



15th December 2023



GOSPEL: VALUE: As we continue our journey through Advent we are keeping all of our Gospel Value close to our hearts.

Weekly Reflection

We have been reflecting on the readings from Mass last Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent and the importance of making a straight and even path to welcome Jesus into our lives. The children reflected on how we can make the best path to welcome Jesus by following our Gospel Values.

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.' **Mark 1: 3**

We have also been thinking about the gifts that we exchange at Christmas and that they do not need to be physical gifts. We hear in our new Holy Cross carol, Christmas isn't Christmas, that 'Jesus brings gift of truth and love' and we remember that we do not need expensive gifts, that the real meaning of Christmas is showing kindness and love to each other. I shared with the children that they have given me the gift of a Christmas carol with 'On a Starry Night' as I had never heard it until I came to Holy Cross. In return I have given our school the gift of my favourite carol, Christmas isn't Christmas. Both carols have brought so much happiness this week.



For many Christmas is a magical time of joy and happiness but for some, Christmas can be a very stressful and difficult time of the year with added worries and pressures. I ask that all members of our school family please show kindness, patience and understanding towards each other and awareness that we can't always see the challenges that others may be facing. Thank you.

I hope that you all have a great weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Reports

You will have received a copy of your child's report today. Please sign the copy and return it to their class teacher before the end of term.

Carol Concerts

Our Year 2 and our Year 3 children presented 2 wonderful carol concerts this week. The Year 2 pupils remembered so many lines and their performance was beautiful and very moving. The singing was incredible, and well done to our amazing Choir who supported the Year 2 children.

Our Year 3 performance was also fantastic and more 'grown up' as the children read passages from the Gospel and shared their own prayers. My sincere thanks to all the teachers and support staff for helping the children to prepare for their performances. My thanks also to parents and families for your support.

Late Mark and Unauthorised Absence

We have changed our Attendance Policy to reflect an earlier time that constitutes unauthorised absence if your child is late. To remind everyone; the school gates open at 8.30am, but parents must remain with their child until the first whistle at 8.40am and this is a sign for children to get into their class line. We will then ring the school bell at 8.45am and the children will file into school; registers will open at 8.50am. The registers will close at 9.00am (along with the playground gate) and then if your child arrives after this time they will be late up to 9.15am. If they arrive after 9.15am they will receive an unauthorised absence mark. Late marks and unauthorised absence are monitored by our Education and Welfare Officer.

If it is extremely cold in the morning we will bring the children straight in to school. This will be decided every morning so please still plan to arrive on the playground on time and remain with your child from Years Reception to Year 5, until the whistle blows at 8.40am.

Christmas cards

This year each Year group will have its own special North Pole post bag where the children can put any cards that they have written to their friends. These will be given out every few days in class.

Our Eco Councillors have also arranged for a large yellow recycling bin to be put outside the entrance so that everyone can recycle their Christmas cards.

Term dates

A reminder that our last day of this term will be Tuesday 19th December and that we will finish at 1.30pm on this day. There no After School club on this day. We return to school on Thursday 4th January. Next term, we will have an INSET day on Friday 16th February. All of the term dates are available by following this link to the school website: <https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+dates&pid=134>

After School Club

We have plans underway to relaunch our After-School Club provision, in January. We are working on the details at the moment and we look forward to sharing these with parents next week. Watch this space!

Parents in the school building

A reminder that parents must not enter the school building unless they are accompanied by a member of school staff. **This is for safeguarding reasons.** We have noticed an increasing number of parents in the cloakrooms and hallways at the start and end of the day and after clubs looking for lost property. Please do not do this. We are happy to look for items which may have gone missing and ask that you come to the school office if you require assistance with this.

Lost Property

Please check the Lost Property box in the entrance hall for anything your child may have mislaid. We will be putting any unnamed and unclaimed school uniform into the Uniform Shop if not collected, on the last day of term.

Parking

I would like to remind parents and families that they are not permitted to park in the staff carpark at drop off and pick up. Please do not access this carpark via the barrier unless there is an agreement with the office. Please park at Nichols Field and walk the short distance along the path. Also, please park with consideration for others and for residents.

Festive Hampers

Well done to all the lucky winners of our class hampers. We raised an amazing £741, which will go straight into funds to improve the school for the children. Many thanks to everyone who made a donation and bought tickets.

Rock Steady Concert

On Monday, children who take Rock Steady music lessons put on a concert for their parents, in which they showcase what they have been learning this term.



Year 2 Polar Express

Year 2 had a Polar Express day today. The children had a lovely day boarding the Polar Express in their pyjamas and slippers.



The Words of Pope Francis

Love makes us happy not only in heaven, but also here on earth. If we want to be truly happy, then let us learn to transform everything into love, offering others our work and our time, speaking kindly words and doing good deed. We can do it!

Holy Cross Parish Church Christmas Services

Saturday 23rd December:	Family Mass	5.30 pm
Christmas Eve:	Family Mass	5:30pm
	Carol Service	9pm
	Mass	10pm
Christmas Day:	Mass	11am



Essex Library Service

Winter Reading Challenge



**Saturday
25 November
to Saturday
3 February**



**Travel around the world with Lyra this
winter and meet lots of new animal friends!**

Collect your booklet from any Essex library.



@essexlibraries



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Hedgehogs achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Hares, attaining 98% 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	91%
Ladybirds	96%
Dragonflies	89%
Grasshoppers	97%
Hedgehogs	99%
Squirrels	94%
Badgers	94%
Foxes	97%
Hares	98%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	95%
Robins	97%
Eagles	96%
Owls	97%

September — Christmas Break			
Percentage Attendance	Hours of education lost	Weeks missed at school	School days missed
100%	0	0	0
97%	10	0	2
95%	17.5	0	3.5
90%	35	1wk 2dys	7
86%	50	2wks	10
80%	70	2wks 4dys	14
75%	87.5	3wks 2.5dys	17.5
70%	105	4wks 1dy	21
60%	140	5wks 3dys	28
50%	175	7wks	35

Lost Hours of Education

Maintaining a high school attendance percentage is such an important factor in your child's success in learning.

Your child's attendance percentage is available to view on the Pupil Asset and on their report.

The table above shows you what this means in terms of lost hours of learning, this term.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

18
CENSORED

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipol.app/about/privacy.html>

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Gospel Value Awards

Gentleness

- love and friendship

"If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also." (6:29) Samaritan Village (9:54)

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



Dragonflies: Zekari

Grasshoppers: Nihin

Hedgehogs: Dennis

Squirrels: Aidan

Badgers: Albie

Foxes: Lucas

Hares: Hendrix

Rabbits: Dylan

Kingfishers: David

Robins: Giuseppe

Eagles: Jermaine

Owls: Alana



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs: Luca

Squirrels: Declan & Antoni

Badgers: Kodie

Foxes: Keziah

Hares: Anayah

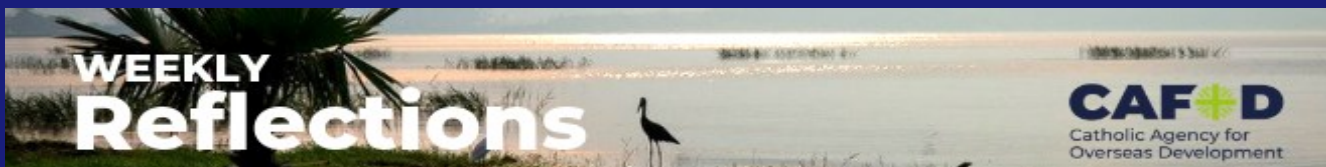
Rabbits: Emmanuella

Kingfishers: Emilie

Robins: Ollie

Eagles: Phoebe

Owls: William



"He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade." (Psalm 1:3)

"Happy the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord," the psalmist tells us, comparing such an individual to a fruitful tree planted beside water.

Trees are vital to our planet and to our survival. They absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. They protect the soil, provide habitats for wildlife and give us fruits and medicines, materials for tools and shelter.

Ten-year-old Rakhi lives with her family in an eco-village in southern Bangladesh, an area which often experiences extreme weather challenges brought about by the climate crisis.

She enjoys stories and running and playing with friends, but her favourite thing is helping her mother plant trees. Last year, storm Amphan uprooted the trees and destroyed much of what Rakhi and her mother had grown.

Rakhi recalls: "I feel sad when the trees die. Last year, a lot of trees, even banana trees, were destroyed during that big Amphan storm."

Thankfully, Rakhi's mother Ratna worked with a CAFOD-funded community group, the Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development, to learn more about sustainable gardening techniques.

The training allowed Ratna and her daughter to restart their own garden and grow their own fruit and flower trees. They already grow their own organic papaya, mango and coconuts which they can eat and sell at the local market, giving the family an extra source of income.

Rakhi told us: "Older people listen to you less, but they should listen more. If they did, I'd tell them all to plant more vegetables, and plant lots of tall trees."

This Advent, let's stand in solidarity with Rakhi as we face the climate crisis. And let's allow the images in today's psalm to encourage us to live our Christian life grounded in creation and rooted in God's love, growing in compassion and community each day.

Creator God,
rooted in your love,
may we grow in wisdom and gentleness,
delighting in your law,
learning to care for the earth
and for each other.
Amen

Encountering Christ

*Prayerfully preparing for the Sunday Mass,
with special prayers for our school families*

1 Relax

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 17th December 2023
A Voice Crying in the Desert

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then, 'they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: "A voice that cries in the wilderness: make a straight way for the Lord."' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the Prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Taken from John 1:6-8. 19-28. The Third Sunday in Advent, Year B



3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering the Gospel, continue by reading this reflection.

So, John the Baptist came as a witness to the light. In today's gospel reading he seems rather to refuse witness. He is quite negative, answering with a stalwart and repeated 'No!'. He witnesses only that 'There is one standing among you whom you do not know'. It is not always easy to find Jesus. All the way through the Gospel of John there are misunderstandings about Jesus; people fail to recognise him for what he is: there's the Samaritan at the well, Nicodemus in the night, Mary Magdalene beside the empty tomb, even Peter and the disciples as they fish on the Lake. We can easily become so wrapped up in our own troubles and worries that we fail to recognise the one figure who can provide the solution to them, although he is standing among us, the one who 'has the words of eternal life'. He may come to us in a way we do not like, as a corrective - blocking or diverting the way we have chosen. He may come as suffering, disappointment, failure or bereavement. All of these may be acts of God's love, to show us the way, though we cannot see it at the time. It is just like John the Baptist, saying steadily 'No!', until eventually we turn around and see Christ as our true light.

How can I find Jesus in the crowded events of my busy life? He often comes in unexpected ways. Is he in the quiet voice of a friend? Is he in the anger of someone I have annoyed? Is he in the rebuke of someone who knows me better than I know myself? Is he in my failures and frustrations?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 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. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, joy or something else.

5 Remember

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for the Church and particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as: St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**The Wednesday Word is under
the patronage of St Joseph.**

Within the tradition of the Catholic Church,
each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph
wednesdayword.org



Art:
Bee
Still
Studio

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 17th December 2023



1

1st Reading: *Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11*

Good News for the Poor

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

.....

The Book of Isaiah reflects the thoughts and prayers of Israel over at least two hundred years. The original prophet Isaiah was speaking in Jerusalem in 740 BC. Further prophecies were added during the Babylonian Exile in the 6th century BC, and still more after the return from Exile. Through them all runs the promise that God will send his Spirit upon his Chosen One. In the first part there is the wonderful promise of a sevenfold Spirit which we always associate with Confirmation. In the dark days of the Exile came the prophecy of 'my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have sent my Spirit upon him', which is echoed at Jesus' baptism. Now, after the return from Exile, we are presented with this prophecy in today's reading of the Anointed One to whom the Spirit has been given so that he may heal. All these promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus also gives his Spirit to his followers, and it is our task, as we live by the Spirit, to heal, to bring good news to the poor and to bind up hearts that are broken.

What does it mean to you to "live by the Spirit"?

2

2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Joy in the Lord

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

.....

Writing to the Thessalonians, Paul gives his final blessing, asking that they may be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are now waiting for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Paul was waiting in a very different sense. He was waiting for the coming of Christ at the end of the world, a triumphal procession in which we would join Christ 'in the clouds' as he presented the whole universe to his Father as God's completed kingdom. We don't always see things in such dramatic, pictorial terms, but we do know that the whole universe is focused on God, and will reach its fulfilment only when his sovereignty is complete, when the world has been transformed by God's divine life in Christ.

What am I planning to do this Christmas to bring God's love and healing just one step closer?

“We do know that the whole universe is focused on God.”

The Wednesday Word Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

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Wednesday
13th December



**Good News
for Families**

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

A man came who was sent by God. His name was John, John the Baptist. He came as a witness – as a witness to Jesus Christ. Priests were sent from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" John replied, "I am not the Christ." "Are you the prophet Elijah then – or the Prophet?" they asked. He answered, "No." "So, who are you?" they asked. "What have you to say about yourself?" John replied, "I am the voice of the one who cries in the wilderness: 'Make the Lord's way straight.'" Finally they asked him, "Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John said, "I baptise with water. But someone is coming soon who is more powerful than I am." This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the River Jordan, where John was baptising.



From the Gospel of Sunday 17th December 2023 John 1:6-8. 19-28 (the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **JOY**.



2

Wednesday's Word is

JOY



"Dear young people, if we are close to Jesus, we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face." Pope Francis

Who did John the Baptist come to tell the people about? This weekend we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent which is known as 'Gaudete Sunday', and we light the pink candle on our advent wreath. The word 'Gaudete' in Latin means 'Rejoice!'. We joyfully celebrate that Christmas is near - we rejoice that Christ is coming. Ask your child what the word 'joy' means to them. Each of you say who or what makes you feel joyful. When do you feel joyful? When was the last time you brought joy to others and what did you do? God wants us to be filled with joy - Jesus came to make our joy complete. Happiness comes and goes, but the joy that comes from close friendship with Jesus stays forever.

"Joy is very infectious; therefore, always be full of joy." St Teresa of Calcutta

Joy is something we all desire. We don't have to search around for joy: it comes from within. When we follow Jesus by loving God and others, we are filled with joy! A joyful heart is a sign of God's Spirit within us. What can you do to help bring joy to others in this coming week? Perhaps you can: give lots of smiles; give someone a gift; remind someone that they are loved by God; cheerfully do what our parents or teachers ask us to do. In these ways we prepare our hearts to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help our family to experience the joy that you bring, and to share your joy with all those that we meet. Amen.

WEDNESDAY
WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

PRIESTS
ASKEDJOHN
REPLIEDSOMEONE
SOONJESUS
CHRIST

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

N	H	O	J	S	D	J	R	H	C	J
D	E	I	L	P	E	R	E	L	H	T
E	S	O	M	E	O	N	E	S	R	K
D	E	K	S	A	J	N	A	P	I	T
L	P	J	S	O	O	N	P	H	S	A
J	R	T	E	E	H	J	E	I	T	S
E	I	E	M	O	N	S	R	E	P	H
S	E	O	L	O	U	H	D	L	J	K
U	S	M	O	S	C	A	S	K	E	D
S	T	S	E	I	R	P	T	M	O	S
J	S	J	L	R	E	P	L	I	E	D

dasocon podwercaful Jochand disca

_____ the Baptist said, "Someone ____ coming

_____ who is more _____ than I am."

Cross out the letters **c d a** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the humble witness of John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen. John delivered the joyful news of God's arrival into our world in the person of Jesus - he recognised Jesus as the Christ.

We often don't recognise Jesus when he comes, when he is standing among us.

But be assured: Jesus is always with us, waiting to fill us with joy.

Happy Birthday this week to...

Melina, Vicky, Tomas, Miles, Jaxon, Keziah, William, Malachi, Felicity, Vivienne, Evie & Zakary

Happy Birthday next week and in the Christmas holidays to...

Nayt, Arthur, Yohanna, Cristina, Toby, Jan, Samuel, Eddie, Adaora, Keaton, Cristiana, Catherine, Salem, Holly, Helith & Brody



Headteacher Award:

Darcie and Darrelle, for their amazing help at the Parishioner's lunch

Riley, for his amazing help and expert DJ skills at the ice cream reward parties

Golden Awards:

Dragonflies: Arthur, for working hard in phonics

Grasshoppers: Lucas, for his enthusiastic performance in the nativity

Hedgehogs: Jude, for being a great friend and supportive class mate

Squirrels: Olivia, for trying her hardest

Jan, for working hard in all areas

Badgers: Poppy, for always working hard and trying her best

Foxes: Jaxon, for working hard to remain focused during lessons

Hares: Oliver, for writing a terrific non-chronological report

Rabbits: Attila, for an amazing effort on his maths assessment

Kingfishers: Frankie, for his amazing writing and always working incredibly hard!

Robins: Victoria, for taking pride in all her presentation and having a fantastic attitude to learning

Eagles: Faith, for always working hard, contributing in lessons and having a great attitude to learning

Owls: Heather, for a great attitude in her learning

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

Monday 18th December

Class Christmas parties

Tuesday 19th December

Last day of term

School finishes at 1:30

Wednesday 20th December

Inset day - no pupils in school

Thursday 4th January 2024

Spring term - back to school

Friday 5th January 2024

KS2 Assembly 9:00

KS1 Assembly 14:30

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house this week, St Patricks

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house this term, St Georges

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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

*WISHING ALL OF OUR
HOLY CROSS FAMILY
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS*



*JOY
LOVE
HOPE
PEACE*