

9th September 2022



Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year.

The children have made a wonderful start to the new school year. They have been very positive and happy in their attitudes to school and pleased to be back together with their friends. We have spent the week settling in and getting used to new teachers, adults, classrooms and routines. We have finished our week with a very uplifting mass to begin our new school year and to celebrate the feast of Holy Cross.

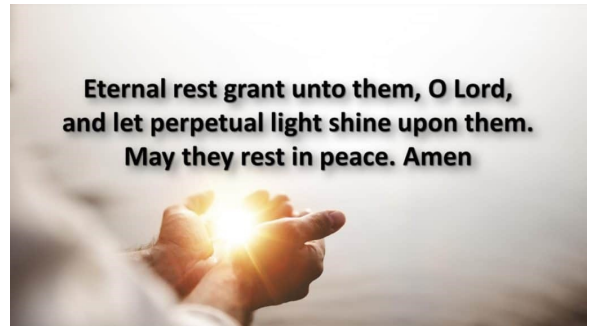
Sad news

It was with deep sadness that we learned the news that her Majesty the Queen has passed away yesterday evening. We had an assembly this morning and reassured the children that if they were sad and need to talk about their feelings; if they were feeling sad or worried, that we are here for them. We talked about how the Queen is now with God our Father and her family in heaven and that he is rewarding her for all of her hard work and service to our country. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us for 2 minutes silence this morning.

We are waiting to hear what the arrangements will be for the Queen's funeral and if any of the arrangements will impact our normal school operation, we will let you know as soon as possible.

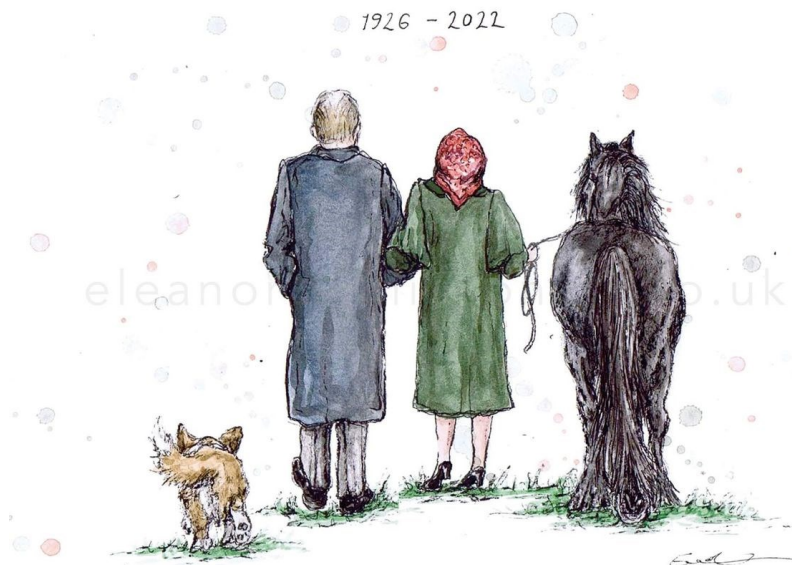


**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen**



Our beloved Queen

1926 - 2022



*"... we will be with our friends again; we will be with
our families again; we will meet again."*

~ HRH Queen Elizabeth II ~

Lining Up

We are getting used to our new lining up routine in the morning. The children are coming in to school calmly ready to start their day of learning. It is an opportunity to gather our whole school together at the start of the school day. Please remember that school starts at 8.45am and parents are able to leave children from 8.40am on the school playground when we blow the first whistle. We will open the school gates at 8.30am to prevent a queue forming outside on the road.

Healthy Snack

We will be reverting back to our healthy snack policy that was in place prior to Covid. Children may bring fruit and or vegetables to school for their snack and we would encourage parents to get reluctant fruit or vegetable eaters to enjoy these foods at home. This is in line with the Essex Healthy Schools guidance. If your child does not have a snack they may be hungry in the middle of the morning.

Please ensure that if you do not send in whole grapes or cherry tomatoes for your child. They must be cut lengthways due to the choking risk..



Coats and Uniform

There is a definite chill in the air and it has been raining this week. Please make sure that your child comes to school with a coat from Monday so that they do not get cold when they are outside. Also please choose whether your child is in our winter or summer uniform this term and we ask that you do not combine the two.



Burwell

Year 5 Robin Class are off to Burwell on Monday and we wish them lots of luck with their trip.



Seesaw

We will be changing how we communicate with parents in Key Stage Two as we will be moving from using Its Learning to SEESAW. You will be receiving log in details from the office next week and we will let you know when we plan to go live with it.

Whats App

Technology is wonderful and makes communicating so easy between individuals and groups. We know that all the classes have Whats App groups and understand that parents will find this way of communicating fast and effective. Do please bear in mind to only share information with the permission of other people and that some matters are private which other parents may not want shared with a larger group of people.

Childrens' Liturgy Group and Youth Group

This will take place at the 5.30pm Mass on Saturday evening. The Youth Group will take place on the 19th September and the 14th October from 6.00-7.30pm

BACK TO SCHOOL



Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals in Key Stage 2

Our school can obtain additional funding to support your child's education and if you're a parent whose child is in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) they could avail of free school lunches. Please read the information below and if this applies to you, please contact us as detailed.

Pupil Premium

If you meet any of the eligibility criteria below, our school will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at our school to help your child.

At Holy Cross, we receive an extra £1,385 for every eligible pupil who is registered.

To apply please contact admin@holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk or telephone Mrs. Thomas on 01279-424452

Free School Meals in Key Stage 2

Children in E.Y.F.S, Years 1 and 2 are automatically entitled to a free school lunch under the Governments' Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme, this stops when children enter Year 3.

However, if you meet the eligibility criteria below, your child may be entitled to a free school lunch.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria below, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

To apply please use this link
<https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you are receiving any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income below £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, with a household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No, pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive funding which can support your child in other ways.

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

Monday 12th September

Robins Burwell trip

Tuesday 13th September

Meet the teacher 3:20

Wednesday 14th September

Robins return from Burwell

Year 6, St Marks visit

Thursday 15th September

Meet the teacher 3:20

Friday 16th September

Please download our News & Events App for dates for the year. Details are available on the schools website under News & Events at www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk

ATTENDANCE MATTERS





Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Grasshoppers achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are Hares attaining a fantastic 100% attendance. Well done!

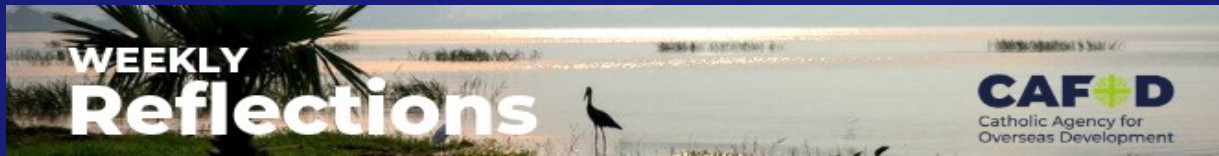
Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning. The gates open at **8:30am** until **8.50am**.

Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of COVID 19. If your child displays any COVID 19 symptoms they must have a negative test before they may attend school. There is no need to keep your child off with a common cold, if they are well enough to come in.

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Pupil Asset report absence option on every day of absence. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school.

Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

	Butterflies	/	
	Ladybirds	/	
	Dragonflies	98%	
	Grasshoppers	99%	
	Hedgehogs	98%	
	Squirrels	98%	
	Badgers	99%	
	Foxes	97%	
	Hares	100%	
	Rabbits	96%	
	Kingfishers	95%	
	Robins	99%	
	Eagles	99%	
	Owls	96%	



Based on the gospel for Sunday 11 September, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 15: 1-32

"There will be rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner."

In this Sunday's gospel we hear different parables all telling us of the great love that God has for us. We are reminded of the marvel of the free will that God has granted us, of the amazing compassion that he shows to each of us when we lose our way and his rejoicing when we return to him.

Yet how many times do we choose to resist God's loving ways? Perhaps we are stuck in our dutiful, righteous, resentful ways, like the second brother in the parable of the lost son. Or maybe we are wayward like sheep who wander from their shepherd and lose their way.

The woman who loses a coin is persistent in looking for it, knowing it can be found. Our God, our good God, is so persistent looking for us, shouting for us, calling out to us day by day. This is the compassionate father who welcomes the wandering son and says to the reluctant son you are always with me.

So let us become more aware of God's loving presence all around us. Let us seek to be more like him. Let us search for ways to welcome the lost, to show compassion and be persistent in crying out for justice.

Compassionate and just God, thank you that your loving presence is always there, holding us close. We thank you that you can see more goodness in us than we do in ourselves. Thank you that you rejoice so much when we return to you. Help us to be compassionate like you and welcoming to those who are far from home. Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

God works through unplanned events, as well as through setbacks. Let us ask the Lord to send us His Spirit so that He might help us to discern and to recognise His presence even in the unforeseen and painful situations in our lives.