

GOSPEL: VALUE: Our Gospel Value this coming week is INTEGRITY. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

Weekly Reflection

We have been reflecting on the readings from Mass last Sunday when we heard the parable of the 10 Bridesmaids, 5 who were wise and 5 who were foolish (Matthew 25: 1-13). The wise bridesmaids were organised and ready with their lamps to greet the bridegroom and the foolish bridesmaids were not ready because they ran out of oil. Much of modern-day life is reflected in this parable where we live such fast paced and busy lives that often the important things can pass us by and we are left feeling empty, when we have missed out on an opportunity.

We have talked with the children about Jesus's message to us; to stop, pause and think about what we need to do to be closer to God. We need to have our hearts ready to receive God and let Him into our lives. We must be ready and take time for our spiritual wellbeing so that we can feel the warmth and the richness of God's love all around us,

I hope that you all have a great weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Family Mass

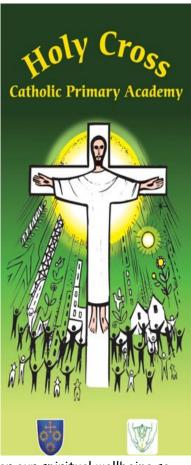
It was wonderful to see so many families at our Family Mass last Saturday evening. I felt very proud of all of the children and it gave me a real moment of happiness to see our school and our parish together. Our readers and helpers in the Mass did exceptionally well and my thanks to the children and to their parents for helping them to prepare. We will be having another Family Mass in the spring term and hope to join with St Luke's Primary School.

Year 5 and Year 6 Class Mass

We are extending a warm welcome to the families of our Year 5 and 6 pupils, to join us for their Class Mass next Thursday 23rd November at 2pm. No need to let us know if you are coming; we look forward to celebrating Mass together with you.

Antibullying Week

We have focused this week on stopping bullying in our school community and what to do if we see bullying taking place, what bullying is and the different forms it takes. Our assembly on Thursday focused on 'making a noise' to stop bullying and the importance of speaking up both if we are being bullied or if we see bullying. I have written a letter to parents about how they can support the school and pupils with preventing bullying and in particular tackling bullying online-Cyberbullying. Please take time to read this.



Parent Consultations

We value your feedback about our school and would like to offer you the opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings. Please follow the link below to complete the online questionnaire:

https://forms.office.com/e/AOLPYE7iF9

School Uniform-Ties

I sincerely appreciate the effort that families are making to ensure that their child is in the correct school uniform. The children have all looked smarter this week. I have noticed that several children in Key Stage 2 are wearing the ties on elastic and not the proper tie. Please make sure that your child is wearing the correct tie for their Key Stage.

Staff Car Park

We have noticed an increasing number of parents and carers cutting through the staff car park before school and at the end of the day. We kindly ask that you do not use this as a walk through, for your safety. It is a very tight space and manoeuvring can be difficult, the last thing we want is for anyone to be knocked down.

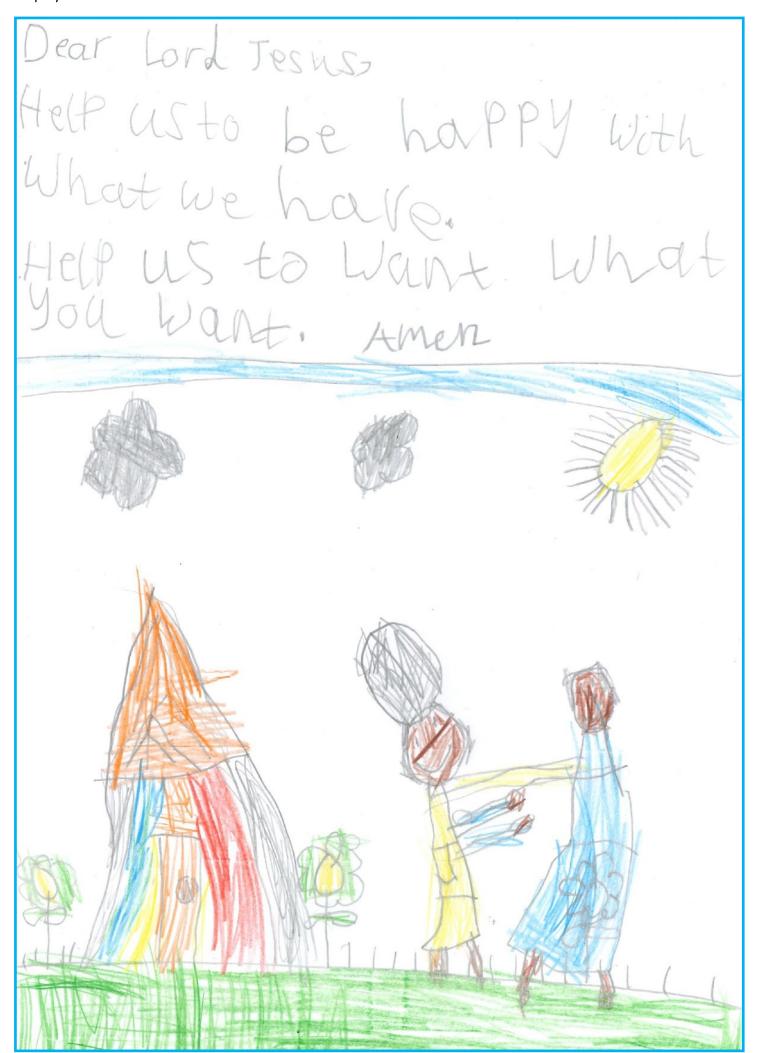
If you do attempt to walk through, we will ask you to walk around and request that you respond respectfully to staff if you are reminded about accessing the school through the main gate.

Year 3 Trip to the Town Centre

On Monday and Tuesday Year 3 visited Harlow Town Centre for our Geography trip. We completed a range of different activities including a shop survey, human traffic survey, seeing how loud different areas of town are, map making and interviews with members of the public to see what they think about Harlow. We also got a chance to go into the Gibberd Gallery inside the Civic centre to look at the artwork and practise our sketching skills that we have been learning in Art. The children had a great time, even though it was quite windy and wet! Staff at the Gallery and members of the public complimented the children on their behaviour and how well they listened and worked.







What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

@*#/

GET CONNECTED

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

99

3. STAY VIGILANT

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to. Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0808 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'lighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.







National



@natonlinesafety







The Diana Award definition of bullying is "repeated negative behaviour that is intended to make others feel upset, uncomfortable or unsafe." Cyberbullying is bullying which takes place online. It can involve anything from sending messages to posting offensive comments to uploading and sharing private or embarrassing photos. It is classed as an indirect form of bullying when compared to verbal or physical bullying, given it usually takes place through a digital device. However, for those experiencing bullying behaviour, the consequences can be just as serious and have far reaching effects.



What schools need to know about

3 KEY ASPECTS OF BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

There are three key aspects of bullying behaviour, namely that it is repetitive, negative and intentional. These behaviours apply both offline and online. Cyberbullying can almost heighten these behaviours, particularly with access to the internet available 24/7 and the different ways in which those displaying bullying behaviour online can target others. The fact that they can also easily hide their identity online can make cyberbullying much more difficult to stop.



DIFFERENT DEVICES & CHANNELS

Cyberbullying can take place over any device connected to the internet which allows for two-way communication. This includes mobile phones, tablets, computers and even games consoles as it becomes more and more common for players to chat to other players whilst playing online. From a snapshot of 1,400 students surveyed by the Diana Award in 2018, 33% of young people admitted to have experienced bullying on social media, 11% via text message and 12% whilst online gaming.



WHAT LEADS TO CYBERBULLYING

There is never any justification for cyberbullying and those who display bullying behaviour need to be held to account for their actions. Nonetheless, it can useful to try and understand some of the factors that may lead young people into bullying behaviour. For example, family issues, personal difficulties and a lack of positive reinforcement may push some young children into bullying others as a form of coping mechanism. Similarly, those exhibiting bullying behaviour may blame their targets for provoking their behaviour in the first place or engage in bullying behaviour as a call for attention if they lack social skills or understanding. Others may view their position as dominant which makes themselves less vulnerable to being bullied or they replicate behaviour they have experienced themselves in the past.



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Cyberbullying can affect anyone, at any time, at any place. The impacts of cyberbullying can be long-lasting and leave people feeling scared, anxious and lonely. Some of the more obvious signs that those experiencing bullying behaviour might show include weight loss, crying, mood changes, depression and regularly avoiding school. Other symptoms, which might be less obvious to spot and would be difficult to pick up on in isolation, may include changes in body language like hunched shoulders, walking slower or an inability to make eye-contact. In extreme cases, those experiencing bullying behaviour may have unexplained marks or scars which could be evidence of self-harm.







Tips for School Staff

2.#*!





TAKE A WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH

In taking a whole approach towards cyberbullying, schools can cultivate a culture that relies on positivity and behaviour that is emulated by ALL members of the school community including staff, support staff, senior leaders, governors and parents and carers.



BUILD CONFIDENCE IN DEALING WITH INCIDENTS

This can be achieved by having clear knowledge of what constitutes bullying behaviour, having clear sanctions and courses of action and continually updating your knowledge of safety procedures regarding online and offline incidents.



USE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS A RESOURCE

Ensure you understand what is influencing the behaviour of young people in your community. If schools know what their students are engaging with, it can be easier to develop and implement relevant and effective tactics / strategies to counter cyberbullying issues.



UNDERSTAND THE CAUSES OF BULLYING

As previously mentioned, sometimes those who are behind the bullying are in need of As previously mentioned, sometimes those who are benind the builying are in need of support just as much as those who being targeted. In better understanding the cause of the issue, schools can better position themselves to tackle the problem and also adequately support both those displaying and experiencing the builying behaviour. Taking a proactive approach means that schools can gear themselves to tackle issues specific to their school environment, rather than treating each case the same.



All staff have a role to play in educating and supporting children who All start nave a role to play in educating and supporting children who are affected by cyberbullying, not just those responsible for safeguarding or online safety. Regular training, continuous professional development and clear school policies can help to empower staff in effectively managing any cyberbullying issues and in providing a united staff front on zero tolerance to all bullying behaviour.





Ask For Help

For further support, advice or guidance to support you students at school, or to sign up to our FREE Anti-Bullying Ambassadors training events, head to

www.antibullyingpro.com



Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety



Holy Cross School Council will be collecting parcels for Operation Christmas Child from

6th— 20th November 2023

A leaflet will be sent home with your child via class which will provide all instructions of what you can put in a shoe box and labels for the age and gender of the child.

Additional labels will be in the School office

For more information on Operation Christmas Child and what to put in a shoe box, please click on the following link:

https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/







ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Grasshoppers, achieving 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Rabbits, attaining 99% 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.

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. If you do not notify us of the reason for your child's absence it may not be authorised.

Absences over 3 days require supporting medical evidence, for the additional absence to be authorised. Medical evidence can take the form of prescriptions, antibiotics and medical appointments.

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

| Butterflies | 88% |
|--------------|-----|
| Ladybirds | 89% |
| Dragonflies | 86% |
| Grasshoppers | 98% |
| Hedgehogs | 89% |
| Squirrels | 94% |
| Badgers | 93% |
| Foxes | 93% |
| Hares | 93% |
| Rabbits | 99% |
| Kingfishers | 88% |
| Robins | 94% |
| Eagles | 98% |
| Owls | 92% |
| | |





Gospel Value Awards Justice

- fairness and equality

"And will not God grant justice..." (18: 7) The Parable of the Ten Pounds (19: 11-26)



Congratulations to the following children who received the Gospel values certificate this week.

Dragonflies: Indila Grasshoppers: Allison

Hedgehogs: Naomi Squirrels: Neave

Badgers: Hayley Foxes: Aoife

Hares: April Rabbits: Indiana

Kingfishers: Sophie Robins: Albert

Eagles: Harvey Owls: Thomas







Times Tables Rockstars

Congratulations to the following children for trying really hard with their times tables this week.

Squirrels: Myles Badgers: Luka Foxes: Krzysztof Hares: Jacob Ollie Rabbits: Zofia Robins: Eagles: Aurora Owls: Mark



Based on the gospel for Sunday 19 November, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 25:14-30

"Jesus said, 'Well done you good and faithful servant.'"

One way to reflect on this parable is to remember that we must use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbours. The important word is 'use'.

All over the world there are many problems that people face. Overcrowding, no sanitation or fresh water, hunger, illness, violence, wars, all types of abuse, floods and earthquakes, forest fires. It seems that almost every day we hear about new horrors.

We may feel it is too much to think about, and be overcome with despair. But we can all do something to help if only we use the gifts we have been given.

You may remember the saying:

"I expect to pass through this life but once. If therefore there is any kindness I can show, or any good things I can do to my fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

God of all people,
Jesus calls us to be
like good and faithful servants.
Help us to work with you
for the growth of mercy
and goodness in the world.
May we make the best use of
all you have given us.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Every human being, of any people or religion, every human being is sacred, is precious in the eyes of God and has the right to live in peace. Let us not lose hope: let us pray and work tirelessly so that a sense of humanity may prevail over hardness of heart.

Wednesday 15th November 2023 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



Encountering Christ Prayerfully preparing for the Sunday Mass and praying in particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 19th November 2023 - The Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

The Gospel for Sunday 19th November 2023 (Matthew 25:14-15.19-21): A Story about Talents

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

It is encouraging to think of all the talents which friends and neighbours have and which I don't have. It is all part of the gifts of the Spirit, which Paul sees as making up the whole Body of Christ. Everyone has a special contribution to make. As for me, it is extraordinary that God created me with all my twists, defects, fears and failures and it is precisely because of those boils, sores, abscesses that God loves me, helps me and guides me to work out my salvation. And it is just possible that there may be friends who can think that God has given me talents which make a tiny contribution to the happiness and goodness of the world. In the longer version of this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus mentions a man with just one talent who hides it in the ground: the master calls him "wicked and lazy" and has him thrown out. Why is he so severely treated? This is surely someone who resolutely turns his (or her) back on the goodness she (or he) has received and refuses to work with it for the Lord's purposes or for anyone else's. Such a talent goes to waste and merely rusts and corrupts. If I know anyone like that, it is just worth asking whether, with infinite and patient kindness, I can help that person to release their talent and bring it to blossom.

Just think for a moment: what is your best talent? Is it a gift, skill or humour which brings joy and happiness to those around you? Are you like the man who buried his talent in the ground, or do you use this skill or gift or wisdom to bring joy to others?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB



Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +





First Reading: A Woman about the House

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her; from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax; she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff; her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor; she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The gospel parable is about a man who is an astute administrator, and this first reading delicately pairs it with a woman who is a shrewd businesswoman, running her household and her cottage industry capably, wisely and generously in reverence for the Lord. The Bible is often felt to be unduly male-oriented (an accusation often made also against the Church), but this was the normal state of society in biblical times. Nevertheless, a succession of remarkable women appear in the pages of the Old Testament; they are real partners to their husbands, and they often provide the motive force in the pursuit of the fulfilment of God's promises. In the New Testament too, besides Mary and Jesus' female followers in the gospels, we see Jesus valuing women. Particularly the playful scenes between Jesus and the Samaritan woman and the Canaanite (or Syro-Phoenician) woman spring to mind. In Paul's letters and apostolate women play important roles, even leadership roles, working with Paul to establish his communities - women like Chloe, Phoebe, Junia. Indeed, the first convert to Christianity in Europe was a woman, Lydia.

What gifts do I have that (like the gifts of the woman in Proverbs) give praise to the Lord?

Second Reading: A Thief in the Night

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

That final day when the Lord will set right all injustice.

Paul had obviously taught the new Christians at Thessalonika that Christ had conquered death, so that death had no more grasp on Christians. So they were puzzled that Christians nevertheless died. Paul explains in his letter to them that Christians who have died will be the first to rise up and join the returning Christ in his triumphant procession. Only after them will come those who are still alive. However, Paul's principal stress is on the unpredictability of the Day of the Lord, that final day when the Lord will set right all injustice. It makes little difference whether I imagine meeting the Lord on the great Day of the Final Judgement, or meeting with the Lord personally at my own death. I know that it is very unlikely that I will be ready ("If only I had just a little more time to prepare!" is my constant excuse) and that I will not be in a fit state to face the glorious, pure wonder of divine love. The Day will come as unexpectedly as a thief in the night or the pains of childbirth, with that same finality and inescapability.

How may I best prepare for the coming of the Day of the Lord?

The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday this week to ...

Olivia, Reginald, Layla, Kiera, Olivia, Rose, Hayley, & Dennis



Headteacher Award

Toby and David, for being amazing authors and illustrators

Golden Awards:

Dragonflies: Autumn, for her amazing attitude to her learning

Grasshoppers: Harley, for his excellent attitude to learning in all subjects

Hedgehogs: Hermione, for sincere and thoughtful work on Remembrance Day

Squirrels: Andreas, for his great attitude towards his learning

Tawana, for being a fantastic role model to her peers Badgers:

Mayah, for a fantastic effort when writing a scene story Foxes:

Hares: Archie, for demonstrating an amazing understanding of Confirmation in RE

Keaton, for his amazing home made musical instruments Rabbits:

Kingfishers: David, for his amazing writing linked to the Highwayman

Robins: Aurora, for always producing outstanding homework

Filip, for producing a fantastic piece of homework Eagles:

Owls: Alana, for excellent work in numeracy

Menu week 2

Dates Diary

All clubs are 15:15 to 16:15

Monday 20th November

Owls swimming

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy

Lunchtime

Space club

Year 1 Football

Year 2 Football

Years 5 & 6 Computing club

Years 3 to 6 International club

Years 3 to 6 French club

Years 1 & 2 Scrapbook club

Years 3 to 6 CAFOD Enterprise club

Years 3 to 6 Boccia

Years 1 & 2 Gymnastics

Tuesday 21st November

Reception Reading Zone

Years 3 to 6 Geography

club, lunchtime

Years 3 to 6 Basketball

club

Years 1 and 2 Dance club

Years 3 to 6 Spanish club

Wednesday 22nd November

Reception Reading Zone

KS1 Karate

Thursday 23rd November

Reception Reading Zone

Robins library 11:00

Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy

lunchtime

Year 5 & 6 Mass 14:00

KS2 Karate

Year 1 Storytelling club,

lunchtime

Year 2 Storytelling club,

Years 3 and 4 Football

Years 5 and 6 Football

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St Patrick's

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

Ausonterett

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

Friday 24th November

INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS