



30th November 2018



Newsletter



Dear Parents

We mark the season of Advent this Sunday and begin our preparations in earnest for Christmas. You will notice the decorations, the outdoor and indoor cribs amidst all of the business of the season when the children come back to school on Monday. We have several services and events planned so please make sure that you keep an eye on newsletters, news and events app and other letters sent home so that you don't miss out.

Communication

We have needed to speak to several children this week about how they talk about school issues at home and how important it is to tell the whole story. Unfortunately, some of our children are telling abridged versions of events at home and parents are quickly contacting school to complain only later to find out that there is more to the story 'than meets the eye'! It is of course so very important that home and school communicate well and we are always happy to talk through any concerns that you may have but - please - a plea - ask your child more information about a situation before angrily complaining. The lines of communication are so much more effective when following this approach.

Phonics Workshop

Thank you to Mrs Nabil for organising these very useful sessions which were designed to help parents to support their children at home. I know from the parents that were able to attend that they found them very helpful indeed!

Christingle

You will be aware that this service takes place in our church at 2pm next Friday 7th December. We look forward to seeing every child bring their Christingle to school on Friday morning. Thank you.

Read with your child week

We look forward to seeing you in school reading with your child from 8:40 to 9:00, Monday to Friday. Please note that this is from year 1 up and does not include reception.

Walking through the staff carpark

Parents are reminded in order to keep our children safe, they must not walk through the inner staff carpark.



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone, who donated shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child appeal.

These Christmas gifts will bring so much joy to the children.

Holy Cross Heroes!

Our girls football team won their first ever competitive match last Friday, putting in a brilliant performance and winning a tough game 1-0 vs Potter Street.

The girls have been training hard and this really paid off, as they defended brilliantly as a team against a quick and organised Potter Street team.

The game was 0-0 at half time. Midway through the second half Oliwia Niedzwiecka made a bursting run from inside her own half before slotting the ball calmly into the net past the goalkeeper. We were ahead!! This goal proved decisive, as we held on with some great defending and a super save from Olivia Wells.

The whole team was awesome! Well done to Olivia W, Martha, Taylor-Grace, Niamh, Oliwia N, Evie, Lily B, Lily T, Emilia, Izzy, Stacey and our captain Alex.



Despite the weather, we were able to get outside this week. The children worked hard, sawing sticks again in preparation for making Christmas decorations.

More children accomplished lighting fires with the flint and steels. It is so wonderful to see their great sense of achievement as their faces beam with pride.

Some children enjoyed building bridges and sculptures using wood.

As always the children spent time pond dipping. Year 3 found a great diving beetle!

Thank you to all the children for ensuring they have wellington boots in school - without them they cannot participate in forest school.



RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the psalm for Sunday 2 December - Psalm 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 R v1

"He shows the path to those who stray, guides the humble in the right path."

On this first Sunday of Advent, the Scripture readings tell us to prepare for the coming of the Lord. They remind us of the kind of life that we are called to live to show this readiness.

We are called to a life of love, love for God and love for one another. We are called to pray. And we are reminded that God does not abandon us. Even in the most difficult of times, God is there to guide us on the right path.

Amina was forced to flee her home because of violence. It was a difficult journey. When asked to tell her story, she said:

"I don't want to remember the experience of the journey here. I don't want to remember it. We were running away with our children, some children were not able to walk. We spent three nights in the bush before we arrived here. It was raining. No food. It was a very bad experience."

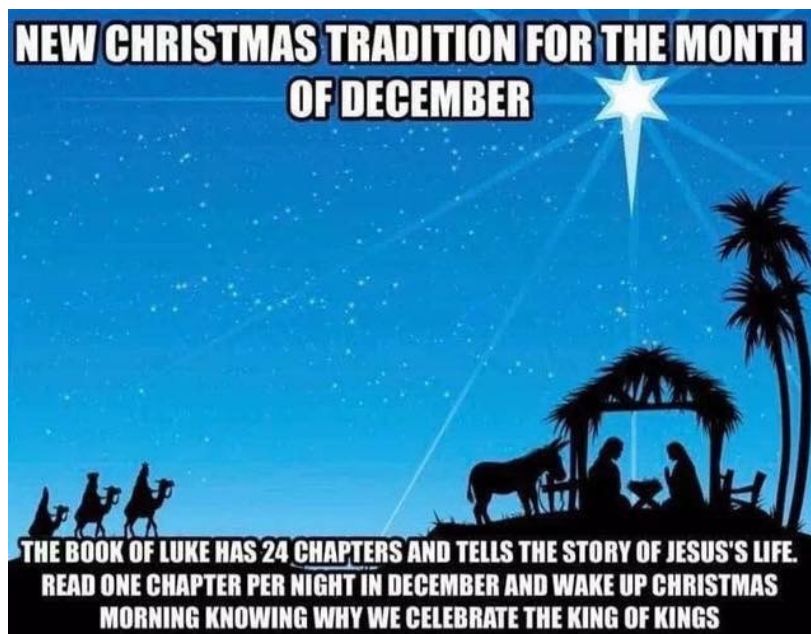
She finally reached the relative safety of a refugee camp in Kenya. She added:

"I was relieved when I realised that all of my children arrived here safely. I was really relieved."

You can help more people like Amina who face difficult journeys to find shelter, so that they may know that they are not forgotten.

We pray that they may feel that God is always with them.

Loving God, be with me today and always. Lead me to share your love and make your presence felt to those who are lost, alone and frightened, as they journey to find a place of safety and shelter. Amen.



Science Workshop

A group of children had a fun learning experience at a science workshop today. They were learning about light and sound. They saw how light diffracts through special glasses, enabling them to see a rainbow of colours. The children investigated different materials under ultra violet light and discovered it's uses in the modern world.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to 2C, winners of the KS1 Attendance Trophy this week with 98.10%.
The winners of the KS2 Attendance Trophy is 3MT, achieving 98.21%

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



Festive Forest Fun

After school on

Thursday 6th December

Followed by

Carols around the Crib

at 5pm

* Campfire & marshmallow toasting

* Children's Christmas crafts

* Face painting

* Mulled wine & hot chocolate

Happy Birthday to... Taylor Leagas, Freya Crook, Cosmas Eze, Molly O'Donovan, Ife Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba, Mmasi Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba, Marco Jardim, Millie Bethell, Roman Dwarika, Jermain Hyde.



Merit Certificates:

1D: Demi Osiname, for his great cine-literacy writing
 1S: Nathaniel Adeoye, for some fantastic sentence s using split diagraphs
 2C: Ranniel Masambique, for writing wonderful sentences about colour and feelings in cine-literacy
 2HD: Isaac Lieu, for amazing numeracy work
 3MT: Lucjan Rogozinski, for excellent times table work
 3N: Sophie Stopplecamp, for her excellent attitude to learning
 4C: Lily Baker, for being really helpful in class and outside
 4E: Erin Barker, for working hard in all areas of the curriculum
 5P : Dawid Niedzwiecki, for working extremely hard in all areas of the curriculum
 5S: Ollie Walsh, for his fantastic characterisation of Fagin in cine-literacy
 6CA: David Akame, for being a fantastic role model at Holy Cross - we will miss you
 6N: Carter Laporte, for excellent effort and attitude in maths lessons - well done
 Walking Bus: Will Bannister-How, Rhianne-Joy Hombre

Diary Dates

Menu Week 3

Read with your child week

Monday 3rd December

Fairy & Elf Garden 3.15-4.30
 KS1 Football 3.15-4.15
 Dance 3.15-4.15
 Year 2 Homework 3.15-4.15
 6CA Swimming

Tuesday 4th December

Dodgeball 3.15- 4.15
 KS2 Homework 3.15- 4.15
 Choir 3.15-4.20
 Football Team 3.15-4.30

Wednesday 5th December

Netball 3.15-4.15
 Chess Club 12.30-1.30
 Karate 3.15-4.15
 6N Eucharist Service 9.10

Thursday 6th December

Newspaper 3.15-4.15
 Choir 3.15-4.20
 KS2 Football 3.15-4.15
 Lego Club 3.15-4.15
 Y2 Cooking Club 3.15-4.15
 4C Class Mass 2.00
 Forest Fun 3.15-5.00
 Carols around the Crib 5.00

Friday 7th December

Karate 3.15-4.15
 Multisports 3.15-4.15
 Christingle 2.00

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Patricks**

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

Mr S Kelliher
Deputy Headteacher