



15th December 2018



Dear Parents

We have enjoyed a very busy week full of Christmas festivities. Thank you to all staff and children who have worked so hard to prepare our Nativity and Carol Concert and Senior Citizens Lunch. Here are some photographs of the various events.

Reception and Year One Nativity

Our Reception and Year 1 children retold the story of the Nativity beautifully this week. There was lovely singing and performances from all who took part.



Our International Christmas Tree

While visiting the school office, please take a moment to look out our Christmas tree. It is decorated using decorations sent to us from schools in countries such as Spain, Romania and France.

This is the last newsletter for the year. On behalf of all staff can we thank you for the many gifts, good wishes and wish you a very happy and holy Christmas. Best wishes for 2019.

We will see the children back in school on Monday 7th January when we open with our special Epiphany Mass at 9.30 in church. All are welcome.



Australia House Commonwealth Choir

Olivia, Jenna, Niamh and Martha had the privilege of attending Australia House in London as part of the Commonwealth Choir performance for their staff. The children sang beautifully and represented Holy Cross admirably. The Hon George Brandis QC commented on how wonderful the children sounded and hoped we would return in the future.



Pantomime and Christmas Lunch

You will be aware of the arrangements for this but just to confirm:

Monday - Reception and Key Stage One children to the panto. Please provide a packed lunch. Coaches are leaving at 9 o'clock.

Key Stage Two children Christmas lunch followed by parties.

Tuesday - Reception and Key Stage One Children - Christmas lunch followed by parties.

Key Stage Two children to the panto. Please provide a packed lunch. Coaches are leaving at 9 o'clock.

Children must wear school uniform.

If you have a child who is not attending the pantomime please remember that they must attend school as usual and bring a packed lunch.

Year 2 Carols

We are all very proud of the Year Two children as everyone worked hard to produce their lovely nativity plays this Wednesday. It was so exciting as they performed at 2pm and then came back to school for a super evening performance in our church. Well done and thanks to everyone involved.



Superstars!

Two weeks ago our boys football team took part in competitive league matches at Passmores secondary school. The squad of 9 players played in four tough matches, starting with a 1-0 win v Pear Tree Mead, with Lucas scoring with the last kick of the game. Then we were edged out 1-0 by Purford Green. Our best performance saw us gain an excellent 0-0 draw v The Downs and finally we finished with another draw against Potter Street (1-1), with James Kelly scoring a wonderful goal, smashing the ball into the top corner of the net and captain Gene White making some tremendous saves to earn us a point.

Mr Clarke and Mr Selvon were delighted with the spirit, technique and sportsmanship from our team. Congratulations to Gene, James, Oliver, Oisin, Roman, Leo, Dawid, Lucas and Liam.



Choir to Brentwood Cathedral

Our Choir took part in the carol concert at Brentwood Cathedral yesterday. They sang to a packed audience and this year also provided the acting of the Christmas story. We were so proud of them. Thankyou to all staff involved.



School Uniform

You will be aware of the strict uniform policy that we have at Holy Cross. Unfortunately we are noticing that quite a few of our children are missing parts of their uniform or simply not wearing the correct uniform. Please ensure that your child is correctly dressed for school-including a school coat. If there is a good reason for uniform not being worn, please inform us by sending a letter to school. We need to ensure that our school maintains its high standards and we need to work together to achieve this.



GIRLS

Green jumper or cardigan with logo
White blouse
Grey skirt or pinafore dress, or grey trousers
Green tie
Suitable outdoor shoes in black (NO TRAINERS/NO HIGH HEELS/NO BOOTS)
White socks or grey tights
Plimsolls for indoor P.E., Trainers for outdoor P.E.
Green T-shirt with logo
Black shorts for P.E.
Green tracksuit with logo for P.E. (**Not for Reception Class**)
School Winter Coat with logo



BOYS

Green jumper with logo
White shirt
Green tie
Grey trousers
Suitable outdoor shoes in black (NO TRAINERS/NO BOOTS)
Grey socks
Plimsolls for indoor P.E., Trainers for outdoor P.E.
Green T-shirt with logo for P.E.
Black shorts for P.E.
Green tracksuit with logo for P.E. (**Not for Reception Class**)
School Winter Coat with logo

Jewellery is not permitted, longer hair must be tied back and there must not be any extremes of haircut styles or colour.

Senior Citizens' Lunch

Once again we hosted lunch in the parish for our senior citizens. Thank you to: Mrs Alger and her team for cooking the delicious Christmas feast, to Mrs Slater and Mr Frampton who, along with their team prepared the Parish Hall, to our choir for providing the entertainment and to our children who served the food and drink. I know that this event was really enjoyed by everybody.





Heart Essex Sleeps 'til Santa

A group of Year 3 children have taken part in

Heart Essex 'Sleeps 'til Santa' segment on the Breakfast show. Tune in on Wednesday morning between 7.30 and 8.30 to hear our children!

Holy Cross Primary

heart's Sleeps 'til Santa 2018

Thank you for taking part in Sleeps 'til Santa 2018. Your school will feature on Heart Breakfast with Martin and Su on the below date at 7.30am and 8.30am!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to 2C and 1S, joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Trophy this week with 99%. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Trophy is 4E, 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	94%
RL	92%
1D	96%
1S	99%
2C	99%
2HD	98%
3MT	90%
3N	93%
4C	96%
4E	98%
5P	89%
5S	96%
6CA	98%
6ND	94%

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 16 December - Luke 3:10-18

"If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same."

Adamu lives in Nigeria. The 45-year-old is married with eight children. Life was going well before Boko Haram terrorists attacked his town.

"That's when things started to get tough; no farming, big prices in the market, and little food for the family."

Despite these difficulties Adamu has taken in a family of five from a neighbouring village, who fled the violence.

"I took pity on them, they told me their story; how the family heard shooting and being very afraid they left their homes behind them, to save themselves from the terror. If it was me and my family, I hope that someone would also take pity on us."

Although he does not have much, Adamu is willing to share what he has with those who have even less. How generous. How inspiring.

May we also be moved to answer John the Baptist's call from the gospel today and share what we have with those who are in need.

Generous God, I thank you, for all that I have comes from you. Teach me not to stockpile your gifts or to guard my possessions jealously. Inspire me to share openly with all who are in need. Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

"Saying or doing?" Am I a Christian of words or deeds? "Sand and rock?" Am I building my life on the rock of God, or on the sand of worldliness? "High or low?" Is my life inspired by the Magnificat?

An Advent Prayer

This Advent time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfilment of your plan to bring your prodigal people home again.

We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamour of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen and having listened, to act.

Amen



Happy Birthday to... Dominic Nguyen, Miles Agyei-Frimpong, Cian Hanifin-Flynn, Alexis Onwurah, Lemaya Adjaye-Kwofie, Katie Johns.



Merit Certificates:

1D: Josie Ogbonze, for her fantastic performance in our Nativity production
1S: Miles Agyei-Frimpong, for excellent singing in our Nativity
2C: Benjamin Gulka, for designing and making the most amazing vehicle
2HD: Katie Johns, for settling so well into 2HD
3MT: Oliver Wuzik, for excellent effort with his times tables
3N: Nina Krasa, for her excellent attitude to learning
4C: Summer Moss, for making brilliant points in our class debate
4E: Nina Novosiadla, for thoughtful work in R.E.
5P: Leah Still, for excellent attitude and effort towards learning
5S: Hayden Fitzgerald, for designing and making a fantastic wire sculpture in Design and Technology
6CA: Iga Zitek, for her hard working attitude and commitment to all that she does
6N: Orlaith Boland, for always having an excellent attitude to learning
Learning Mentor: Playleaders, Door Monitors, Peer Mediators, Buddies, School Council and Eco Council
Walking Bus: Lewis Ridler

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St Davids

Diary Dates

Menu Week 2

Monday 17th December

KS1 Pantomime
KS1 bring in packed lunch
KS2 Christmas Lunch
KS2 Class Parties

Tuesday 18th December

KS2 Pantomime
KS2 bring in packed lunch
KS1 Christmas Lunch
KS1 Class Parties

Wednesday 19th December

Non-uniform day
FINISH AT 1.30

Monday 7th January

Start of Spring Term

Holy Cross Parish Christmas Timetable

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)



Miss S McGuiggan
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

Mr S Kelliher
Deputy Headteacher