

13th September 2019



Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope that you and your families enjoyed the break and that your children are ready to take on the challenges of the year ahead.

Welcome to our new children and staff - our Reception children begin school next week. Welcome to Tyler Heho, Mirabella Petrut, Dominik Sterbak, Atilla Ozkisa, Antonio Davis, Isabella Turska, Ellice Osei-Flint and Annaliesa Osei-Flint. We welcome back Mrs Endean who is providing maternity cover. We hope that they will all enjoy their time with us at Holy Cross.

We hope that you found the 'Meet The Teacher' afternoons to be a useful introduction to the year. These, along with your termly topic letters, weekly newsletters, Parent Mail and regular consultations will help to support you to help your child with their learning and relationships. Please remember however that we do encourage you to contact us if you have any concerns and - please - a reminder and a plea - not to voice any concerns on social media but to work with us in partnership.

Thankyou for sending your children to school in their correct uniform - you will know that our uniform policy requires children to have a school coat and no earrings and we appreciate your support with this. Can I also remind you that all shoulder length hair must be tied back

Harvest Collection

We are collecting again this year for Streets2Homes and would ask for donations of dried or tinned goods during the week of 23rd September. Thank you.

Homework

Thank you for your very positive response to our homework books. We intend to make use of these straight away.

Feast of Holy Cross

We celebrated the opening of a new school year and also the Feast of Holy Cross today with a special Mass. We were reminded that we all carry a cross through life but Jesus is always there, walking with us and supporting us on the way.

Holy Cross Parish Youth Group

The Parish Youth group is on tonight in the Parish hall. It runs from 6.30 until 7.45 and all children from Year 4 to Year 6 are welcome to come and join in the fun.

Aldi School Kit for Schools Stickers

We are collecting the Aldi Sports Kits for Schools stickers.

Spend £30 at Aldi and they will give you a sticker. Children can bring their sticker to Mr Clark, who has the poster, to be completed. Once completed we can claim a sports kit and be entered into a prize draw.

World Mental Health Day

We will be marking World Mental Health Day on the week commencing 7th October.

On October 8th with a special assembly in the morning and a film crew visiting the school in the afternoon, more information to follow.

On October 10th, there will be a non-uniform day. Children are requested to wear yellow and bring in £1 to raise funds for MIND.



#HelloYellow

**This World Mental Health Day
say **#HelloYellow** at your school**

Gospel Values Awards

Congratulations to the first children to receive the Gospel values certificate

1D: Teodora Fedeles

1S: Stevie Ginn

2HD: Thomas Brest-Ndeyi

2TE: Mark Adjaye-Kwofie

3N: Jake Doyle

3P: Rhea Baker

4A: Gabriel Lesny

4C: Mya Matunge

5G: Lemaya Adjaye-Kwofie

5S: Farayah Honan

6E: Jenna Bennett

6N: Szymon Budzynski-Wajda



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **2HD**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with **99%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **3N** who also attained **98%** attendance this week.

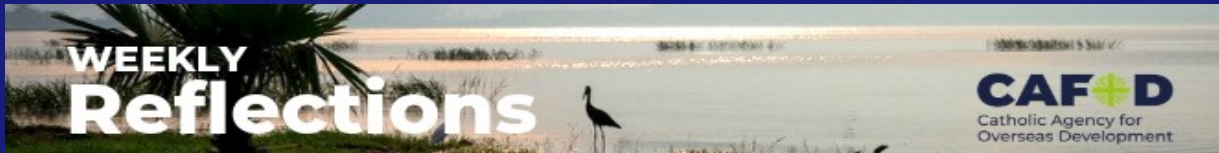
Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

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.

1D	97%
1S	99%
2HD	99.5%
2TE	98%
3N	98.4%
3P	97%
4A	96%
4C	98%
5G	96%
5S	96%
6E	95%
6N	95%

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 15 September - Luke 15:1-32

"Rejoice with me," he would say, "I have found my sheep that was lost."

Jesus is talking with tax collectors and 'sinners'. The Pharisees criticise Jesus for this and Jesus challenges them. Wouldn't they go after a lost sheep and 'rejoice' when the sheep is found?

Jesus is urging us to follow his example. With so many 'lost sheep' in our world - people who are homeless, those who use drugs, or who find themselves vulnerable and on the margins of our society - our task as followers of Jesus is clear. We should be applying our skills, intelligence, our passion and our time to welcoming back those wanting to return.

During a general audience in November 2016 Pope Francis said, "the logic of God's mercy knows no rewards or punishments" ... "but welcomes everyone who needs mercy and forgiveness, so all will be brothers again".

The parable of the prodigal son gives us a perfect example of this mercy. The father forgives his son and rejoices in his return. The older brother is jealous, indeed angry, feeling that his father has been unfair to him. But the father is clear that his brother's return is a reason for rejoicing not resentment.

Let us try to be merciful as the Father is merciful, and welcome others wherever we can.

Merciful Father, help us to be always ready to both understand the reasons why people lose their way and to welcome and assist their return. Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis

I invite you, each within your own heart, to pray for our brothers and sisters who have lost their lives or who are suffering because of the hurricane in the Bahamas





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 15th September 2019 - 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 15th September 2019 (Luke 15:1-32): Forgiveness

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. "This man," they said, "welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he spoke this parable to them: "What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? 'Rejoice with me,' he would say, 'I have found my sheep that was lost.' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance. Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? 'Rejoice with me,' she would say, 'I have found the drachma I lost.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner." Jesus also said: "A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine. So he left the place and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. And they began to celebrate. Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. 'Your brother has come,' replied the servant, 'and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.' He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, 'Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening.' The father said, 'My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

3 Reflect

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

In today's Gospel St Luke recounts three particularly attractive stories about forgiveness. The first two form a typical Lukan pair. First he tells the story of the lost sheep, which also occurs in St Matthew's Gospel account. Luke, however, places the accent on the joy in heaven at the return of the sinner. Then, to the story of the man looking for his sheep, Luke adds the story of a woman looking for her lost coin. He is always careful to show that women have an equal part in the Kingdom with men. So he deliberately pairs Zechariah and Mary, Simeon and Anna, Jairus' daughter raised to life with the Widow of Naim's son, and so on. The main story today, however, is the Prodigal Son, told with all Luke's love, artistry and delicacy of character-study. In the full version of this Gospel, we hear of the wastrel son who goes back home simply because he is hungry; of the loving father perpetually on the look-out, running to meet the son, interrupting the carefully-prepared speech and pampering the returned young dissolute; of the disgruntled stay-at-home who invents slanders about the other's 'loose women' and is gently corrected by his father's reminder that he is 'your brother'. Jesus presents us with an unforgettable picture of the overflowing love and forgiveness of God.

Is there anyone you have not yet forgiven? Sometimes it is not easy.

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.**



WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 15th September 2019



First Reading: *Israel Rebels in the Desert*

Exodus 32:7-11.13-14

The Lord spoke to Moses, "Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostasised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. 'Here is your God, Israel,' they have cried, 'who brought you up from the land of Egypt!' I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now; my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation." But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. "Lord," he said, "why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever." So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

We start off with a fine argument between the Lord and Moses. 'Your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt', say the Lord to Moses. 'Your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt', say Moses to the Lord. Like parents, each blames the other for a misbehaving child. As soon as Moses' back was turned, Israel made itself an idol in the form of a golden calf – or rather a golden bull, called a 'calf' merely to be derisory – after the model of the local storm-gods. The principal point is that, for all his blazing anger, the Lord cannot maintain his wrath against the people to whom he has promised an eternal inheritance. Once again, God changes his mind. His love of his people triumphs over his anger. In the next chapter of Exodus he passes before Moses and cries out the meaning of the name 'the Lord': a God of mercy and forgiveness, slow to anger, rich in faithful love and constancy – a meaning of the name which will echo throughout the pages of the Scriptures. This first reading prepares us for the story of the Prodigal Son in the Gospel.

Is God always ready to forgive? Can anything stop his forgiveness?

Second Reading: *Paul the Sinner*

1 Timothy 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen

“He received mercy
from the Lord.”

We read the two letters to Timothy over the next seven Sundays. Many scholars hold that, in accordance with a contemporary convention, the letters to Timothy and Titus were not actually written by Paul, but by a faithful disciple, still inspired by Paul, who puts what Paul would have said in the particular circumstances the letters have to deal with. Paul is represented as giving directions to his two principal co-operators in their organisation of Church structures. These letters present a valuable picture of the problems of the Church, a generation or two after Paul, as (towards the end of the first century AD) they were settling into an organisational pattern, and discerning how to live out their beliefs in the context of a Hellenistic society into which they were born and which had its own value system. In the present reading Paul's open confession of his ferocious way of life before his conversion to Christianity, and the mercy he received from the Lord, pairs well with the record of divine mercy in the other two readings. The final little confession of faith in Christ as Saviour is one of the many declarations of Christological teaching which we find in these letters and which enrich our understanding of the faith. Such traditional formulations of doctrine are especially valued guidelines for our knowledge of Christ and the Church.

Reflect on an occasion when the grace and mercy of God drew you back from disaster.

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

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e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday to... Isla Kent, Anne-Marie Konadu, Aleigha Twomey, Summer Moss, Laura Norris, Evie Hannay-Spalding, Casey Okpanachi, Louie Bacon, Ishwar Muraleedharan.



Merit Certificates:

- 1D: George Green, for writing a great list in literacy
 1S: Ellie Edmonds, for an excellent list in literacy
 2HD: Iris Wells, for an amazing start in 2HD
 2TE: Eloise De Souza, for amazing maths work
 3N: Ellice Osei-Flint, for settling in very well and making a lovely addition to the class
 3P: Ella Haley, for wonderful work on a saint for homework
 4A: Alana Cox, for excellent place value work
 4C: Lucjan Rogozinski, for creating an incredible times table game
 5G: Mirabella Petrut, for settling in very well and trying very hard in all her work
 5S: Alexis Onwurah, for writing a thoughtful prayer in R.E.
 6E: Cheri Uzuegbuna, for fantastic place value work
 6N: Tyler Heho, for settling in so well to Year 6

Learning Mentor: To all the new playleaders, for working well in training and for good preparation for the interviews

Midday Award: 6E, for great leadership and being a fantastic asset to the Midday Assistants through Monday's wet lunch

Diary Dates

Week 1 Menu

Monday 16th Sept

Be Still Club lunchtime

KS2 Homework 3.15 - 4.15

KS1 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Tuesday 17th Sept

Choir 3.15 - 4.20

Football Team Training 3.15 - 4.30

KS2 Code 3.15 - 4.30

KS2 Dodgeball 3.15 - 4.15

Wednesday 18th Sept

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Thursday 19th Sept

Choir 3.15 - 4.20

KS2 Chess 3.15 - 4.15

Years 5&6 Drama 3.15-4.15

KS1 Dodgeball 3.15-4.15

Friday 20th Sept

Year 6 St Marks visit

Assembly 2.40

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St George

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

Seew Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher