

Holy Cross School Newsletter

Friday 8th March 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been another busy week for us here at Holy Cross. We have celebrated English Week, World Book Day, International Women's Day and the Mini Vinnie's Commissioning Mass alongside many other activities and of course lots of learning! We are almost half way through Lent with Sunday being Laetare Sunday also known as Mothering Sunday. Mothering Sunday is a celebration of the day in the church where you were baptized, becoming 'a child of the church'. People are traditionally encouraged to return to the church where they were baptized to celebrate Mass on Sunday. Wouldn't it be lovely if we were all able to do this?

Oscar Romero Award

We were delighted to hear that we have been awarded the Oscar Romero Award, Participator Level. My thanks to Mrs Wilson who has worked tremendously hard on ensuring that the Catholic Social Teachings are at the centre of what we do at Holy Cross. Below are some of the comments from the assessors:

"The Mission Statement clearly underpins the work of the school with Catholic Social Teaching (CST) at its heart. The evidence clearly shows the school is committed to all being treated with fairness and dignity, which is actively promoted by leaders and Governors. The local authority Race Equality pledge

has been embraced by the school. There is a wealth of pupil leadership in the strategic strand, which is then explored further in the practical strand. CAFOD resources are used in assemblies which ensures a consistent approach to address and action pertinent issues. The evidence provided for the Practical strand is strong and the range of opportunities for pupil leadership is to be commended. Opportunities are varied and encompass CST in their practice and values. Pupils are aware of the needs of others both locally and globally."

English Week

This week at Holy Cross we have celebrated English Week. This has been a celebration of reading and books, with DEAR time every day, more story times and sharing books across the classes. It has been a wonderful week listening to the children so enthusiastic about books and reading.

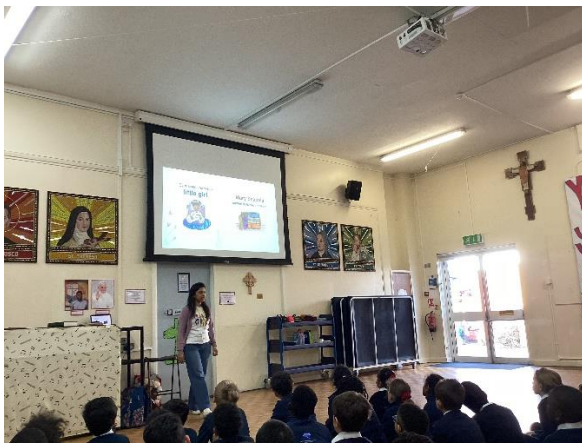


World Book Day



Yesterday we celebrated World Book Day, the children all came into School looking fabulous in their book costumes. We had a wonderful parade in the playground with an amazing audience, an assembly about reading where we also awarded prizes to winners of the Best Costume and Best Book in a Box competition, I know that it was a difficult decision! My thanks to Mrs Mole for organising such a fabulous day.

Author Visit



We had the pleasure of inviting author and illustrator Ramya Julian into School on Wednesday as part of our English Week celebrations. She spoke to all the children in assemblies and showed her beautiful books and discussed the content.

International Women's Day



Today we celebrated International Women's Day, with the theme this year being 'inspire inclusion'. We had an assembly with a very special visitor. Our local MP, Janet Daby, came to visit us and spoke about the importance of democracy and ensuring equal rights for all. Thank you, Janet for visiting us today and giving the children the opportunity to ask some really thoughtful questions, I know that nearly every child would have liked to ask you a question.

Lenten Breakfast



World Book Day Lenten breakfast is always a fun occasion and it was wonderful that so many of you joined with us, I think the croissants, pain au chocolate and the hot chocolate are certainly good additions to the breakfast menu! During the breakfast we are selling raffles tickets for the Easter raffle which will be drawn during the assembly on the last day of this term. We are looking for more donations of eggs for the Easter raffle and we would be very grateful for any additional eggs that we can put towards this.



Mini Vinnie's Commissioning Mass



On Tuesday, Year 5 joined with the children from St Augustine's for their Mini Vinnie's Commissioning Mass. It was a wonderful celebration with the two classes thinking about how they can support others in need, locally and internationally through charitable works. My thanks to Gwen Williams for supporting both Schools with this. Mission and Father Uduak from St Augustine's who led the Mass beautifully.

The Big Walk and Wheel

The Big Walk and Wheel Challenge begins on Monday and will continue for the following two weeks. We are hoping for as many children as possible to take part in the virtual competition by walking, cycling or scooting to School, highlighting the benefits of air quality in the neighbour hood and the benefits of active travel, as well as improving health and well-being. Please remember that children must

wear a cycle helmet if cycling or scooting to school. The Junior Travel Explorers will be collecting daily class scores and running a poster competition. All entries will win a small prize.

Composer of the Week: Florence Price



This week, we shone a spotlight on Florence Price as our Composer of the Week. Price, an African-American composer, was a trailblazer in the classical music world, breaking barriers with her talent and perseverance. Despite facing discrimination and adversity, she became the first African-American woman to have her symphony performed by a major orchestra. Price's compositions blended elements of European classical music with African-American spirituals, showcasing her unique voice and cultural heritage. Through her ground-breaking work, she paved the way for future generations of composers from all backgrounds. Remember, to learn more about the composers that we are exploring in school visit the Music section of the school website.

Daffodil Competition



On Tuesday we had our annual daffodil competition. We had varying sizes of daffodils this year, I think the weather has had a big part to play this year! Despite this we still had lots of entries. We were delighted that the Diamond Club were able to continue the tradition of judging the competition, a task that they always take very seriously. After much deliberation, the winners were decided:

EYFS: Eddison and Osinachi

KS1: Ifechi and Stirling

KS2: Emily and Chibuikem

Well done to all you green fingered children out there!



UNICEF Rights Respecting School



In celebration of World Book Day, we delved into the importance of literacy and education, echoing the sentiment of UNICEF Article 28, which emphasises every child's right to education. This special day serves as a reminder of the transformative power of books in enriching lives and broadening horizons.

As we commemorate this occasion, let's encourage our children to explore the magical world of literature, fostering a lifelong love for reading. For homework, we invite children to discover favourite books of their family and share their findings with the class.

Head of School Awards

Zachary in Year 4 for writing beautiful poems about rivers and rain.

Mila, Noah and Nyla in Nursery for being fabulous authors!

Hayden and Nathaniel in Reception for brilliant phonics work.

Danté in Year 5 for showing true Holy Cross values and being a superstar!

How fabulous! Well done to you all!!

Swimming Gala



Today, ten of our Year 5 and Year 6 children are taking part in the Lewisham Primary Schools Swimming Gala at the Glass Mill Leisure Centre in Lewisham. We would like to wish Chloe, Patrick, Ebube, Chioma and Victor from Year 6 and Tyler, Kayley, Ines, Gabby and Sam from Year 5 good luck for their races. My thanks also to Mrs Manning and Mrs Downton for accompanying the children and giving them this wonderful opportunity.

Chocolate Award for Going Above and Beyond

Reception	-	Hayden
Year 1	-	Nico
Year 2	-	Melody
Year 3	-	Matteo R
Year 4	-	Chisom
Year 5	-	Sienna
Year 6	-	Faith

What superstars, well done to you all.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and I would like to wish all the amazing women that you know a very special day on Sunday,

Catherine Mahony
Head of School

Message from Miss Collins:

Mini Vinnies Commissioning Mass, Governor's learning walk, Lenten Breakfast, World Book Day and International Women's Day ... you could say that it has been a busy week at Holy Cross! It is great to see the School so full of life and most importantly to see the children gaining so much from their primary education. We are determined to ensure that children at Holy Cross enjoy a broad curriculum which includes learning in all sorts of ways such as visits, experiences - there is a learning opportunity in everything we do!

As we start our Mother's Day weekend I would like to celebrate and thank all Mothers out there. You are true heroes and your daily acts of kindness, support, patience and love help to create children who enjoy receiving these but also learn to pass them on too. This weekend, I hope that all us Mums can put our feet up, relax and be pampered! Happy Mother's Day to you all.

15.3.24	Year 2 Class Assembly at 9.15am
27.3.24	Easter Bonnet Parade at 2.45pm Passion Play at 6.30pm
28.3.24	School finishes at 2pm for Easter
15.4.24	School starts at 8.45am
24.4.24	Class Photo Day
26.4.24	Year 1 Class Assembly at 9.15am
3.5.24	Year 5 Class Mass at 10am

17.5.24	Year 2 Class Trip to the Ragged Museum
24.5.24	Crowning of Mary at 2pm led by Year 3
27.5.24	Start of Half Term
3.6.24	Inset Day
4.6.24	Schools starts at 8.45am
19.6.24	Reception Class. Assembly at 9.15am
28.6.24	Year 3 Class Mass Big Summer Sing
4.7.24	Year 1 and 2 Beach Trip
16.7.24	Year 6 Performance at 6.30am
22.7.24	Leavers Mass at 1.45pm
23.7.24	School finishes at 2pm