



Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 06/03/2026

This week:

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, we hosted a special reading breakfast at school. It was wonderful to see so many children dressed up as their favourite book characters or arriving in their cosy pyjamas, ready to enjoy a good story! 📖 ✨



This week:

For Year 2's class assembly we celebrated World Book Day. We had book themed songs and the children shared with the school what their favourite books were. We even had a quiz where children had to guess what their teachers' favourite books were.



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 3rd 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	92.5%	99.5%	3
Year 1	91.6%	92.9%	1
Year 2	91.7%	95.7%	3
Year 3	92.6%	88.2%	2
Year 4	93.4%	95.4%	7
Year 5	94.3%	95.2%	6
Year 6	92.9%	94.7%	7
Total	91.0%	94.8%	29

As Reception have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 13th March. Well done Reception!

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 4

Monday 23 rd February	Inset Day
Tuesday 24 th February	Y5 swimming start date (weekly sessions)
Thursday 26 th February	Bristol SEND parents forum coffee morning
Thursday 26 th February	Reception extended stay and play lunar new year
Friday 27 th February	Year 5/6 Photography project
Monday 2 nd March	St. David's Day
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Year 2 Assembly
Week commencing 9 th March	Science Week
Friday 13 th March	Science sharing Assembly
Tuesday 17 th March	Dt Patrick's Day
Wednesday 18 th March	KS1 Dance Festival 5
Friday 20 th March	Year 1 assembly
Tuesday 24 th March	Year 4 Banksy Tour
Wednesday 25 th March	Y3 Caerleon Trip
Thursday 26 th March	Y5 Arnos Vale trip
Friday 27 th March	Reception Assembly
Monday 30 th March	Dame Emily Park
Tuesday 31 st March	Y1 Slimbridge trip
Thursday 2 nd April	END OF TERM 4

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.

Term dates for next academic year:

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Future Events

Please save the date, everyone is welcome

Event	Date	Time
Spring disco	Friday 6 th February	17:30-19:30
World book day book stall	Thursday 5 th March	8:45
Bingo	Friday 24 th April	17:30-19:30
Bake Sale	Friday 22 nd May	15:15

Donuts will be back on sale when the weather is brighter.

If you wish to help out at any event or join the PTFA we would love to have you. Please say Hello, you are most welcome.

Keep an eye out for our chalk board as a reminder



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/





Holiday Activities Easter 2026

Ashton Park Sports Centre Holiday Activity
Programme for children aged 4-14



Tuesday 7th - Friday 17th April

All bookings MUST be made online via: <https://ashtonparksports.schoolactivity.co.uk/>
Childcare Voucher Payments are accepted. Please enquire via email:
enquiries@ashtonparksports.com



Ashtonparksportscentre1



Ashtonparksports



@ashtonparksport



ashtonparksports.schoolactivity.co.uk

Standard Day: 9:00am - 4:00pm ED*: 9:00am - 5:00pm (8am drop off available as an extra £4) Full Day - 8am-5pm

Ofsted Reg:2788667

Blackmoors Lane, Bower Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2JL
t: 0117 3773300 e: enquiries@ashtonparksports.com w: www.ashtonparksports.com

Friday Film Club!

Join us at our Southville Centre
Friday 6th March, 3-6pm

2 short films
Teatime cafe menu
Craft activity
Cosy corner

FREE ENTRY!



www.bs3community.org.uk
info@bs3community.org.uk
0117 9231039

Registered charity no. 1000544


Community

Festival of Stories

Saturday 7th March 11am-6pm

@ SPARKS Bristol

Join us for an unforgettable day of shared experiences, creativity, and inspiration, as we honour the art of storytelling and the way it can bring a community together.

Storytelling! (Featuring Nikesh Shukla!)

Bookish craft stalls, local indie authors, writing workshops, free craft activities, fairytale decor, fun vibes, special deals and discounts, and lots more!

(Fancy dress encouraged!)



Scan to
follow our
Facebook
event page!



Paper Tales

SPARKS BRISTOL

Free online & in person support sessions

Hordhac ku Saabsan
Makatonka

Online

Talaado 3-da March
7:00PM 9:00PM



Sida Loo Noqdo U
Doodaha Adag ee
Ilmahaaga

Online

Khamiis 5ta-March
7:00PM 8:30PM



Fahamka Qaybta
Caafimaadka ee
EHCP-da

Online

Isniin 9ka-March
10:00AM 11:30AM



Taageero assaga

Online

Talaado 10-ka March
7:00PM 8:00PM



Si qad faahfaahin uga hesho
kalfadhiyadan iyo kuwo kale
Iskaan garee QR-code-ka ama booqo:



<https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp>

Taageero asaaga

Greenway Centre,
Southmead, BS10

Khamiis 12-ka March
9:15AM 10:30AM



Taageero asaaga
Fishponds Old Library,
Fishponds, BS16

Khamiis 19-ka March
9:00AM 11:00AM



Taageero asaaga
Inns Court,
Knowle, BS4

Khamiis 19-ka March
10:30AM 12:30PM



Taageeridda Xiriirrada
Caafimaadka Qaba

Online

Khamiis 26-ka March
7:00PM 8:30PM



SENDCo Newsletter

March 2026

www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk



Session Highlights

Are your families aware that we offer free support sessions with practical, accessible information? Please share the booking link so they can sign up.

Sessions include:

Understanding the Health Section of an EHCP:

9th March, 10am-11.30am

Supporting Healthy Relationships & Sex Education in

SEND: 26th March, 7pm-8.30pm

[Book here](#)



Together for SEND

Our Annual SEND Event is just around the corner. Come and join us for a day of information, networking and a chance to get ahead in all things SEND and Education in Bristol: We The Curious, Monday 16th March.

[More here](#)

FES treatment funding from NHS

NHS funding is available locally for children under 16 who may benefit from Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) for dropped foot, following NICE guidance. FES can improve walking and reduce falls for children with neurological conditions and a new Bristol clinic has now opened.

Contact: enquiries@odstockmedical.com or www.odstockmedical.com



New resource for children with complex needs

WellChild, the national charity for seriously ill children, has launched 'In Your Area', a free online platform helping parents and carers of children with complex medical needs quickly find local services and support. The first tool of its kind in the UK, you can search by postcode and use filters to identify resources tailored to your circumstances.

[Click here](#)

Because You're Worth It: A short film by the Centre of Studies for Inclusive Education (CSIE)

Across Bristol, CSIE workshops continue to support parent carer wellbeing and strengthen advocacy in education. This week CSIE launched 'Because You're Worth It', a short film created to honour parent carer voices and deepen understanding across our community. CSIE welcome discussions and feedback from parent carers.

Contact: admin@csie.org.uk

[Watch here](#)

Bristol Parent Carer Forum updates

EHCP Timescales

We've recently updated our website and added a new page outlining EHCP timescales. It provides a clear summary of statutory deadlines and key stages in the process, which may be useful to share with families or refer to when discussing timelines and expectations.

[Click here](#)

Coffee Mornings



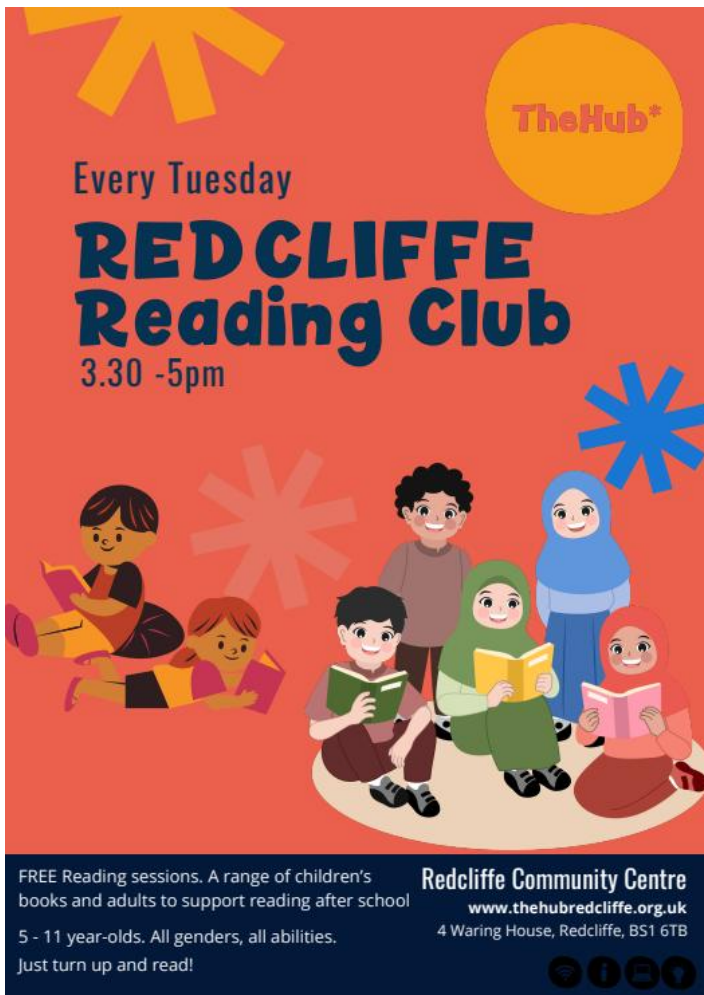
Have you booked yours?

These relaxed sessions give parents and carers a chance to meet, share experiences and talk with our facilitators to explore available support for their child. They offer a straightforward way for schools to build stronger relationships with families and often lead to clearer communication and more collaborative problem-solving.

Families consistently tell us they leave feeling better informed and more connected, making these sessions a valuable part of the wider school offer.

[Book here](#)

info@bristolparentcarers.org.uk



TheHub*

Every Tuesday

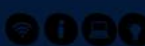
REDCLIFFE Reading Club

3.30 - 5pm

FREE Reading sessions. A range of children's books and adults to support reading after school

5 - 11 year-olds. All genders, all abilities. Just turn up and read!

Redcliffe Community Centre
www.thehubredcliffe.org.uk
 4 Waring House, Redcliffe, BS1 6TB




Bristol Family Hubs

Bristol City Council

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:

- Listening
- Play
- Praise
- Nurture
- Empathy
- Connection

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.

nbee **Wellspring Settlement** **Central** **EBCC** **South Bristol Children's Centres**

JOIN OUR MONTHLY LITTER PICK

HELP KEEP OUR PARK CLEAN, SAFE,
AND BEAUTIFUL FOR EVERYONE TO
ENJOY!

NEXT PICK: 11AM SATURDAY 14TH
MARCH

MEET: COMMUNITY GARDEN, DAME
EMILY PARK

WHAT'S PROVIDED: LITTER PICKERS,
BAGS, GLOVES. BRING YOUR OWN
GLOVES IF YOU HAVE THEM

WHO CAN JOIN?: EVERYONE!
FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND
NEIGHBOURS WELCOME

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
JUST TURN UP!



BS3 MULTICULTURAL FEAST

March 2026 - Bedminster - Date/ Venue TBC



JOIN US FOR A VIBRANT CELEBRATION!

Come and meet your neighbours, share food
and celebrate the many cultures of our
neighbourhood

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We're looking for residents to help shape the
day. You could:

Cook or bring a dish · Perform (music, poetry,
storytelling - anything!) · Run an activity for
children · Help organise or support on the day
· Or bring your own ideas!

No experience needed - just enthusiasm!
You'll be supported by Hugh and Jas. To find
out more, contact:

Jas - jasmine.tippette@bs3community.org.uk
Hugh - hugh.o'boyle@bristol.gov.uk





Easter Half Term Holiday Club

Childcare sorted for working parents

Ages 4-13 | £26/day | Ofsted registered



- Structured day + lots of choice
- 4 Zones each morning: Active / Creative / Discovery / Wellness
- Enrichment afternoons: fun experiences children may not otherwise get to try
- EASTER ACTIVITIES

10% OFF - Code

EARLYBIRD10

Ends **SUN 15 MARCH** 🕒

8:30am - 3:30pm | 4 activity zones | Nut-free setting - all food sent in must be nut-free

Book now → linktr.ee/progressivekids_sports.bristol

Questions? office@progressivekidsbristol.com | 07946656332

SPRING INTO EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

**BOOK
NOW FOR
20%
OFF**

Use Code:
Early Booker
Offer ends
29/03/2026
*Conditions apply

- ✓ Mini & Mega Mash-Ups
- ✓ Creative Eggs-travaganza
- ✓ Make a High School Musical
- ✓ Gymnastics & Cheerleading
- ✓ Cookery Workshop
- ✓ Cricket Fundays
- ✓ Disney Dance



Shine
HOLIDAY CLUBS
MyShine.co.uk



Supported by
Windmill Hill City Farm

SOUTH
BRISTOL

TOY

LIBRARY

Save the dates!

OPEN FORTNIGHTLY
SATURDAYS 10AM - 12PM

2026 DATES

- 31st January
- 14th February
- 28th February
- 14th March
- 28th March
- 11th April
- 25th April
- 09th May
- 23rd May
- 06th June
- 20th June
- 04th July
- 18th July
- 01st August
- 15th August
- 29th August
- 12th September
- 26th September
- 10th October
- 24th October
- 07th November
- 21st November
- 05th December
- 19th December
(Xmas Party)



Where is it?

St Michael's and All Angels Church
Vivian Street, BS3 4LW

How does it work?

Join as a member for just £15 (£7.50 concession) a year and get access to 1000s of toys for ages 0 to 12 with small hire fees (typically £0.20 - £2 per 2 weeks). Open to all postcodes.

Check out our toys on our website!

Contact Us

southbristoltoylibrary
@gmail.com



  @southbristol.toylibrary