



6th June 2025



# Newsletter

**GOSPEL VALUE:** Our Gospel Value for next week is Hope. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

## **Weekly Reflection on the Gospel this coming weekend-Pentecost Sunday.**

On Pentecost Sunday we hear that if we truly love Jesus we should keep the "commandments" and his "word" and we do this by following our Gospel Values. We are told that the Father will love us, come to us and dwell with us. We have a helper and teacher in the Holy Spirit who guides and prompts us as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus and like the Apostles at Pentecost, let us spend time in prayer so that we may be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.



Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

## **First Holy Communion**

Several of our Year 3 children are making their First Holy Communion this Saturday. Please keep: Olivia, Benjamin, Caliyah, Emilia, Jonny and Zuzanna in your prayers on their special day. We ask God to bless them and hold them in the palm of his hands.

## **Relationship and Sex Education**

We will be delivering our Relationship and Sex Education teaching (Journey in Love) to our Year 5 and 6 pupils in the week beginning 30th June. We would like to invite parents and carers (only) to a meeting about the content of the RSE curriculum on Tuesday 24th June at 3.15pm. Children in Year 3 and 4 and Key Stage One, will also be taught the relationships aspect of this curriculum. For more information please follow this link to the RSE curriculum, which was written by Brentwood Diocese-please scroll to the bottom :

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Journey+In+Love+%28RSE+Curriculum%29&pid=71>

## PE Kit

The children will be taking part in Sports Week, week beginning the 16th June. Please ensure that the children has clean PE kit for each of the days when they will be taking part in activities. We have sent a reminder out about our Holy Cross PE Kit today. The bottoms do not have to have the school logo but they must be black tracksuit bottoms or black sports shorts. Leggings and cycling shorts are not permitted as part of the school PE kit. If your child wears these to school, they will not be allowed to take part in the PE lesson.

## Stranger Danger

We received a concerning report in the week that a young girl was being targeted by some older men at one of the local shopping precincts. This was witnessed by a parent of our school who intervened as they were so concerned. This was not late at night. It is a reminder of the importance of telling the children how to respond if they are in a situation where they are approached by strangers.

## Summer Uniform-Sun Safety

All children should now be wearing the summer uniform-not a shirt and tie. It is likely to be hot weather in the next few weeks so please ensure that your child has a hat (they will not be allowed outside without one), a refillable water bottle and sun cream applied at the beginning of every day. The children spend a lot of time outdoors next half term and it is very important that they are safe in the sun.

## Sports Morning and Summer Picnic (Fete)

A reminder that we will be having our traditional Sports Day races in the morning on Wednesday 18th June and then continuing the day with the summer picnic (Fete) in the afternoon. We really hope that you can join us for the day and you are welcome to bring a packed lunch which you can have on the field with your child. We will be sending out a programme for the week.

# FOOD BANK

Please help us collect non-perishable foods for our food bank. The food bank is located in the entrance hall and we hope will support many families within our school community.

## DROP-OFF LOCATION:

School Office



## Please could you provide

New, unused and in date

**EYFS** - Baby supplies (nappies, wipes, baby bath, baby shampoo, creams and lotions)

**Year 1** - Pasta, rice and spaghetti

**Year 2** - Cereals, biscuits, crisps/snacks and UHT milk

**Year 3** - Tinned food (beans, soup, spaghetti, tinned meat, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables)

**Year 4** - Jarred food (cooking sauces, sauces, mayo, jam, honey and condiments)

**Year 5** - Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Squash

**Year 6** - Toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, conditioner, deodorant, soap, flannels, toothpaste)

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Ladybirds achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Eagles also 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 Arbor 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	98%
Ladybirds	98%
Dragonflies	88%
Grasshoppers	94%
Hedgehogs	99%
Squirrels	97%
Badgers	99%
Foxes	95%
Hares	96%
Rabbits	93%
Kingfishers	97%
Robins	96%
Eagles	94%
Owls	90%

## Gospel Value Awards

### Humility

trust and faith in our Lord God our Father "Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour" Psalm 24:4



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

Butterflies:	Paul	Ladybirds:	Michael
Dragonflies:	Chloe	Grasshoppers:	Liam
Hedgehogs:	Arabella	Squirrels:	Lucas
Badgers:	Lillian	Foxes:	Georgie
Hares:	Nick	Rabbits:	Evan
Kingfishers:	Axel	Robins:	Miruna
Eagles:	Brayan	Owls:	Quan

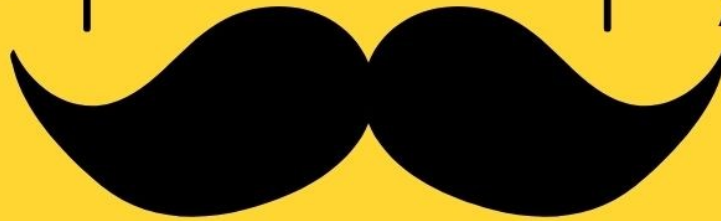
# GIFT SALE

# FATHER'S

# DAY

£3 FOR A  
WRAPPED  
GIFT

CASH, CARD OR  
PAYMENT LINK  
AVAILABLE



YEARS 5, 6 AND RECEPTION - MONDAY 9TH JUNE  
YEARS 1 AND 2 - TUESDAY 10TH JUNE  
YEARS 3 AND 4 - THURSDAY 12TH JUNE



## Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Zach	Squirrels:	Elissa
Badgers:	Arnas	Foxes:	Myles
Hares:	Kiera	Rabbits:	Sophie
Kingfishers:	Jackson	Robins:	Sid
Eagles:	Cristiana		

# Welcome to the new school year

## Family Picnic

Free  
Inflatable  
fun

Refreshments  
including  
licenced bar

Bring your  
own picnic

£1  
entrance  
fee

Saturday 7th September 2pm to 5pm  
at Holy Cross Academy

SUMMER TERM

# THE ESSEX LOCAL OFFER SEND ROADSHOWS



Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex Local Offer Roadshows.

You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm



This term we are in Braintree, Hockley, Tiptree and Chipping Ongar

Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>



In Partnership with



ACL



## Empower Yourself with Essential First Aid Skills

Join our **FREE** Family First Aid sessions to gain the knowledge and confidence to handle common emergencies. Ensure your loved ones are safe with practical skills.

### Why Attend?

Empower yourself, Connect with local parents and carers, Ensure your family's safety

 When: Book now for sessions taking place in 2025 / 2026

 Online and in person

Don't miss out—sign up today!

Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://www.aclessex.com) and type 'Family First Aid' in to the 'Find a course...' box

COMMUNITY &  
FAMILY LEARNING



# Police Online Safety Event

An online safety event will be taking place in partnership with Harlow library

This is open to everyone, if you would like to up your knowledge or you are a complete technophobe, come along and learn about keeping yourself and others safe online.

General online  
safety

Gaming online  
safety

@ HARLOW  
TOWN CENTRE  
LIBRARY

Saturday  
28th June  
2025

from 2pm  
till 4pm

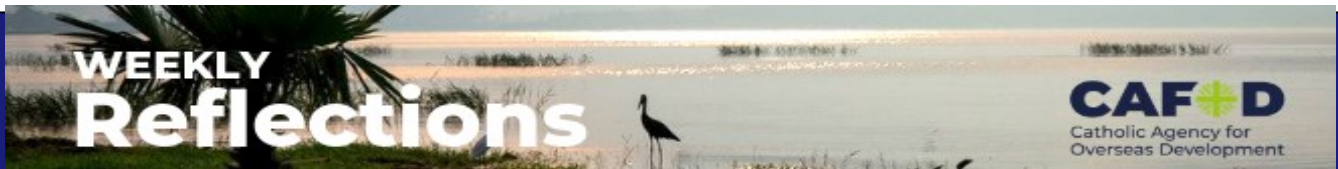
Security settings  
on devices

And other topics  
on the day.



**ESSEX  
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex



Based on the gospel for Sunday 8 June, Pentecost, John 14:15-16, 23-26

**"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word."**

On Pentecost Sunday we hear that if we truly love Jesus we should keep his "commandments" and his "word". What is this commandment but love? Love, which is not a mere feeling, but an action. Love which has been modelled for us by Jesus who made the total gift of himself for us and for all.

The task is not easy but we are not alone. We are told that the Father will love us, come to us and dwell with us. It is God's love for us which enables us to love. Furthermore, we have a helper and teacher in the Holy Spirit who guides and prompts us. However, like the Apostles at Pentecost we need to go to our "upper room" and spend time in prayer to be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Transformed by the Spirit, may we put our faith into action as we continue our Pilgrimage of Hope in this Jubilee Year. In this time of renewal, may we carry forward Pope Francis' legacy and bring hope to our world: to those living in poverty, to migrants and to all Creation. Let us examine our lives and renew our efforts to make practical changes to live out our faith.

Prayer  
Holy Spirit, Helper and Guide,  
come to us,  
teach us,  
bring to our remembrance the Word.  
Amen.



### **The Words of Pope Leo XIV**

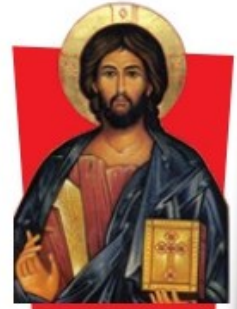
Faith is transmitted in the family together with life, from generation to generation. It is shared like food on the table and the heart's affections. This makes it a privileged place to encounter Jesus, who loves us and always wants what is good for us.

**Wednesday**  
**4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Good News for Families**  
**TOGETHER TIME** 

**1** Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel


Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will send you the Holy Spirit, the Helper, to be with you forever. Those who love me will listen to my words and keep them, and my Father will love them, and we shall come to them and make our home with them. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you, but the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all the things I have said to you."



From the Gospel of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Cf. John 14:15-16.23-26 (Pentecost, Year C)

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 **PENTECOST**.



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page. 

# 2

## Wednesday's Word

### PENTECOST



**"The extraordinary outpouring of Pentecost is an event that continues. The Holy Spirit transforms us and wants to transform the world."** Pope Francis

Who did Jesus say the Father would send? This coming Sunday the Church celebrates Pentecost. This is the feast of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church - a gift which we now receive at Baptism, Confirmation and at Mass. Ask your child what they have learnt at school about Pentecost. It may help your child if you tell them something that you know about Pentecost. The word 'Pentecost' means 'fiftieth day'. On this day (fifty days after Easter) the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit.

**"The Holy Spirit helps us to view others with fresh eyes, seeing them as brothers and sisters in Jesus, to be respected and loved."** Pope Francis

Pentecost is not just a historical event. The Holy Spirit is alive and active today. Each of you choose one of the following qualities that you would like to ask the Holy Spirit for today: Courage, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness or Self-Control. Why did you choose that quality? In what ways could growing in that quality help you, or help other people at home, at school, or in the community? Come and learn more about the great celebration of Pentecost in Church this Sunday, and be open to receiving the many priceless gifts which the Holy Spirit brings. All are warmly invited.

# 3

Simply repeating the words 'Come, Holy Spirit' is a great prayer to say at **Pentecost**, and also each day throughout the year.

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- JESUS**
- FATHER**
- SEND**
- HELPER**
- HOLY**
- SPIRIT**
- STAY**
- FOREVER**

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

S	N	E	D	N	E	P	M	G	H	W	N
T	D	N	F	H	H	G	S	E	N	D	J
A	E	H	O	E	O	W	T	N	L	E	H
S	D	M	R	L	L	L	A	Z	S	N	H
P	M	O	R	P	D	M	Y	U	M	T	E
I	F	F	J	E	S	U	S	B	G	I	L
N	A	F	O	R	E	V	E	R	L	R	H
H	T	W	A	R	D	S	P	I	R	I	T
M	H	R	L	T	E	R	H	M	Y	P	R
R	E	P	L	E	H	V	L	T	A	S	M
W	R	H	O	L	Y	E	E	Y	T	M	D
H	O	L	H	M	E	S	R	R	S	N	R



Cross out the letters **o b k** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

obteakch orebmindk tkhibngos Jeksuosk  
 \_\_\_\_\_ said, "The Holy Spirit will \_\_\_\_\_ you and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ you of all the \_\_\_\_\_ I have said."

Pentecost Sunday is popularly known as the birthday of the Church. This was the day when the mission of the Church really began - almost 2000 years ago.

**This week I will try my best to...**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley**



Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**THE** Wednesday  
**WORD**



## Encountering Christ The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



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.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, 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.

1

### Read

#### The Gospel for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025

THE PARACLETE

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever. If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you."

**Taken from John 14:15-16. 23-26 Pentecost Sunday, Year C**

2

### Reflect

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

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

In Jesus' final speech to his disciples after the Last Supper he is preparing them for life after the Resurrection. He several times mentions a mysterious figure called the 'Paraclete'. 'Paraclete' is Greek for 'advocate', that is someone who is called to your side to help, to guide you through a tricky patch. In Hebrew teaching about the Last Judgement there would be an Accuser and an Advocate on either side. In the gospel, Jesus asks the Father to send this Advocate to his followers to be his own presence when Jesus is no longer there and to guide the Church into all truth. That is the inspiring situation which Jesus speaks of: the Church and every one of her members will continue through the power of the Spirit to grow in understanding of the mysteries of God, as a people over the centuries and as individuals over the years of life. Before the Spirit was given, even the disciples who had been with Jesus throughout his ministry failed to understand his real significance, and certainly lacked courage to proclaim it. The coming of the Paraclete was the booster-rocket which set off the Church on its course and keeps it on course. Now it is the duty and privilege of each of the members of the Church to fulfil the prophetic office of the Church, understanding more deeply and declaring more clearly the truth about Christ in the world.

**What does the Holy Spirit teach? What difference does the Spirit's presence and teaching make in our lives?**

*Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB*

3

### 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, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

### Pray for Families

**This Wednesday's word for our school families is PENTECOST!**

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, 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 Jubilee  
Year of Hope**

**Share the Prayer:** Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends? Also, to see a sample of your primary school's *Family Version*, visit: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org)

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 8th June 2025**



**1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11**

## The Birth of the Church

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. "Surely," they said, "all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God."



The ministry of Jesus starts with the coming of the Spirit at his Baptism. In the same way, the ministry of the Church begins with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. There can be no witness to Jesus or to his message, no spreading of the Kingship of God, without the Spirit of Jesus. Another lesson from this parallel between Jesus' Baptism and Pentecost is that the task of the Church and the life of the Church are the same as those of Jesus himself: to bring God's kingship to its fulfilment by pouring out healing, love and joy through the message of the risen Christ. The rushing wind and the tongues of fire are an allusion to the Old Testament when God's Spirit descends upon Moses and the elders of the people. So the message of Pentecost is the fulfilment of the Old Testament, breaking out beyond the borders of Judaism to include all peoples of the world. The union of all these peoples (all understanding one language in their own way) is a deliberate contrast with the Old Testament scene of the Tower of Babel, when the LORD split up all the peoples of the world (as symbolised by their inability to understand one another's languages). The list of unpronounceable peoples is itself a witness to the universality of the Church!

**How does the Church show forth the Spirit at work in the world today?**

**Pentecost is the celebration of the Spirit of Jesus alive and active in every Christian.**



**2nd Reading: Romans 8:1-17**

## The Spirit of Christ in Me

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live. Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.



Paul's letter to the Romans is all about the process of salvation. What difference did the death and resurrection of Jesus actually make to me and my condition in the world? This passage is the climax: it plants the flag on the summit and leaves us to live a full Christian life in peace, tranquillity and hope. There have been three stages in this process of salvation. First came the work of Christ: Jesus' loving, obedient death on the Cross undid, washed away, healed the disobedience of Adam, that is, the disobedience of the whole human race (Romans 5:12-21). What is that to me? So, stage two: by Baptism I express my faith in Christ. By myself I am helpless and hopeless, so I put all my trust in Christ. In Baptism I am plunged into Christ, plunged into Christ's death, and emerge from the waters soaked and dripping with Christ's risen life (Romans 6:1-11). Stage three: permeated with, or vivified with, this risen life of Christ, I am adopted into the sonship of God and can cry out 'Abba, Father' with the voice of Jesus himself. The inheritance of Jesus as Son of God is now my inheritance too. So Pentecost is the celebration of the Spirit of Jesus alive and active in every Christian.

**Where and in whom have you found the Spirit of Jesus "alive and active"?**

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

**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**

Happy Birthday this week to...

Noah, Leroy, Camron, Summer,  
Zion, Indiana, Eliora,  
Lucas & Maisie



### Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Darius, for making fantastic progress in reading.  
Ladybirds: Lia, for trying really hard in phonics.  
Dragonflies: Skyla, for trying hard with her letter formation.  
Grasshoppers: Lilah, for always being a kind friend and good role model.  
Hedgehogs: Basil, always being a supportive peer and helping others.  
Squirrels: Brody, for working hard to learn his colours.  
Badgers: Amanda, for a super effort in all areas.  
Foxes: Kayla, for her excellent creation of tone in art, by shading.  
Hares: Kodie, for having a great attitude towards her learning in maths.  
Rabbits: Sarah, for having a great attitude towards her maths.  
Kingfishers: Sofia, for her amazing effort with her times tables—well done Sofia!  
Robins: Vivienne, for her super effort when writing a myth.  
Eagles: Charlee, for a great attitude towards writing.  
Owls: Violet, for a great attitude to writing.

### House Points

**Congratulations to the winning house this week, St David's**

Menu week 1

## Diary Dates

Maths Week

Clubs and boosters are run from 15:15 - 16:15

Monday 9th June

Hares swimming

Year 3 & 4 Outdoor games club

Y 1 Phonics booster

Y1 Forest club

Football club

Y1 & 2 Multi-sports club

Tuesday 10th June

Maths parent workshop

Year 4 reading zone - 9:00

Wednesday 11th June

Year 4 reading zone - 14:45 - 15:00

Karate - Years 2 & 3

Strike football club 15:15 - 16:30

Thursday 12th June

Year 4 reading zone - 9:00

CAFOD - Years 4 to 6

Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Year 2 Forest club

Strike football club 15:15 - 16:30

Friday 13th June

Non uniform - bring in an item for the school fete

KS2 Celebration assembly 9:00

KS1 Celebration assembly

14:30



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](http://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk)