

Holy Cross School Newsletter

Friday 2nd February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a week filled with wonderful learning opportunities for all children. During our praise assembly this morning it was fantastic to hear the different reasons for all the nominations; children helping friends with their work, cheering each other up in the playground, doing extra work at home around the different faith they have been studying and trying hard with their presentation and handwriting. What amazing children we have here at Holy Cross!

Year 4 Class Assembly



This week we had our wonderful Year 4 class lead an assembly on the Anglo-Saxons. They did a fabulous job telling us so many facts, many

that I didn't know. The singing and readings were brilliant and looking at the acting I think we could have Hollywood banging on our door soon! My thanks to Mrs Parr, Miss Honoré, Miss Quinn and Mrs Ley for supporting the children so well. A special mention to Miss Quinn's amazing Mummy who made all of the costumes for us!



Year 6 Class Mass

On Wednesday 7th February, Year 6 will be celebrating Mass in their classroom. These occasions are always special and the children have been working hard to prepare for this. Mass begins at 10am and parents and carers of children in Year 6 are very welcome to join us.

Other Faiths Week



It has been a brilliant week in School, seeing all of the amazing learning that is happening in each class about the different faiths they have been studying. The children have been engaged in activities from art works to trying different foods. The children have loved their learning this week, and I am sure will be keen to share their new knowledge with you.



Good Neighbours

Please can we ensure that we are being respectful to our lovely neighbours in the surrounding streets to our School by putting any rubbish you might have in the bin, or taking it home with you. Environmental Responsibility is one of our curriculum drivers and we need to show we care for and respect God's world by looking after it carefully. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Safer Internet Day

Next Tuesday, 6th February, is Safer Internet Day. The children will be learning about making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online. As parents and carers I think it is always a good time to have a reminder about social media apps. Most of these are for children aged 13 or older, this includes Snapchat, Discord, and TikTok.

Children are not always aware of the consequences or implication of posting inappropriate messages. It is up to us as adults to ensure we are monitoring what our very precious are able to access.

PSA

We are looking for some lovely volunteers to help with the PSA. This is a wonderful way to support the School and our lovely children. Please speak to either myself or Miss Collins on Academic Review Day if you would like any more details.

English News!

We would like to tell you about some exciting upcoming events we have for World book Day in March. Firstly, we will be holding a Book Fair in school next week from Monday 5th - Wednesday 7th February in the School hall. Pupils will be given time to look around the fair on Monday during the school day and can then purchase books with parents and carers before and after school on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. If you are unable to visit at these times, you can send your child in with a named purse or wallet which they must give to their class teacher. The pupils will then have some time on Tuesday or Wednesday to purchase a book during the school day. The school benefits greatly from their fair, as it will allow us to also choose some new books for our classrooms so please come along and see what books we have to offer! In addition to this we will be setting an exciting half term project - 'A Book in a Box'. Please look out for an email explaining this in more detail.

During English Week, we have been lucky to book a published author, Ramya Julian, who will be delivering workshops to all pupils on her

range of books which celebrate people such as Ada Lovelace, Noor Inayat Khan and Marie Curie. She will also present her book 'Women in STEM.' An email will follow explaining how you can preorder copies of Ramya's books which will then be brought to school and signed!

We will also be dressing up in costumes for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Please do not feel obliged to buy special costumes, instead see what you can make with things you have at home already.

OPAL

Please remember to send in any items that you have at home, from guttering, planks, buckets, dressing up clothes, bags, hats and small world toys, so that they can be used by the children at lunchtime as part of our OPAL play.

Basketball Tickets

There are still a few tickets available for the British Basketball League 2024 Playoff Finals which will be held on Sunday 19th May 2024 at The O2 in London. The tickets are usually £32 per adult or £25 per child but we have been offered them for £10 each.

This double bill finale sees the two top teams from the Men's and Women's British Basketball League end their season with a battle for the title along with other entertainment including dancers, MC's and music.

Doors open at 12.30, the Women's Final is at 1:15 and the Men's Final is at 4:15.

If you would like to buy tickets they are available to purchase on ParentPay.

Book Bingo

I had the pleasure of speaking to these wonderful children about their learning today:

Reception:	Noah
Year 1:	Valentina
Year 2:	Indira
Year 3:	Matteo R
Year 4:	David
Year 5:	Tyler
Year 6:	Stepan

Thank you for your enthusiasm about your learning, it was wonderful to be able to talk to you about your fabulous books – thank you!

Academic Review Day

Please remember that next Friday, 9th February, is academic review day. This means that School will be closed for the usual learning, but please come into School at your individual appointment time with your child's class teacher. There will be a creche available in the hall for any siblings.

UNICEF Rights Respecting School



This week, we explored the world of advocacy and action as part of our ongoing UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools program. We focused on Articles 12 and 15, emphasising the importance of children's voices being

heard and their right to participate in decisions that affect them. We were inspired by remarkable youth advocates from around the world, including Autumn Peltier, Bruno Rodríguez, Ahn Seo-hyun, Zuriel Oduwole, Felix Finkbeiner, and Dujuan Hoosan, who have made significant impacts on various global issues.

Our UNICEF homework encourages our students to become advocates themselves by creating awareness posters or writing letters to local leaders, expressing their thoughts on changes they'd like to see in their community. This empowers our young learners to make a positive difference and ensures their voices are heard.

A big congratulations to Paari in Year 2, Milan in Year 3, Sena in Year 5, and Faith in Year 6 for their homework on the UNICEF articles that are important to them. Your outstanding work truly stood out to the UNICEF Ambassadors team. We are proud of your dedication and commitment to promoting children's rights and making a positive impact on the world.

Daffodil Competition

We hope that the children have been looking after the daffodil bulbs that they planted and took home before the Christmas break as our annual Daffodil Competition will take place on Tuesday 5th March. We are delighted that the Diamond Club will be judging the competition again this year. There will be prizes awarded for best in show and all entries will receive a certificate.

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week it is Children's Mental Health Week. Children will be participating in a range of activities in the classroom that support good

mental health. We always try and get the children to understand that we all have mental health and that sometimes it is bad but most of the time it is good. We will be working on different strategies to help them stay calm and how to move from one state to another.

Head of School Awards

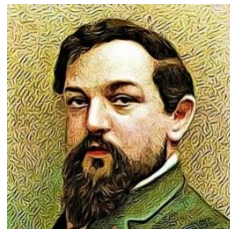
Ryszard in Year 4 for amazing RE work about the Hindu Faith.

Joyce in Year 6 for volunteering to serve on the altar by herself and doing a wonderful job.

Victor, Ebube, Oriah, Lisa, Faith, Eilish, Patrick and Matty in Year 6 for brilliant writing.

Wow! What wonderful superstars!

Composer of the Week: Claude Debussy



This week, we have delved into the world of music with Claude Debussy, a renowned composer known for his innovative and impressionistic compositions. Born in France in 1862, Debussy's music pushed the boundaries of traditional classical music, introducing new harmonies and tonal colours that continue to captivate audiences today. His famous works include "Clair de Lune" and "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun," which have left a lasting impact on the world of classical music.

Remember, to learn more about the composers that we are exploring in school visit the Music section of the school website.

Chocolate Award for Going Above and Beyond

Reception: Matthias
Year 1: Nathaniel
Year 2: Nicole
Year 3: Michelle
Year 4: Nicole
Year 5: Tyler
Year 6: Alyssa
Well done to all of you!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Catherine Mahony
Head of School

Message from Miss Collins:

It has been a very busy week - as always! I was on a course yesterday which was fascinating. It was all about inclusivity in schools and really made me reflect on all that we do here at Holy Cross. We have such a wonderfully inclusive School but there is always room for improvement! Just one week to go until the half term break now, goodness me this half term has flown by. Have a lovely weekend and enjoy time spent with those lovely children, what a blessing they are.

6.2.24	Safer Internet Day
7.2.24	Year 6 Class Mass 10am

9.2.24	Academic Review Day
12.2.24	Start of Half Term
19.2.24	School reopens at 8.45am Year 6 School Journey
22.2.24	First Lenten Breakfast
7.3.24	World Book Day
8..3.24	International Women's Day
15.3.24	Year 2 Class Assembly at 9.15am
27.3.24	Easter Bonnet Parade Passion Play at 6.30pm
28.3.24	School finishes at 2pm for Easter