



1st July 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

On Wednesday evening, we met with the parents of those children who will be starting with us in Reception in September, some of whom were familiar, already having children attend Holy Cross while there were also many new parents. However, for all it is a new beginning with their child starting primary school. They also had the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Kerrell, the new Headteacher of Holy Cross, from September.

There will also be endings this year, as some staff are retiring while others are progressing to new positions in their career, all of which is part of the natural cycle in a school. In July, the following teachers are leaving Holy Cross: Mrs. Nabil, Mrs. Philpot, Mrs. Allardyce, Mr. Selvon, Ms. Darvill, Mrs. Endean, and Mrs. Alex. Miss Black is leaving as a teaching assistant and Miss Wiseman is commencing teacher training while Mr. Oliver, our Site Manager, is retiring.



I know that you will join me in thanking them all for their dedication to the children, our school and parish community while wishing them the very best in their future career and retirement.

Meet the Teacher

On Tuesday, children will meet their new teacher for the next academic year. Parents will be informed of their child's new teacher and teaching assistant on Monday. We will be welcoming the following teachers to Holy Cross:

Mrs. Farrelly, Miss Cargill, Mrs. Smith, Miss Seers, Miss Hollick and Miss Clarke. They will also be joined by our new teaching assistants: Mrs. Sontag, Miss Gorbaczewska and Ms. Murray.



End of Year Reports



Parents and carers will receive these on Tuesday. There is an opportunity to discuss these with your child's teacher, if you so wish, on Thursday. The details on how to book an appointment for this have been sent out.

The children in Year 6 will also receive their SATs results as these are due to be published on Tuesday.

The focus this year with all schools has been on progress. All staff have worked determinedly in helping children to catch up following two national lockdowns and the disruption in schools, for both children and staff, through absence due the need for self-isolation.

Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul

On Wednesday, we celebrated the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul with a Mass in our church. Both changed their lives, followed Jesus and spread the Good News by both preaching and through the way they lived.

The children were reminded that, it is not always easy to follow Jesus, it can be hard sometimes to love others and to treat all people as we would wish to be treated. However, we can make a choice - to follow Jesus no matter what, even when it is hard. We pray for our parish, family and friends, that we may follow Jesus and share God's love with one another, especially those who are in need.

Exhibition and Awards Evening

On Tuesday, from 5.30 to 7.30pm, we will be hosting an open evening. This will allow you to visit your child's class and view some of the work that they have been doing this year.

Cricket Festival

Today 8 children from Year 3 took part in a Cricket Festival at the Cricket Club. The children played fantastically especially when fielding, and this was noticed by several other adults at the event. They were also very supportive of each other and celebrated the other teams' successes. The children won 2 of their matches and came third in their group.



Year 3 Trip to Harlow Town

On Thursday 30th June 2022 Year 3 visited Harlow Town Centre as part of their Geography sessions. The children took part in a range of different activities including; a Human traffic survey, a shop survey, checking the noise level in different locations and interviews with members of the public. The children also had the chance to have a look in the Gibberd Gallery and have a sneaky look in the refurbished library in town.



We would like to thank all of the Parents/Carers who supported us on this trip.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

For the third consecutive week the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Ladybirds 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 4E 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.

| | |
|-----|-----|
| RB | 94% |
| RL | 98% |
| 1A | 92% |
| 1S | 92% |
| 2HD | 97% |
| 2PT | 97% |
| 3N | 95% |
| 3R | 92% |
| 4C | 95% |
| 4E | 98% |
| 5G | 87% |
| 5S | 87% |
| 6CN | 97% |
| 6E | 94% |

Reception Trip to Southend

Last Friday, the children in Reception visited Southend-on-Sea. They spent the morning at the Sealife centre where they were lucky to see tropical fish, seahorses, crabs, stingrays, turtles, star fish, sharks and penguins. There were also crocodiles, monkeys and meerkats. Reception also went through walkways of Butterflies and dinosaurs, seeing Triceratops and a huge T-Rex!

After enjoying a picnic lunch, the children spent some time on the beach. They built sandcastles, played games, paddled in the sea and enjoyed a huge ice cream. Reception had a fantastic time and have been completing seaside themed activities back in class this week.





Year 2 Paradise Wildlife Park

On Wednesday Year 2 had a fun filled trip to Paradise Wildlife Park, as part of their Micro Habitats topic.

They all had an extremely informative and enjoyable day and their behaviour was a credit to Holy Cross.



Holy Cross Catholic Primary Academy



TICKETS TO
SEALIFE
CENTRE
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

£8 per ticket (per person)

Pre order your Tickets* from School or
scan the QR code
and save £4.50 per ticket
*valid until Dec/22



Scan the QR code to buy tickets

Please note, if you scan the QR code to purchase tickets you will need to notify the school office of your purchase.

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

DAY BAND* TO

*Valid until Dec/22

ADVENTURE ISLAND

Southend-on-Sea

£15 per day (per person)

Unlimited rides

**PRE ORDER YOUR TICKETS
AT SCHOOL OR SCAN THE QR CODE
AND SAVE £10 PER TICKET**

Scan the QR code
to buy your tickets



Please note, if you scan the QR code to purchase tickets you will need to notify the school office of your purchase.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING
7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying: it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



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Times Tables Rockstars

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

1S: Adam Bujnowski

2HD: Gracie Freeman

3N: Mahayla Hackett

4C: Miles Agyei-Frimpong

5A: Marian Marti

2PT: Oliver Ruffell

3R: Layla Still

4E: Darcie Bethell

5G: Lehna Ajong

Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Forgiveness

- reconciliation

"Her sins, which were many, have been forgiven." (7:47)

"Father, forgive them..." (23:24)



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

Butterflies: Filip Wroblewski

Ladybirds: Kyren Laidley

1A: Isla McNamara

1S: Lucas Cater

2HD: Harry Tupper

2PT: Freya Bown

3N: Cristiana Sirghe

3R: Zara Snipes

4C: Olivia Jarczewska

4E: Indie Usedon-Duff

5A: Katie Johns

5G: Lilly Bergamini

6CN: Alana Cox

6E: Jessica Wadding

Wednesday 29th 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 3rd July 2022 - The Fourteenth 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 3rd July 2022 (Luke 10:1-12. 17-20): The Mission in Action

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, 'Peace to this house!' And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, 'The kingdom of God is very near to you'."



3 Reflect

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

The instructions to the seventy-two who are sent out are direct and simple. They are really sent out like lambs among wolves, without food, without distractions, without baggage, without spares. The version in the Gospel of Mark allows them sandals, presumably to enable them to make more speed on their journey, for the urgency of the task is paramount. They are not to be distracted by picking and choosing their accommodation or their food. Direct, too, is their method: to impart the blessing of peace and to heal. No second chance: if the blessing is rejected, away they go, leaving the town to a fate worse than that of Sodom! Last Sunday's gospel demanded an uncompromisingly whole-hearted response to Jesus from the apostles. This Sunday the apostles demand the same response to their own message. Again the absolute demands of Jesus! There is a wonderful simplicity about this message of the coming of the Kingdom: all that is involved is peace and healing. No squabbles, no fripperies, no complications of doctrine. If these Kingdom values can remain the focus of our Christian vision, we may make some progress towards bringing the Kingdom of God to reality in our own surroundings.

What would you say are the most important aspects of the Kingdom? What sort of healing can I bring in my own surroundings?

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 3rd July 2022



First Reading: *As a Mother Comforts her Child*

Isaiah 66:10-14

Rejoice, Jerusalem, be glad for her, all you who love her! Rejoice, rejoice for her, all you who mourned her! That you may be suckled, filled, from her consoling breast, that you may savour with delight her glorious breasts. For thus says the Lord: Now towards her I send flowing peace, like a river, and like a stream in spate the glory of the nations. At her breast will her nurslings be carried and fondled in her lap. Like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you. And by Jerusalem you will be comforted. At the sight your heart will rejoice, and your bones flourish like the grass. To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.

We are used to the imagery of God as Father, the creator and initiator of all things. But there is no gender or sex in God; God infinitely transcends such human limitations. So there is also room and need for a gentler image of God as mother: 'As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you', promises this passage, even daring to invoke that most maternal and intimately loving and trusting image of the child feeding at its mother's breast. Such imagery for God as mother occurs in other biblical passages as well, such as Psalm 131, where the contentment of the believer in God is compared to that of a little child in its mother's embrace; or Hosea 11:1-4, where God's loving care is described in terms of a parent leading and feeding a child. The child is now growing up, and God's maternal love continues throughout our lives. One of the chief Hebrew words describing God's love for his people is rahamim, the plural of rehem, which means a mother's womb. God's love involves, therefore, that instinctive gut-feeling of a mother for her child, which can never be destroyed or overruled.

What is scripture teaching us when it uses the imagery of parent to describe God? How may we make use of such imagery in prayer?

Second Reading: *The Triumph of the Cross*

Galatians 6:14-18

The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God. I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers. Amen.

“Everything is new about the Christian baptized into Christ.”

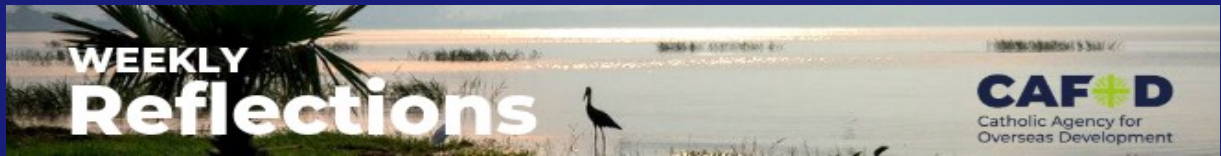
This is the final reading for this year from the fiery letter to the Galatians. It also provides the entry antiphon for Maundy Thursday, as we enter upon the celebration of the Lord's Passion and Death. Paul is again comparing the Law and the Cross. Instead of glorying in the physical mark of circumcision, the symbol of subjection to the Law, he glories in the Cross 'branded on' his body (he must mean in a symbolic sense by baptism - unless he means the scars of the floggings he received) which makes him a new creation. Everything is new about the Christian baptized into Christ, having left behind the old, mundane pre-occupations to embrace the new freedom inspired by the Spirit. This sounds all very well, but we know (and Paul knows too) that it is a constant challenge to bring this new life and new scale of values into reality: 'The good thing I want to do, I never do; the evil thing which I do not want - that is what I do', he laments when writing to the Romans. We are already reconciled to God, but only once does Paul say we are already saved. Even then it is 'saved in hope', which puts it into the future.

How far does my new life in Christ express a new scale of values?

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org



Based on the gospel for Sunday 3 July, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

"The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest."

Modern life is unbalanced. On the one hand, it is frantic. Stress, burnout, and the pressure to always be 'on' or 'available' are not seen as unusual. On the other, we are quite ingenious with our idleness - what might other generations have thought of 'bingeing' on Netflix, or the growing variety of 'new dining concepts' we have available to try?

In this passage, Jesus sends his disciples out in pairs. They are given nothing, save the task of healing and imparting the blessing of peace. Thankfully, Jesus does not send many of us to lead such a radical life outwardly but, as St John Henry Newman notes, "God has created me to do Him some definite service."

It is perhaps a lifelong task to discern what God has created me (that is, each one of us) to do. This can be difficult to sit with in our age of instant gratification, and doubly difficult when our hearts are moved by the suffering of others coupled with the knowledge of our own limitations.

At the same time, each of us are members of the mystical body of Christ, and we each have our part to play. To see that there is work to be done shouldn't move us to try to save the world single-handedly, nor should praying that the Lord sends labourers to do this work make us inactive..

This week, let's consider how we can live a more balanced life.

Lord of the harvest,
in a world of human need it was your will to serve and not be served.
Grant, we pray, that we may become more like you
in the humble service of our brothers and sisters
and be an encouragement to other labourers in the field.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

To serve the Gospel and our brothers and sisters, to offer our own lives without expecting anything in return, without seeking any worldly glory: this is what we are called to.

Happy Birthday this week to...

Ire Oyelami, Erin Florido, Olivia Colussi, Blake Leagas, Holly-Mai Boone-Jolley
& Lucy Richardson



Merit Certificates:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Butterflies: | Zara Brooks, for working so well to form letters - beautiful handwriting |
| Ladybirds: | Antoni Szarek, for becoming more confident in his reading |
| 1A: | Sarah Ciotoi, for trying very hard to listen and work independently |
| 1S: | The whole of 1S, for being great Victorian children for the day |
| 2HD: | The whole of 2HD, for enjoying Paradise Wildlife Park and behaving excellently |
| 2PT: | The whole of 2PT, for enjoying Paradise Wildlife Park and behaving excellently |
| 3N: | Ohemaa Prempeh, for being a marvellous friend to everyone |
| 3R: | Aria McGinty, for great effort and attitude towards her learning |
| 4C: | Natalie Harmas, for her amazing maths work on fractions |
| 4E: | Helith Alkegamage, for being a kind and caring member of the class |
| 5A: | Isaac Lieu, for his excellent effort and positive attitude to learning across all subjects |
| 5G: | Mmasi Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba, for her excellent attitude to learning across all subjects |
| 6CN: | Ronel Sofuwa, for great effort and participation during the Isle of Wight trip |
| 6E: | Gabriel Lesny and Parvataa Muraleedharan, for a fantastic Powerpoint about the Outdoor Pursuit Centre |

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Andrew**

Menu Week 1

Diary Dates

Monday 4th July

5S Swimming Lesson

Tuesday 5th July

Meet the Teacher Day

Dance Fit Lunchtime Club - no
need to book

Exhibition and Awards Evening
5:30

Wednesday 6th July

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

Thursday 7th July

Consultation Day

Dance Fit Lunchtime Club - no
need to 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 8th July

Thanksgiving Mass for
Sue McGuigan 9.30

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