



10th September 2021



# Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new academic year. It's wonderful to see all of the children return bringing their vibrancy to our school. We also welcomed the new children in Reception as part of our school and parish family and are looking forward to seeing them grow in many ways. Your child's class teacher will upload a video of introduction onto It's Learning and a topic letter will be sent out, outlining what the children will be studying this term, next week. It has been a turbulent eighteen months, one that we would not have expected, and everyone has been affected in some way. We are very aware of this and we as a school community are determined that we support our young children having been through these unsettled times. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you in the development of your child academically, spiritually and socially.



## Prayers

You were informed earlier this week that Miss McGuigan became unwell over the summer holidays and is currently in hospital receiving the care that she needs. Thank you for your kind messages wishing her well. I ask that you continue to keep Miss McGuigan in your prayers.



## Rev Paschal Uche

We were delighted to welcome Rev Paschal to Holy Cross today who spoke with Year 6 about his call to vocation and how we can make a difference through helping others. Ten years ago, Paschal Uche greeted Pope Benedict XVI on the steps of Westminster Cathedral during the Papal Visit, on behalf of the UK's Catholic youth. He impressed all those who heard him, including Pope Benedict himself. A decade later, Paschal was ordained a priest by Bishop Alan Williams sm.

Paschal is a familiar face to many in the Diocese and was a member of Brentwood Catholic Youth Service before beginning to train for the priesthood at St Mary's, Oscott. We thank him for being generous with his time in speaking to our children today.



## Geography Quality Mark

I am delighted to inform you that Holy Cross has been awarded the Silver Primary Geography Quality Mark by the Geography Association. The Primary Quality Mark recognises quality and progress in geography leadership, curriculum development, teaching and learning. Thank you to Mrs Smith who led on this for her dedication with her Geography Team to achieve this accolade.



## Senior School Applications

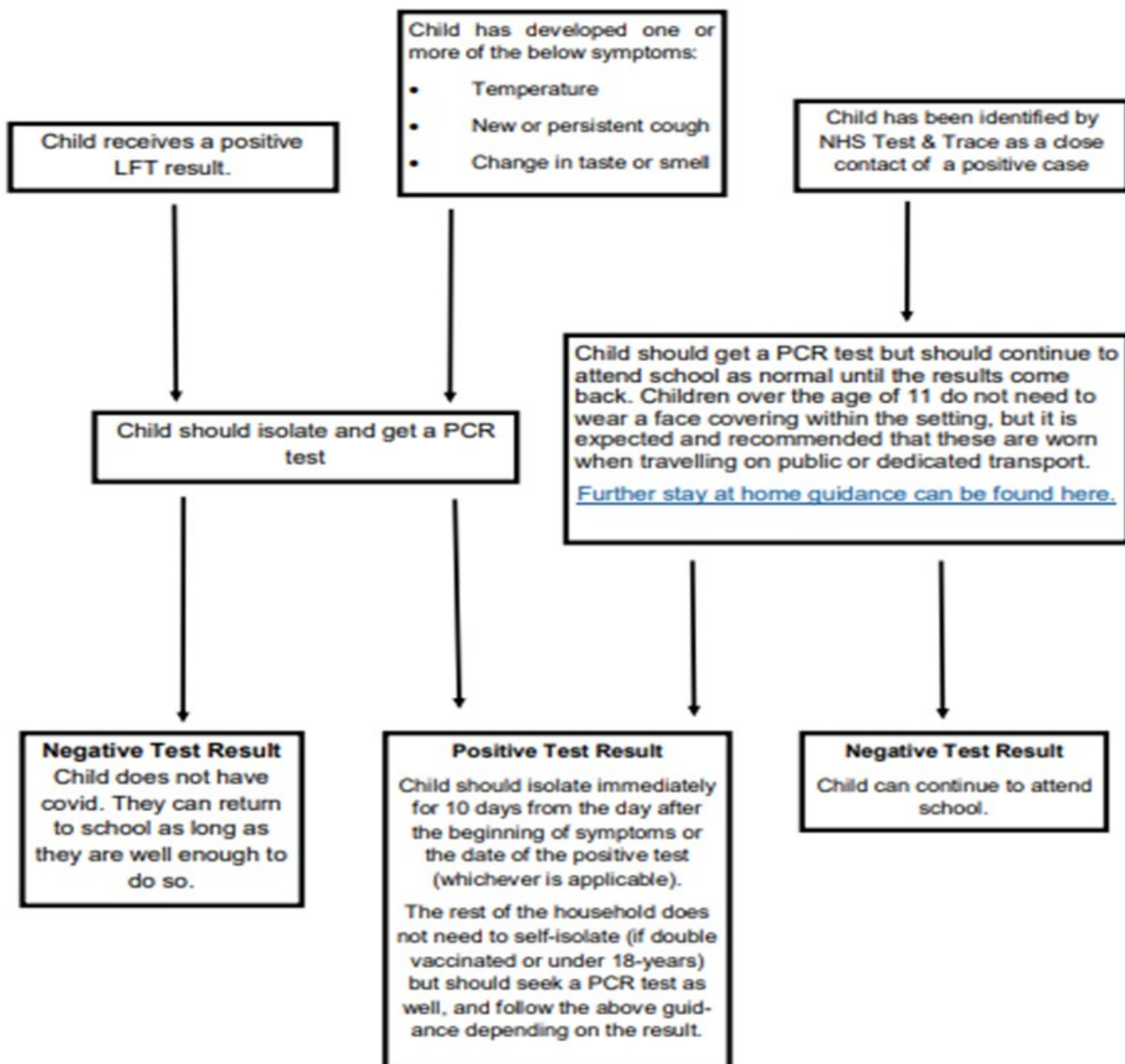
The application period for admission to Year 7 in secondary schools for September 2022 opened today, 10th September 2021. The closing date in which applications must be made by is 31st October 2021.

From today, parents/carers of current Year 6 Essex resident children will be able to make their applications using the website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

## COVID-19 & Outbreak Plan

Along with everyone else, I had really hoped that we would not be talking about Covid precautions in the autumn term of 2021, however we must remain vigilant. The way that we must now respond in school is very different to what was done previously and requires quite a mind-shift. If a positive case is identified in a class, NHS Test & Trace conduct the contact tracing. If there are a number of confirmed cases in a class then a series of increased control measures will be put in place. This may include a staggered start and end to the day for that class. A class will only be sent home as a very last resort. Please find a flowchart below which illustrates the self-isolation and testing guidance for children.

### Self-Isolation and Testing Guidance





# Forest School



What a week of sunshine it has been!

Most classes have been outside this week for their first Forest school session. There have already been some wonderful findings and areas set up by the children.

This year, as every child will be participating in Forest school, there will many opportunities for bug hunting, pond dipping, den building, fire lighting, using tools safely but most importantly being outside in the fresh air and immersing themselves in nature.

Most children have wellies in school now but for the few who still need them, please feel free to help yourself to the boots outside school. Please remember that children need their legs covered in Forest school at all times so they need to be wearing either tights, trousers, or preferably have an old pair to be kept in school that can be changed into.

Thank you.





## Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

### Compassion

- kindness, service of neighbour

"When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her." (7:13), Good Samaritan (10:36)



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

1D: Sophie Doyle

1S: Blake Leagas

2HD: Harry Tupper

2PT: Jackson Pavelin

3N: Stevie Ginn

3R: Julia Czarny

4C: Rhianna Joy Hombre

4E: Aurora Milciute-Blynovas

5G: Ellice Osei-Flint

5S: Katie Johns

6CN: Evan Lentz

6E: Mitchell To

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The winner of the KS1 Attendance Award are 2HD attaining 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 5G, achieving 99%. 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 8:40am until 8.50am. Any child not in their class by 9.00am will receive a late mark.

Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of COVID 19. If your child displays any COVID 19 symptoms they must have a negative PCR 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.

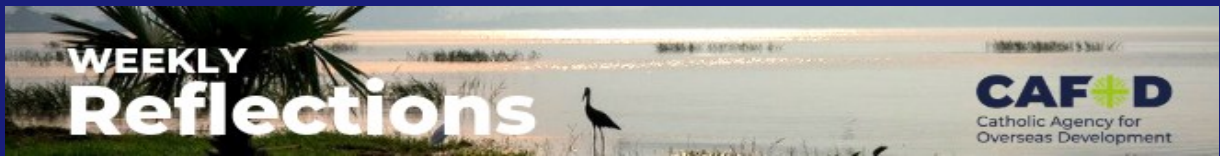
**It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Parentmail report absence option. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school.**

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

R B	
R L	
1DG	98%
1S	97%
2HD	99%
2PT	98%
3N	98%
3R	98%
4C	98%
4E	97%
5G	99%
5S	97%
6CN	97%
6E	96%



# RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for 12 September, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 8:27-35

"'But you', Jesus asked 'who do you say I am?'"

Jesus is journeying to Jerusalem and to the Cross. En-route, he stops to ask his followers a key question: 'who do people say I am?' Then, 'who do you say I am?' Today, Jesus is asking me, directly, the same question. What is my own response going to be?

The life, death and resurrection of Christ, the Messiah – what does this mean for me? For those suffering in the world today? For the misunderstood, the rejected, the overlooked, the oppressed, for those whose lives are being cut short even as I am praying this reflection? In my daily life, how am I challenged to think as God thinks and not as the world thinks; not as I would like to think?

I might, now, ask of myself a question. Who do I say I am? What kind of follower am I? How am I being called to renounce myself and take up my daily cross? To support others in the carrying of their crosses and even, through loving self-sacrifice, to put the life of another before my own?

Lord, you are the Christ, and for you this meant generous service and loving renunciation. Help me to follow you willingly through faith expressed in good works. Amen.



## The Words of Pope Francis

Today, in the tragedy of a #pandemic, in the face of the many false securities that have now crumbled, in the face of so many hopes betrayed, in the sense of abandonment that weighs upon our hearts, Jesus says to each one of us: "Courage, open your heart to my love"





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - The Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 1 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

**Taken from the Gospel for 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (Mark 8:27-35): Peter's Declaration of Faith and Jesus' Reply**

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" And they told him. "John the Baptist;" they said, "others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets." "But you," he asked, "who do you say I am?" Peter spoke up and said to him, "You are the Christ." And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, "Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's." He called the people and his disciples to him and said, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."



## 3 Reflect

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

*This is the turning-point of Mark's gospel. Till now the stories we have heard have all spoken about ever-increasing wonder and amazement at Jesus' personality, his goodness and his authority. But even his closest disciples do not seem to have seen what this means. Then suddenly Peter comes to the realisation that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed of God, for whom everyone was waiting. However, Peter still does not understand what this implies. Jesus is not a conquering political hero, who will simply wipe out all opposition by overwhelming force, and make every path smooth and gentle. Jesus begins to show his disciples that the road to fulfilment is through suffering. Jesus repeats this prophecy of his suffering, death and resurrection another two times, and on each occasion the disciples fail to grasp the lesson; first it's Peter, then the disciples who are arguing about precedence, and finally the two sons of Zebedee who want the best places for themselves. So three times Jesus repeats that if you want to follow him you must follow him to the Cross. Nor are we, later followers of Jesus, any quicker than the first disciples to learn this lesson if we greet any suffering that comes our way with indignation and evasion.*

**Why does Jesus rebuke Peter so fiercely?**

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. 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 +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021



## First Reading: *The Servant of the Lord*

### Isaiah 50:5-9

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance; neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed. My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help: who dare condemn me?

*As we have noted, this week's Gospel reading is a turning-point and concentrates on two matters, on Jesus as Messiah and on how the Messiah must suffer and die. This reading from Isaiah relates to the second aspect of the Gospel (the suffering Messiah). This part of the prophecies of Isaiah contains four interrelated "songs" sung by a Servant of the Lord, who willingly undergoes suffering and humiliation for his ministry to the Lord. Jesus' own sayings on service and suffering show that he was aware of these songs, and that he saw himself as this Servant of the Lord: 'The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve'. We find a correspondence between many details from the songs and the story of the Passion: the flogging, the mockery and the insult, and also Jesus' voluntary failure to resist or to defend himself – at each trial he amazes the 'judge' by his silence. At the same time these songs are marked by a confidence in the Lord: whatever happens, the Lord will not desert his faithful Servant. In the fourth song (Isaiah 52:13-53:12) the suffering and humiliation of the Servant lead to his eventual vindication and the triumph of God.*

*How is this reading echoed in the story of Jesus' Passion?*

## Second Reading: *Faith and Works*

### James 2:14-18

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, "I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty," without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead. This is the way to talk to people of that kind: "You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show."

“Carry on God's work of divine generosity and forgiveness.”

*The interconnection between faith and good works has been a puzzle from the beginning of Christianity – and before. At times people seem to have believed that it was possible to earn salvation. However, you cannot bargain or negotiate with God. As the psalms say, 'No one can buy their own ransom.' What we must do is trust in God's promises and in his limitless forgiveness. Faith is not a matter of believing first one doctrine and then another. Primarily, it is a matter of where my trust and confidence is lodged. What, then, is the point of good works? Our faith in God's generosity and forgiveness should lead us to act with similar generosity and forgiveness. We are made in the image of God, to carry on God's work of divine generosity and forgiveness. When James says that otherwise our faith is dead, he really means that it is a withered faith which is not faith at all.*

*What sort of "works" do we do that show our faith and reveal God to others?*

The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God  
w: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org) e: [info@wednesdayword.org](mailto:info@wednesdayword.org)



Jesus assures us that when two or three of us gather together in his name, he will be with us. This special *Five Minutes Family Time* is a great opportunity to be with Jesus, and to enhance family life together throughout this new school year.

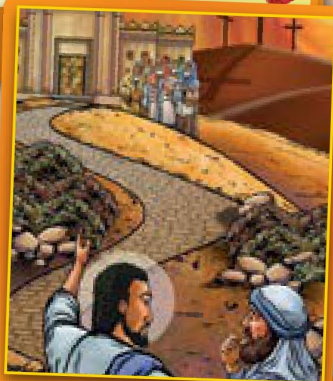


## 1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

Jesus and his disciples left for a village in the North. On the way Jesus asked his friends, the disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered, "Some say you are John the Baptist; others say you are one of the prophets who died a long time ago and has come back to life." Jesus then asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" It was Peter who spoke up. "You are the Christ," he said. Then Jesus began to teach them that he was destined to suffer, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again.

**What two questions did Jesus ask his disciples?** Which words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?



## 2 Wednesday's Word is ...

# JESUS

## 3 Loving God & Each Other

"Jesus is not a figure from the past: he continues now and always to light the way for us." *Pope Francis*

The name 'Jesus' in Hebrew means 'God saves'. Jesus came to save us from doing wrong - to show us and to teach us how to live good lives. Ask your child how they think of Jesus. Is he distant like a stranger, or close like a friend? Was he simply a good man, or is he the 'Christ' - the Son of the living God? Does your child have a favourite story about Jesus? What does your child like about Jesus?

"Jesus loves us without limits. He wants to help us, always." *Pope Francis*

Each of you choose something to do at home or at school to be more like Jesus for each other throughout this new school year. Perhaps you can: try to be patient with others; be a good listener if someone is sad and wants to share their problems with you; be more generous and loving; forgive others; find regular time to pray for guidance, remembering to ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" and then try to do the same ourselves.

Dear Lord **Jesus**, please help us to understand and to know you - to listen to your words and to follow your way. Amen.

## Gospel Gallery

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>JESUS</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ASKED</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DISCIPLES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>REPLIED</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PETER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SPOKE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CHRIST</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>GOD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **u b n** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**sabidun Puenterb uspokken Cubhrinst**

It was \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ up.

"You are the \_\_\_\_\_," he \_\_\_\_\_.

Schools throughout the world have been founded in honour of Jesus and that includes our school too. Let's say a quiet prayer today, and every school day, to thank Jesus for our school and for all the people who have given their lives to serve Jesus through teaching and helping us to know him.

**Did you know?**

This Sunday we celebrate 'Education Sunday'. Find out more at: [catholiceducation.org.uk](http://catholiceducation.org.uk)



Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

**This week I will try my best to...**

.....  
.....





A Weekly Gift to you and your family from your Catholic School



## SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to you and to your family as we begin this new school year.

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that, during his time on earth, Jesus was many things to many people. He was a teacher, a healer, a leader and, to some people, simply a very good person. But Peter finally realises the truth about Jesus and professes his faith in him as the Christ – the Son of the living God.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Even though the disciples had witnessed Jesus' many miracles, they were still slow to understand Jesus' true identity. For us too, it takes time to get to know who Jesus really is, just as it takes time to get to know other friends.

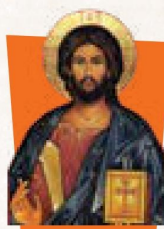
Make a great start to this new school year by listening to your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **JESUS**.

*Dom Henry Wansbrough*



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) – Parents' Pages – Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021



Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way Jesus put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" And they told him. "John the Baptist," they said; "others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets." "But you," he asked, "who do you say I am?" Peter spoke up and said to him, "You are the Christ." And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again.

*Adapted from Mark 8:27-35*  
The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Everyone can learn more about this Gospel  
in Church – all are warmly invited.

"Each encounter with Jesus fills  
us with joy, with that deep joy  
which only God can give."

*Pope Francis*



HAVING FAITH  
IN YOUR FAMILY

The Gospel above or the **FAMILY TIME** section overleaf can be read independently by adults or children alike. However, reading the Gospel as a family really does help the family to grow in faith, wisdom and love.



Happy Birthday this and next week to...

Isla Kent, Vienna-Baye Maycock, Ena Bulmuo, Casey Okpanachi,  
Clara Stewart, Dominic Annobil.



### Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Roman Kelly, for his fantastic effort with his writing
- 1S: Luka Yamgoue, for being an example for everyone to follow in class
- 2HD: Anayah Arbuah, for making a great start in 2HD. Well done!
- 2PT: Isabella Tyson, for a fantastic start to 2PT
- 3N: Jeremy Cox, for an exceptional attitude to learning
- 3R: Leah Stoppolecamp, for great effort all week and supporting other children in class
- 4C: Ethan Smith, for showing amazing imagination in literacy
- 4E: Rashida Adjei, for settling in so well to your new class and school
- 5G: Rochelle Nyarko-Mensah and Kayden Messer, for settling in and trying their very best in all the activities planned.
- 5S: Elizabeth Kingston Hyde, for a fantastic start in 5S and trying her best in all lessons
- 6CN: Gabriel Esposito, for an excellent start to the year and settling in so well
- 6E: Alana Cox, for great work in science

Menu Week 1

## Diary Dates

Monday 13th September

Year 6 Visit to St Marks

Tuesday 14th September

Wednesday 15th September

Years 2 & 3 Karate 3:10 - 4:10

Thursday 16th September

Years 4,5 & 6 Karate 3:15 - 4:15

Friday 3rd September

5S Trip to Gibberd Garden

*S. McGuigan*

Miss S McGuigan

Headteacher

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)

*Seew Kelliher*

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher