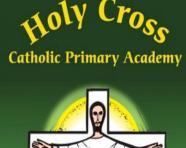


Dear Parents and Carers,

Our school community came together this week to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee through our picnic & fete on Wednesday. There was a great turnout and despite our fears about the weather, we were blessed with sunshine. It was lovely to see parents, children and staff coming together, having a chat and enjoying themselves- something which I believe we haven't done since 2019. Through your support it was a great success.

A special thank you to Mrs. Cundins, Mrs. Cater and Mrs. Slater who have worked tirelessly in the background in the weeks preceding and on the day. There were also many other parents who helped prepare prior to the fete and on Wednesday by helping to set up, attend to the stalls and in tidying up afterwards. After costs the P.T.A. raised £3,500 from the day, which is a tremendous achievement. All money raised will benefit the children and this will be done through a collaboration with the P.T.A and the Holy Cross School Council, who represent the views of their peers.





Our next whole school event will be our 'International Food Festival' which will take place on Friday 15th July during our annual International Week celebration.

### Pentecost

We celebrated the birthday of the church on Monday where our Gospel assembly (John 14:15-16, 23-26) focused on the feast of Pentecost. The children were told that this Bible passage is part of the last conversations Jesus had with his disciples. In this, Jesus asked the disciples to love one another as he has loved them and that God will send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever and to help them. God lives with us in our hearts, He is always there and the Holy Spirit is always guiding us to do what is right. Let's remember that God is always with us and listen to His words to us. Let us be guided by the Holy Spirit.



### Burwell House meeting

Parents of children currently in Year 4 attended a meeting on Thursday to hear about the forthcoming residential trip when their child is in Year 5 in September. Children who are in 4E will attend Burwell from 12th -14th September and those in 4C from 19th -21st September. The Powerpoint shared has been uploaded on to the Year 4 It's Learning class page.











## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

For the third consecutive week the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Butterflies 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 3R and 6CN 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**.

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

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









## Times Tables Rockstars

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

- 15: Eva Durchi
- 2HD: Cathal O'Donovan
- 3N: Jemi Kuttin
- 4C: Kassidy Anderson
- 5A: Teri Olabode
- 6CN: Otto Colussi

- 2PT: Praise Owolabi
- 3R: Kassidy Anderson
- 4E: Indie Usedon-Duff
- 5G: Ellice Osei-Flint
- 6E: Emil Danel

## Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

## Simplicity

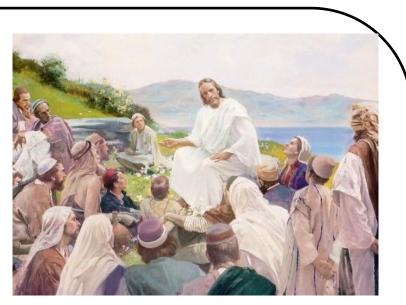
## - non-attachment to wealth, live simply

"You cannot serve God and wealth." (16:13,

"Do not worry about your life." (12:22)

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

Butterflies: Jude Mckie	Ladyl	oirds: Kyren Laidly
1A: Sophie Doyle	15:	Lucas Cater
2HD: Jayden Bancroft	2PT:	Attila Madarasz
3N: Cristiana Sirghe	3R:	Sean O'Connor
4C: Neriah Edochiem-Nnanyelugo	4E:	Blanka Trus
5A: James Harten	5G:	Lucia Pintilei
6CN: Kailani Loughran Ricketts	6E:	Nina Krasa





## Based on the gospel for Sunday 12 June, The Most Holy Trinity: John 16:12-15

## "When the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth."

There is a sense of urgency in this Gospel, in contrast to all the depictions of the Trinity in art, where the serenity of the Trinity is visible.

Jesus knows he is leaving the apostles and feels he still has so much to tell them. However, he is giving them hope that help is at hand – in the Holy Spirit, another of the three persons of the Triune Godhead – who will infuse them with "the complete truth".

The Apostles had experienced this Trinity before. First at the Baptism of Jesus and later at the Transfiguration when they heard the voice of the Father praise the Son and saw the Holy Spirit hovering above him.

We cannot understand fully the mystery of the Trinity. But these visions must have given the Apostles some insight into the intimacy and togetherness of the Trinity and the redemption and love which had expressed itself in Jesus and which was now being asked of them to carry on in the Church.

In the carrying out of our own mission, we are aware of being led by the Trinity to preach the Gospel by both word and deed.

In these days of turmoil, we search for ways to alleviate the hardships of families living with increasing poverty, war and environmental destruction, which has put our planet in peril. And so, let us pray to the Trinity for strong leadership, working for the good of all. We also pray that we may play our part wholeheartedly in bringing about the Kingdom of God on earth.

Holy Trinity,

give us courage, resolution and staying power to bring about a more peaceful world, where all may flourish and develop. May the Church be a leader in this new society where peace and justice reign. Amen.



## The Words of Pope Francis

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of love, fills us with love, makes us feel loved and teaches us how to love. He is the motor of our spiritual lives.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



ALC: N

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it's only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use – for adults and children alike. Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it? What's clear is that VR is becoming ever more ubiquitous in everyday life: from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever.

## PREMATURE EXPOSURE

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide – allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips – most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR alfects children in the longer term.

### EYE STRAIN

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13+

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity (just as they would in the real world) to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

### PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety lectures built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing - so creating a clear, itdy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'Guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

## SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible. 00

## MOTION SICKNESS

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Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is noused caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

## VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gamepiay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy – so careful curation is advised.

-

Advice for Parents & Carers

## START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short stints and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get acquainted with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.

## ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' darkens the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.

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## Meet Our Expert

eter Graham is the editor at XR (extended reality) and feb3 specialist site gmw3.com and has been writing bout VR, augmented reality and the immersive tech dustry for more than seven years. He's served as a anel speaker and a judge at awards events and game ackathons.

Sources Grow&com/anslorg

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.06.2022

NO SURPRISES

🥣 @natonlinesafety

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR – and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of flailing arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

## **KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF**

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

### RESEARCH CONTENT

f /NationalOnlineSafety

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.



O @nationalonlinesafety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationaloniinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about metaverse

letaverse' is a relatively new term to many, however the concept has been around for some time Videogames, for example, use many aspects of the metaverse; avatars, digital currency, mini-games, and open communication. A metaverse can also take many forms; Fortnite can be seen as a metaverse, as is Roblox. Put simply, a metaverse is an online environment where people interact, play games and express themselves. Away from traditional videogames, there are newer and more 'dedicated' metaverses such as Decentraland, The Sandbox and Somnium Space which are akin to Second Life.

META MALL

-

## **UNSAFE AREAS**

WHAT ARE

THE RISKS?

Many metaverse platforms feature little to no moderation. This is due to the decentralised nature of the metaverse – as there is no one company overseeing the platform, users can create and build with freedom. This can be a minefield for younger users as adult material or sensitive topics can feature on a parcel of land seen by everyone.

### VOICE COMMUNICATION

The freedom found within creation is also found in communication. Most metaverses use proximity VOIP communication (Voice Over Internet Protocol) and users can approach any other user to start a conversation. It is necessary for avatars to be quite close to another in order to talk and once they are, anything can be said. While a chat box can be moderated, voice chat cannot.

### ANONYMITY

As with almost every other form of online interactions, anonymity features heavily within the metaverse is to live any type of life digitally. This could mean that 'bad actors' (those with malicious intent) can take advantage of others with ease. Reporting and monitoring these users is becoming easier on the more popular platforms, but others struggle to police these situations.

## VIRTUAL REALITY

Not all metaverse platforms are VR enabled, in fact less than 10% feature VR interactivity. However, it's always worth menitoring the amount of time younger users spend in virtual reality. A VR metaverse differs greatly to VR gaming in user interaction. Approaching each other in a VR metaverse attempts to represent 'reality' and can result in a greater impact if experiences are negative.

GERATING

Varies per

platform

## PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

Whether in virtual reality or not, interactions and experiences in the metaverse can often carry more weight because they mimic 'real life'. Oftentimes, due to the freedom in avatar creation, younger users may open themselves up to bullying, prejudice or an unrealistic idea of reality. For instance, female-orientated avatars may find themselves targeted by bullies or inappropriate users.

## **Advice for Parents & Carers**

### TRY IT OUT FIRST

This may sound like an obvious tip, but by entering the metaverse and exploring on your own, you'll be able to see what your child might. You can explore the busier areas and even the quiet sections to see what users are building or advertising. You'll also learn first-hand how users communicate with each other. Many metaverse platforms will feature an entry area which showcases the busiest areas. Check them all out and see what's happening

....

## CREATE AN AVATAR TOGETHER

If you decide on allowing your child into the metaverse, set up their initial avatar together. This way you can ensure the avatar is age-appropriate and keeps their identity private. You can also advise on aspects which may result in attracting builles or unwanted attention. It will also allow you to see which avatar items cost money, and talk to your child about in-game spending. ×C

Meet Our Expert Daniel Lipscombe is a father to two girls, aged 14 and 12. Before Dan began his Web3 metaverse journey, he worked as a videogame journalist and author for a decade; reviewing games, talking to creators and writing about videogame trends. Dan has also written fifteen guide books about Fornite, Minecraft, Roblox, Apex Legends and Valorant for HarperCollins and Bonnier Books.

## LEARN ABOUT NFTS, WALLETS AND CRYPTO

With the metaverse comes Web3 technologies such as NFTs, cryptocurrency and wallets in which to store them. If you have a crypto wallet, do not connect it to your child's metaverse. One simple click could result in loss of cryptocurrency. If you are unsure what these technologies are, try to research them as these terms will appear in the metaverse. 00

## START WITH THE FAMILIAR

There are already metaverse experiences with children in mind; explain to your child what a metaverse is and have them recognise similarities between those and games like Roblox, Fortnite and Minecraft. Unfortunately, there is no 'child safe' metaverse option as yet, though Epic Games and LEGO are currently developing a family safe metaverse.



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## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

# Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

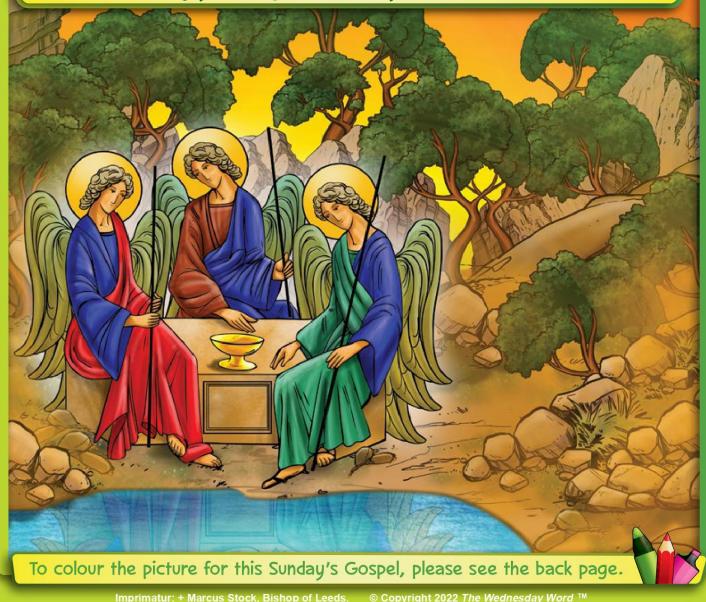
Good New

COP ETT

Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but at this time they would be too much for you to understand. But when the Holy Spirit comes, he is the Spirit of truth and will guide you into the full truth. The Spirit will speak only of what he hears and he will tell you of the things that are to come. The Spirit will make my glory known, by receiving my message and telling it to you. Everything the Father has is mine; what the Spirit receives from me, he will tell it to you."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022. John 16:12-15 (Trinity Sunday, 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 words, which are **HOLY TRINITY**.



## "The Trinity is Father, Son and Spirit of love. God is a communion of love and the family is its living reflection." Pope Francis

Who did Jesus say would come to guide the disciples into truth? This coming Sunday, the Church celebrates the great feast of The Most Holy Trinity (as represented in this week's picture). The Gospel gives us an insight into God's true nature, which is one of love. We read that God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us, so that we can share in the life and loving relationship of the Holy Trinity – forever. Ask your child what the words 'Holy Trinity' mean to them. It may help your child if you tell them something that you know about the Holy Trinity.

## "Every time that we make the sign of the cross, we draw closer to the great mystery of the Holy Trinity." Pope Francis

Language can never fully explain the mystery of God which is beyond our total understanding. However, we remember the Holy Trinity each time we bless ourselves with the sign of the cross - a reminder that God is always with us, wherever we are. Ask your child if they know the words that complete this blessing: "In the name of the Father, and of the..."? Loving families are also a communion of persons. Each of you choose a way in which you can reflect the joyful love and togetherness of the Holy Trinity in your family relationships this week.



and the Holy Spirit, bound together in love.

## Wednesday 8th June 2022 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



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



## Preparing for the Mass of Sunday $12^{\rm th}$ June 2022 - Feast of the Holy Trinity

## \_ 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> June 2022 (John 16:12-15): Father, Son and Spirit

Jesus said to his disciples: "I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: 'All he tells you will be taken from what is mine'."



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

We can learn a little about the Trinity from this passage. Think of a perfect relationship between a father and a son: complete understanding between them - loving care from the father, loving obedience from the son; complete support from both sides. As soon as one has an idea, the other expresses it, to the perfect satisfaction of the first. As soon as one starts an action, the other has completed it, to the delight of the first. Then the son sends his own spirit, which is not himself, but represents himself fully, makes him present when he is not there and does his work exactly as he would do it. Two other images, perhaps rather cheeky: three men on a bench outside a pub or three women with supermarket trolleys, all three chatting in perfect harmony and understanding, with complete exchange of ideas and plenty of humour, laughter and warmth. Their friendship is so attractive that you would love to join them but don't dare. They are so welcoming that they seem to invite you to join them. They are so loving that you feel you have found happiness as never before. These are rather wretched images, straining to express the unity in diversity of the Trinity, but one must at least try to understand. Read the gospel again! **Can you think of an image for the Trinity, three Persons in one Nature?** 

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

## Respond & Request

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



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

## WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS



Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## First Reading: The Wisdom of God

## **Proverbs 8:22-31**

The Wisdom of God cries aloud: "The Lord created me when his purpose first unfolded, before the oldest of his works. From everlasting I was firmly set, from the beginning, before earth came into being. The deep was not, when I was born; there were no springs to gush with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I came to birth; before he made the earth, the countryside, or the first grains of the world's dust. When he fixed the heavens firm, I was there, when he drew a ring on the surface of the deep, when he thickened the clouds above, when he fixed fast the springs of the deep, when he assigned the sea its boundaries - and the waters will not invade the shore - when he laid down the foundations of the earth, I was by his side, a master craftsman, delighting him day after day, ever at play in his presence, at play everywhere in his world, delighting to be with the sons of men."

How did we Christians come to see God as a Trinity of Persons? With a noble sense of reverence the Israelites saw God as so infinitely other than the world that it became difficult to understand how God could mix with the world, even how God could 'dirty his fingers' by creating the world. The solution was that God must have created the universe by his Wisdom, the 'master craftsman' by his side in the work of creation. God's Wisdom is in a way the same as God, but yet not exactly the same. But is God's Wisdom itself created? It is not clear whether God 'created' or 'possessed' Wisdom, for the Hebrew word, is given both senses by different ancient translators. So there is in God something which both is God and is not the same as the Creator. The Wisdom of God is also similar to the Word of God by which God created ('He spoke and it came into being,' it says in the Creation Story in Genesis 1). In the New Testament Jesus is known both as the Wisdom of God and as the Word of God. The first thing we know about God is that we cannot fully know God. Nevertheless, texts (like this one from Proverbs) indicate a groping towards the idea that there is diversity within God. Here we find something of the origins of our understanding of the Trinity.

'God is love.' But if God is totally other, what can this mean?

## Second Reading: The Three Persons at Work

## Romans 5:1-5

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. But that is not all we can boast about; we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. When Paul wrote his letter to the Romans the theology of the Trinity was still waiting to be worked out. The interrelationship between the three Persons did not begin to be elaborated by theologians for a couple of centuries yet, nor what is meant by calling them 'persons'. Paul does call the Risen Christ 'LORD', using the sacred name which may be used only of God. Moreover, he shows an awareness that three different modes are involved in human salvation, the divine action which brings human beings back to God. He often has a triple formula like the one in this reading, using different language of God, Christ and the Spirit. Through our LORD Jesus Christ we are brought into peace with God, and the love of God is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Human language is so totally inadequate to express truths about God that it will take a long time before any satisfying formula is found.

Can we distinguish the function of the three Persons of the Trinity in the work of our salvation?

<sup>ff</sup> Human language is so totally inadequate to express truths about God.

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

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## Happy Birthday this week to...

Mitchell To, Eliora Koranteng, Lucas Patasius, Maisie Sinyakin, Natalie Harmas, Elizabeth Kingston-Hyde, Caiden Aboagye-Manu, Lehna Ajong, Luciann Henry, Nicholas Nicolov, Ava Asare and Darcie Bethell.



## Merit Certificates:

Viktoria Semenka, for an amazing effort in phonics sessions
Ava Olivia Skinner, for making great progress with her reading
Joel Boateng, for working hard and playing nicely
Tawana Agyare, for always having a positive outlook and attitude
Oliver Danel, for enjoying our work about habitats
Axel Osijo, for excellent effort and positive attitude to learning this week
Luisa Marsham, for her great effort in reading
Edward Guna, for great effort in all subjects
Nikoleta Hristova, for a super attitude in all lessons
Kiera Hodgkinson, for having an excellent attitude to learning
Beatrice Fagg, for outstanding attitude to learning
Conor O'Rourke, for his fantastic contributions in English this week
Cian Hanifin-Flynn, for always being a kind and helpful member of out class
Liam Dunn, for great writing in English

## <u>House Points</u>

Congratulations to the winning house St Patrick

### New Menu Week 2

## Sports Week Diary Dates

### Monday 13th June

5G Swimming Lesson

Year 4 Mass 2:00

Year 5 Hedingham Castle Trip

Year 6 Parents IOW Meeting 3:20

|--|

KS1 Sports Morning 9:30 Dance Fit Lunchtime Club - no need to book

### Wednesday 15th June

KS2 Sports Morning 9:30 1S Library Visit 1A Library Visit Karate Years 2 & 3 3:10 - 4:10 Football Club Years 1 & 2 3:10 - 4:10 Football Club Years 3 & 4 3:15 - 4:15

Please download our News & Events App for dates for the year. Details are available on the schools website under News & Events at <u>www.holycross-</u>

### <u>Thursday 16th June</u>

## First Communion Mass 9:30 3N Li Dance Fit Lunchtime Club - no need to 3R Li book Karate Years 4,5 & 6 3:15 - 4:15 Football Club Years 5 & 6 3:15 - 4:15

Bootcamp Club Years 5 & 6 3:15 - 4:15

Friday 17th June

3N Library Visit 3R Library Visit