



7th December 2018



Newsletter



Dear Parents

Our Christmas preparations during this season of Advent are now in full swing; this is such a busy time of the year for us at school and we are so grateful to all staff and parents who work so hard for our children.

Many of you will have attended our Winter Wonderland and Carols around the Crib events this week. We all enjoyed a wonderful evening of activities and carols and this has really put us in the mood for the Christmas events to come. This event took a lot of planning and required plenty of support so thank you to all involved.



Christingle

This annual event is so eagerly anticipated and yet again, we were not let down. Thank you to all parents and children for supporting our Service, making Christingles and joining in so well with the singing. The Christingle Service is designed to help remind us of Christ's suffering in the world and also to acknowledge that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ - across the four corners of the globe.

International Award

Mrs Laporte attended a gala event at the Houses of Parliament to receive our school award for OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL WORK. We are particularly proud of our achievements in this field and grateful to Mrs Laporte who coordinates this aspect of our curriculum. Well done to all staff for this tremendous accolade.

Governors Day

We welcomed our Governors into school on Wednesday to spend time with staff and children and to support the self evaluation of our school. Governors spoke with our school council and eco council, spent time with their buddy class and spoke with phase leaders and subject leader teams. We also introduced a drop in session for parents to speak with governors and this was an opportunity for parents to get to know our governors a little better, give some feedback on school initiatives and to generally explore ways of working together. Thank you to all involved, we are so lucky to have governors who give so generously of their time.





Holy Cross Winners at Harlow Education Awards

We are delighted to inform you that, on Wednesday evening, past pupils attended the Council Chambers at the Civic Centre to be recognised for their achievements whilst at Holy Cross. Filip Rzecholka, Archie Dundridge and Max Lingwood, now in Year 7, were awarded their certificates by Michael Beard from Public Health England. The attributes which led to their awards included: their great work ethic which led to good progression in Key Stage 2 and the fact that they were kind, caring and courteous young men. They

set an excellent example for their peers, were excellent ambassadors for Holy Cross and will undoubtedly continue to be so in their secondary schools. Congratulations from all at Holy Cross.

Holy Cross Choir sing for Alzheimer's Group

On Wednesday afternoon, members of the Holy Cross Choir travelled to the St. Andrew's Methodist Church Hall. They performed Christmas Carols for members of Active Minds, an Alzheimer's society activity group for people living with dementia.

Active Minds offers people with dementia the opportunity to engage the mind and memory in activities including music. This was achieved on Wednesday as all present sang along with the choir who received great applause at the end of each carol.



From talking to the members of this group after the event, it was evident that not only did they enjoy the singing but that it also provided an opportunity for them to reminisce.

Thank you to the choir for providing an uplifting afternoon for all.

The Rest of Term...

We have only 8 school days left of this term and a very busy 8 days they are going to be.



Friday 7th December - 2pm Christingle in the Church

Monday 10th December - 2pm Infant Nativity. Tickets available from your child's class

Tuesday 11th December- 2pm Infant Nativity.

Tuesday 11th December - 6pm Infant Nativity

Wednesday 12th December -2pm & 6pm Year 2 Carol Concert

Wednesday 12th December - All children need a packed lunch

Friday 14th December - Christmas jumper day. Children can wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school one. All other uniform needs to be worn.

Monday 17th December - KS1 Panto. KS1 children will need a packed lunch

Monday 17th December- KS2 Christmas lunch and class parties

Tuesday 18th December - KS2 Panto. KS2 children will need a packed lunch

Tuesday 18th December - KS1 Christmas lunch and class parties

Wednesday 19th December - Non Uniform day. All children need a packed lunch.

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 9 December - Luke 3:1-6

"A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight."

John the Baptist is the voice crying in the wilderness, calling on all people to prepare a way for the Lord.

At Advent, we pay special attention to this cry. We, too, are called to prepare, to make sure that we are ready for the coming of Christ, at Christmas and at the end of time.

What do you do to prepare for his coming?

In the midst of all the hectic preparations for the festive season, let us take some time to pause and to reflect on the changes that we can make, so that we are found ready when the time comes.

Let us take time to renew our relationship with God, and with each other. To recognise that each one of us is loved by God and is worthy of living with dignity and respect.

Let us recognise how connected we all are. How, if one person suffers, we all suffer. Let us take steps to relieve suffering wherever we can so that no one finds themselves excluded from the gifts that God gives for us all.

God of life, bringer of hope, inspire me with your love, so that I may reach out to others in love, and so be found ready and waiting when the time comes. Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Advent is a time for renewing the faith, for purifying it, so that it can be more authentic.



Forest School



We would like to say a huge thank you to everybody involved in making Carols around the crib a special event to remember this year. Our forest area was transformed into a Christmas wonderland with Santas Grotto, decorations and a campfire where many enjoyed toasting marshmallows. Children enjoyed creating Christmas crafts, facepainting and other festive activities. The music and refreshments kept everybody warm and happy!



In total we raised nearly £400 profit but more importantly it was wonderful to see so many families enjoying time together during this festive season. The crib looked so magical under the big ash tree and the choir did themselves proud singing, even as the rain began to pour!

Thank you once again for all your support to make this a success. We are so very fortunate to have our forest area for the children to experience regular forest school sessions. It was a fantastic opportunity to share this love of outdoor learning we have at Holy Cross.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to 2HD, winners of the KS1 Attendance Trophy this week with 98.67%. The joint winners of the KS2 Attendance Trophy are 5S and 6CS, achieving 98%

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.

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

RB	96%
RL	92%
1D	98%
1S	97%
2C	93%
2HD	98%
3MT	97%
3N	94%
4C	95%
4E	95%
5P	87%
5S	98%
6CA	98%
6ND	95%

Happy Birthday to... Draven Crow, Aimee Kuttin, Erin Barker, Ashdon Cunningham, Abeku Insaadoo, Olivia Kluza, Marcey Reddin, Lucjan Rogozinski, Jonjo Hanifin-Flynn, Jedd Still.



Merit Certificates:

1D: Ava Cook, for her fantastic independent writing
 1S: Natalie Harmas, for outstanding attitude towards learning
 2C: Lucia Pintilie, for always doing her best
 2HD: James Harten, for always trying his best
 3MT: Poppy Hughes, for a superb effort in all lessons, particularly with presentation
 3N: Marcel Sereda, for being a great altar server. Michael Ogunleye, for writing our beautiful class prayer
 4C: Lukas Semenka, for producing fantastic work in cine-literacy week
 4E: Shane Sesay, for fantastic descriptive writing during cini-literacy week
 5P: Braydon Hand, for working really hard on reading and times tables
 5S: Abbie Stoppelcamp, for using wonderfully descriptive, figurative language in literacy
 6CA: Abeku Insaadoo, for his perseverance and continuous effort with maths this week, well done
 6N: Kavindya Alkegamage, for always working hard, trying her best and presenting her work beautifully
 Walking Bus: Araibella Morgan

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St Andrews

Diary Dates

Menu Week 1

Monday 10th December

6CA Swimming
 Reception and Year 1 Nativity 2.00

Tuesday 11th December

Choir 3.15-4.20
 Football Team 3.15-4.30
 6CA Eucharist Service 9.15

Wednesday 12th December

Karate 3.15-4.15
 Senior Citizen Parishioner Christmas Lunch 12.30
 Year 2 Carol Concert and Nativity 2.00 & 6.00

Thursday 13th December

6N Library Visit 10.00

Friday 14th December

Karate 3.15-4.15
 Christmas Jumper Day



Holy Cross Parish Christmas Timetable

Thursday 13th Dec 7pm St Marks Carol Service, all welcome (Holy Cross -HX)

Mon 24th 5.30 Children's Mass (HX)

7.30 Carols, followed at 8pm by Vigil Mass (St Luke's)

10pm Carols, followed at 11pm by Midnight Mass (HX)

Tuesday 25th Dec 11am Mass (HX)

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