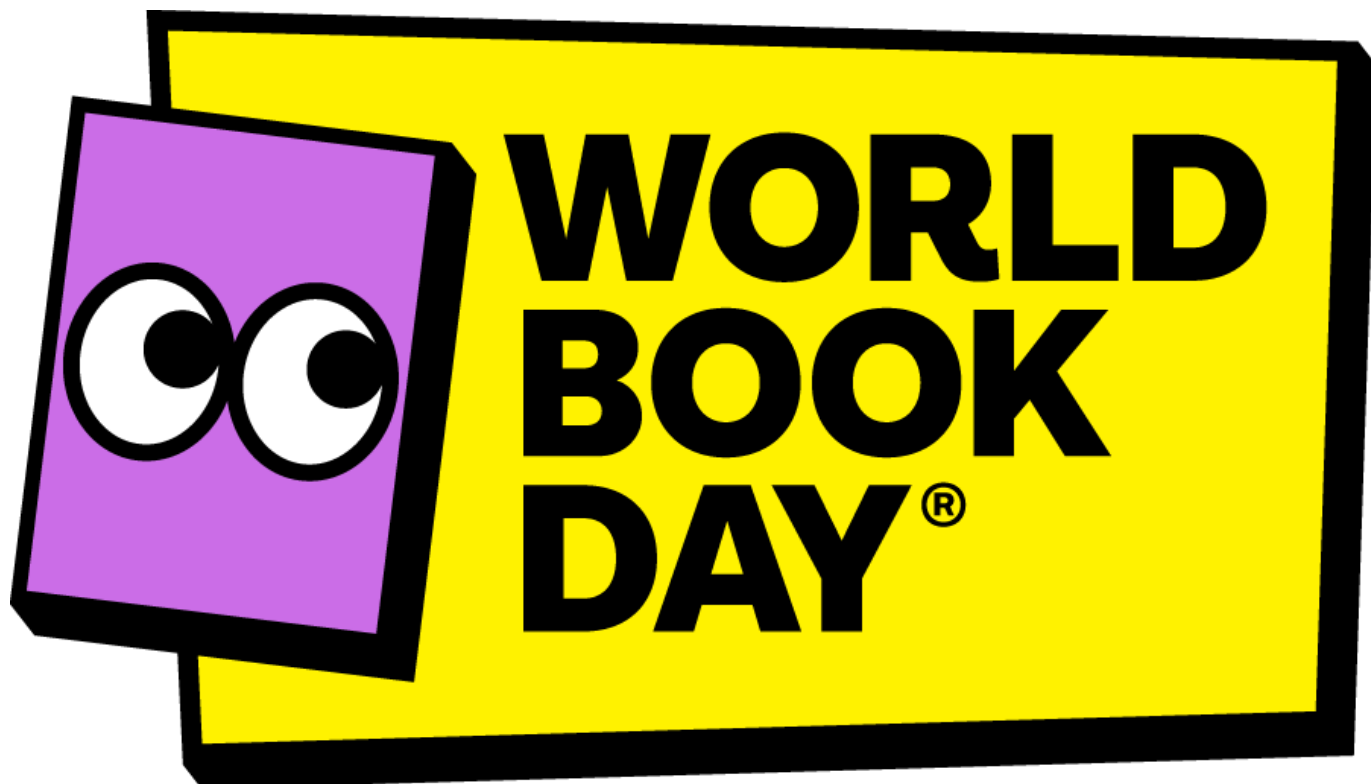




Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 27/02/2026



On Thursday 5th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day!

To mark the occasion, children are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character or in their pyjamas so that they are comfy, cosy and ready to read.

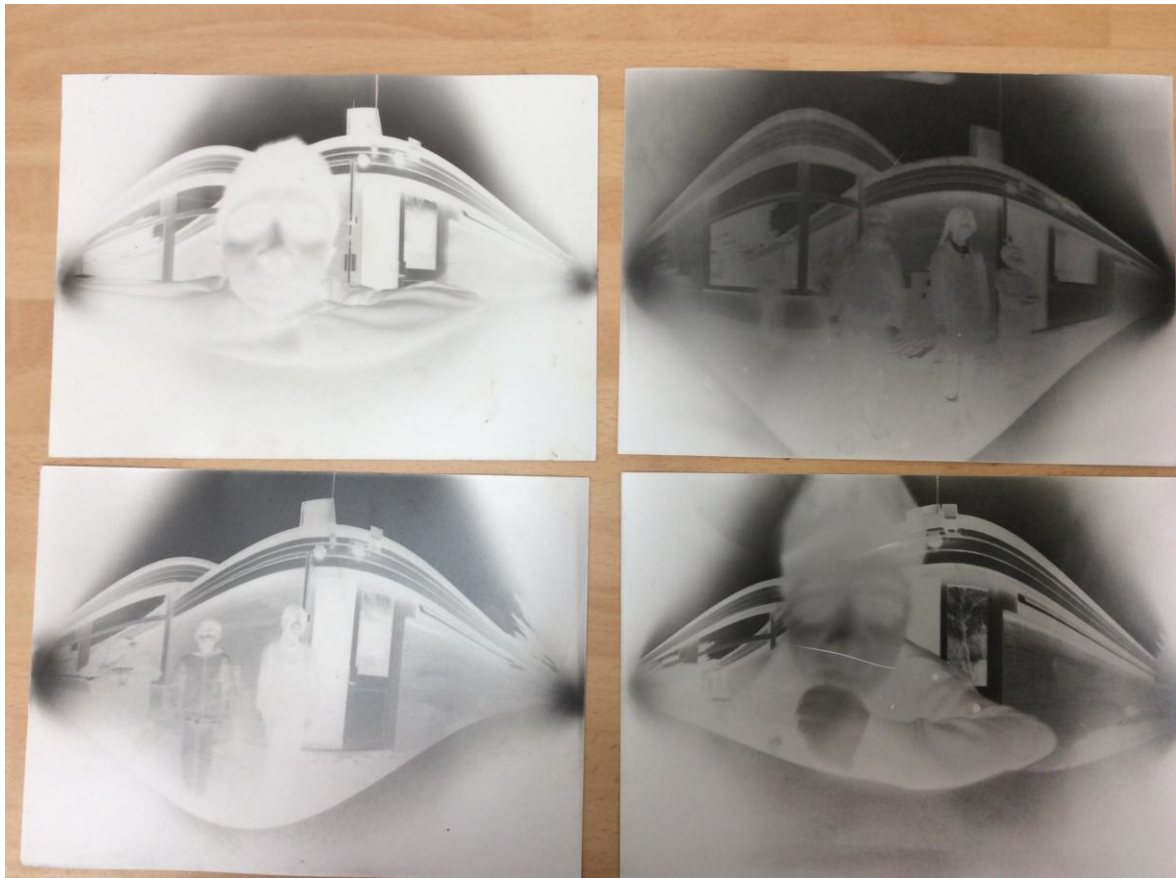
Parents and children are welcome from 8:30am for a free, special World Book Day breakfast where there will be the opportunity to share a book with friends and family. The PTFA will also be holding a book sale during this time with 3 books available £1. Please remember to bring cash!

Throughout the day, children will have opportunities to read alongside their peers and with other year groups.

We look forward to sharing the love of reading with you all!

This week:

Year 5 and 6 were lucky enough to take part in a special pinhole photography project. They explored how a simple camera can be made without a lens, learning about light, exposure and patience (lots of patience!) while capturing their own unique images. It's been a brilliant mix of art and science and the results are truly something to be proud of.



This week:

This week, in each year group we have designed and created a window installation for this weekend's **Window Wanderland** in Bedminster. The finished artwork will be on display for everyone to enjoy from the street and will be lit up between 6pm and 9pm over the weekend.

If you're planning a visit, there's an online map available so you can explore the other houses and businesses taking part too. It's set to be a lovely celebration of creativity across the community!



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%	96.6%	4
Year 1	91.6%	87.1%	0
Year 2	91.7%	89.3%	5
Year 3	92.6%	94.1%	2
Year 4	93.4%	96.4%	0
Year 5	94.3%	97.0%	3
Year 6	92.9%	95.4%	3
Total	91.0%	93.8%	17

As Year 5 have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 6th March. Well done Year 5!

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:

<u>Term Dates:</u> Inset days (no school):	Tuesday 2 nd September Monday 3 rd November Monday 5 th January Monday 23 rd February Wednesday 22 nd July
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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



Parent carer letter / newsletter text

New online CBT service for local children and young people

The local NHS has launched a new online CBT service, SilverCloud, which offers support for children and young people experiencing low mood and anxiety. Children aged 12-plus can self-refer to the service at feelingmixedup.uk and support is also available for parents of children aged five-plus.

The service is a part of a range of local wellbeing support for children and young people that also includes Kooth and Off The Record. You can find out more about these services in the *Directory of Mental Health and Wellbeing Services for Children and Young People* for your area, available on the local NHS website at <https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing/>

Please be aware that the school also has a dedicated mental health support team which can provide direct face-to-face support for your child if needed. Please contact the school directly if you feel this support would be helpful.

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!



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 aad 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



TheHub*

Every Tuesday

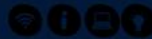
REDCLIFFE Reading Club

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 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
North Bristol Children's Centres

Wellspring
Settlement

Central
Bristol Children's Centres

EBCC
East Bristol Children's Centres

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.tippett@bs3community.org.uk
Hugh - hugh.o'boyle@bristol.gov.uk