



Holy Cross RC Primary School

Newsletter – 13/02/2026

This week:

Year 3 were wonderful in their class assembly today. They shared lots of amazing facts and sang some brilliant songs all about the Stone Age.



This week:

To help promote and support Safer Internet day and their theme: Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI we were lucky enough to take part in a variety of workshops.

Key Stage 1 and Two all took part in workshops hosted by Perform where we learnt how to stay safe online, what AI was and why age restrictions are in place when we are using social media and apps online.

We then all took part in Natter Hub workshops focused on AI - can AI make mistakes? How does AI collect data? The children were fantastic in their knowledge and learnt how to stay safe and spot fakes when using AI.



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	92.3%	92.5%	12
Year 1	91.6%	85.0%	3
Year 2	91.8%	94.3%	18
Year 3	92.5%	94.7%	2
Year 4	93.3%	89.6%	15
Year 5	94.2%	91.9%	11
Year 6	92.7%	93.1%	5
Total	90.9%	91.6%	66

As Year 3 have got the highest attendance they will receive a non-uniform day on Friday 27th February. 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 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
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



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.

SEND COFFEE MORNING

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS

**Thursday 26th February
@ 9-10.30am**

Come along to chat with Bristol Parent Carers & school staff to find out about services available locally to support your family and children



**Bristol Parent
Carer Forum**
Shaping the Future *Together*



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

Peer Support
Greenway Centre
Southmead, BS10
Thurs 13th Nov
9:15AM-10:30AM



Family Voices
St Werburgh's
Community Centre, BS2
Thurs 13th Nov
10AM-12PM



Peer & EBSA Support
Fishponds Old Library
Fishponds, BS16
Thurs 13th Nov
9AM-11AM



EBSA Support
Greenway Centre
Southmead, BS10
Thurs 13th Nov
11AM-12:30PM



Scan here for
details on these
sessions and more



Peer Support
Online

Tues 18th Nov
7PM-8PM



Direct Payments &
Personal Budgets
St Werburgh's, BS2
Weds 19th Nov
10AM-12PM



Peer Support
Inns Court
Knowle, BS4
Thurs 20th Nov
10:30AM-12:30PM



Autism and
Christmas Change
Online
Mon 1st Dec
6:30PM-8:30PM



Every Tuesday

REDCLIFFE Reading Club

3.30 -5pm

TheHub*



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:



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.





Holiday Activities

February 2026

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



Monday 16th - Friday 20th February

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



Reg:2788667

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



Feb Half Term Holiday Club

Childcare sorted for working parents

16–20 Feb | 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

15% OFF - Code
FEB15

Ends Sun 1 Feb ⌚

8:30am - 3:30pm | 4 activity zones | Nut free site

Book now → linktr.ee/progressivekids_sports.bristol

Questions? office@progressivekidsbristol.com | 07946656332

FANTASTIC

FEB HOLIDAY CLUBS

Book at MyShine.co.uk

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Cookery Workshops
- ✓ Gymnastics & Cheerleading
- ✓ Mega Mash-Up
- ✓ Creative Workshops
- ✓ Crazy Science
- ✓ K-Pop Dance



Shine
HOLIDAY CLUBS

**BOOK
NOW FOR**

**20%
OFF**

Use Code:
Early Booker

Offer ends
08/02/2026

*Conditions apply

