmatter@bristol.gov.uk
- 07721 635376
- Visit the SIPCo page at www.bristol.gov.uk

When you apply, your details will not be shared with anyone else. After applying online, if you do not see our response email, please check your junk/spam folder, then mark relationshipsmatter@bristol.gov.uk as a trusted sender.

Scan QR code to find out more



Free support sessions



Join us for free information and support sessions covering a variety of topics both in person and online. Or pop along to a peers support session (children welcome!) to find hints and tips on how best to support your family. No diagnosis is needed to access these sessions.

PEER SUPPORT SESSION ONLINE PEER TO PEER SUPPORT WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS JOIN US FOR A WARM AND WELCOMING ONLINE SUPPORT SESSION WITH PARENT CARERS	Transport-Home to School Travel Rights WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS AND GELDARDS SOLUTIONS
Epilepsy Peer Support Session WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS AND YOUNG EPILEPSY 	An introduction to Makaton WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS AND ALI PENNINGTON
Supporting your young carer WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS AND CARERS SUPPORT CENTRE 	Transition to adulthood - Financial Planning WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS AND RHANNON GOCH
How to be a strong advocate for your child WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS AND LISA BAKER-MURRAY 	Peer support sessions Greenway Centre & Inns Court

For more info visit: www.bit.ly/Getbookednow



Sheffield Hallam University



For more support information for parents please see our website:

<https://holy-cross-catholic-primary-school-bristol.secure-primariesite.net/support-information/>

You can be creative!

Do you want to learn new skills?

COME AND JOIN US

Girls age 10-14

You can make friends and have adventures

You can be active

You can make a change

TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT

Your nearest Guide unit is
 118th Guides at Victoria Park Baptist Church, Sylvia Ave, BS3 5DA

Register your interest by visiting
www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus
 or you can ring Girlguiding on 0800 169 5901

Text Donella on 07837 601037