



Dear Parents

You will remember that we held ESafety week recently and were lucky to be able to invite The Two Johns to speak to our children, staff and parents. The messages that we received surprised many of us and certainly gave us all food for thought as we know that the internet can be such a force for good but equally can be very negative. This is a message that we need to regularly remind our children of **and that we as adults must model.**

It is very disappointing therefore that we still find parents using social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp to air their grievances about other adults, staff and our school. This is little better than standing on a soap box on the playground with a megaphone and does nothing to build our community but only serves to cause discontent and bring it down - a community to which we **all** belong. It also has the effect of vastly inflating any issue which sadly could have been dealt with effectively by other means.

This has nothing to do with blocking free speech but is merely a plea to use such sites with respect and to ask that if there are any concerns to speak to us directly **and individually.** It is very difficult for us to resolve any concerns that you have if we are not made aware.

A community that works together, stays together.

Flu Immunisation

The flu immunisations will be held on Wednesday 21st November. If you would like your child immunised and have not yet returned the form, please do so before Wednesday.

Phonics Workshop

We will be holding phonics workshops for Year 1 parents on Monday 26th November at 6pm and Thursday 29th November at 8.45am. This will be an opportunity to gain knowledge on how phonics is taught and how you can help your child in the run up to the phonics tests later in the academic year.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

Monday 19th November is the last day to bring in your shoeboxes. This is a wonderful opportunity to give underprivileged children the chance of receiving Christmas gifts. For ideas of what to put in boxes visit www.samaritans-purse.org.uk



Choir Performance at the Festival of Remembrance

The choir took part in the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at the Harlow Playhouse on Sunday 11th November, where they accompanied the Harlow Brass Band. They received lots of compliments on their performance and behaviour.

Visits and visitors

We have been out and about again this week. Thanks to all staff and helpers who provide such opportunities for our children.

Colchester Castle

On Monday year 3 went to Colchester castle to learn about the Romans. They enjoyed building a Roman villa, a Celtic round house and trying on some Celtic and Roman costumes.

It was a very exciting and educational day.



Braintree Museum

On Wednesday, Year 6 travelled back in time to The Victorian era when they visited Braintree Victorian Museum.

They had a fantastic time in the school re-enactment and were very grateful that they go to school in modern times where there is no cane or Dunces' Cap!

They also spent time handling authentic Victorian artefacts and completing a Victorian museum trail to find out lots more information about this interesting time period.

Thank you to all staff, parents and children who made this day a real success.



Great British Menu

Thank you to Mrs Alger and all the kitchen staff, who produced a special menu this week. On Tuesday the children were treated to Chicken Curry (voted the nation's favourite school dinner) and on Wednesday, National Roast Dinner Day and Prince Charles' 70th birthday we had roast pork, followed by birthday cake.

Forest School



Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed playing games with the leaves and competing to build the biggest leaf piles. They used a wooden beam to steadily balance along, before jumping into the piles of leaves! Some of the year 3 children persevered with the flint and steels and managed to light their own mini fires.

Year 6 had lots of fun in their science lesson this week. They identified as many invertebrates as they could find and classified them into groups. They found earthworms, slugs, snails, spiders, woodlice, centipedes, millipedes, pond skaters and beetles!



RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 18 November - Mark 13:24-32

"But in those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light... Sky and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Haylay in northern Ethiopia is no stranger to distress. Years of drought have left many communities here without enough food or drink. Disease has broken out, people have been displaced in a country still recovering from war. The security of Nature's seasons has deserted the land. It might easily appear that the end is fast approaching.

Still God is good. CAFOD works alongside Haylay, providing chickens and training on how to raise poultry. Despite hardship, Haylay can say, "Life is great. I am happy now and I am grateful to those who helped me."

Can we say life is great? Are we suffering from the stresses of everyday life, unable to notice the glory of autumn leaves as the season changes and the glory of the Lord shines around us? Do we open our eyes to see Jesus in our brothers and sisters?

Do we listen to the words of Jesus that will never pass away, which encourage us to act now for justice, like offering support for Haylay? Lord, you have promised you are with us to the end of time. We thank you for the confidence of knowing your love, and pray we may share it with others.

Provider God,

May we never grow complacent in times of plenty. May we remember the seasons of life. May we watch for signs of distress in our fellow brothers and sisters and respond, daily remaining alert to the word of God which encourages and guides us in your way of love.

Amen.

Children in 4C attended a Eucharistic Service in our church on Wednesday. These services are organised for the parish and it is wonderful that each class can take it in turns to attend. 5S will attend next Wednesday 21st November at 9.10 and parents are warmly invited to join us.

Christingle

Our annual Christingle service will be held on Friday 7th December at 2.00 in church. You will have already received instructions on how to make your Christingle, we look forward to each child bringing their Christingle into school on the morning of the service.

Remembrance

We could not fail to be moved by the many events that took place in our local areas, our country and across the world last weekend. We will leave you with this thought...





1S have been on chicken duty this week and have had great fun. They have cleaned out the coops, stroked the chickens, tried to learn all their names, collected the eggs, washed them, dated them and they hope to be able to cook with them next week. One group was lucky enough whilst out visiting them to witness one of the girls in the middle of laying their egg for the day. She was VERY noisy and the children wondered what was going on and opened up the coop door to make sure she was OK which is when they realised what was happening. They quickly gave her some meal worms (a tasty treat) and closed the door to let her get on.

It will be the turn of 5S next week so make sure you all have your wellies.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to 2C, who are the winners of the KS1 Attendance Trophy this week with 99.33%. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Trophy is 6CA, achieving 99.67%

Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

Please ensure 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	96%
1S	93%
2C	99%
2HD	91%
3MT	99%
3N	97%
4C	99%
4E	96%
5P	93%
5S	98%
6CA	99%
6ND	99%

Happy Birthday to... Layla Still, Luisa Marsham, Olivia Jarczewska, Ellis Kanio, Evie Baker, Hayley Ranathunga.



Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Holly-Mai Boone-Jolley, for her fantastic counting in 2's, 5's and 10's
- 1S: Nikoleta Hristova, for the way she represented the school, with outstanding behaviour on our trip to the Museum of Childhood
- 2C: Alex Embley, for writing an amazing letter to Sir Quentin Blake
- 2HD: Darcey Fallis, for being a kind and gentle friend to everyone
- 3MT: John-Jo Marti, for his effort and attitude to his work this week
- 3N: Olivia Mardyla, for her excellent attitude to learning
- 4C: Neriah Boateng, for incredible cooking skills during group work
- 4E: Louis Bacon, for writing a great autobiography in literacy
- 5P: Miller Fallis, for excellent work in all lessons
- 5S: Molly Cozens, for her positive attitude and enthusiastic approach to learning
- 6CA: The whole class for their excellent behaviour on the Victorian school trip
- 6N: Lily-Mae Stevenson, for excellent effort and enthusiasm in all lessons
- Learning Mentor: Cairo Kyriacou-Mason, being so helpful around the school and for being an eco-warrior
- Walking Bus: Logan Coombe and Shauden Sesay

Diary Dates

Menu Week 1

Monday 19th November

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
4E Class Mass 2-3
Operation Christmas Child Deadline

Tuesday 20th November

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

Wednesday 21st November

Netball 3.15-4.15
Chess Club 12.30-1.30
Karate 3.15-4.15
Flu Immunisations
5S Mass 9.10

Thursday 22nd November

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

Friday 23rd November

Karate 3.15-4.15
Multisports 3.15-4.15
4E/5S Library Visit
3N Class Assembly 2.40
Y5/6 Basketball Tournament

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Andrews**

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

Mr S Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher



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