



15th March 2019



Newsletter



Dear Parents

This has been another very busy week at school. Thank you to all involved for providing such a variety of experiences for our children.

St Patrick's Dance

I am sure that this evening will be a great success and an opportunity for our community to come together. Thank you to all involved and we hope that you all have a great time.



Reception Pet Day

On Tuesday the children in Reception welcomed their pets into school for a fun afternoon. They learnt about the animals and got to meet and pet a lizard, tortoise, dog and a hairless cat amongst others.

Year 4 Family lunch

Thank you to Mrs Alger and her team for producing a delicious meal for Year 4 and their families.



International Forest Day

A quick reminder that this will be held next Thursday and is non-uniform.

Children on the school grounds in the morning

We are finding increasing numbers of children alone on the school property before the start of school. Children are not permitted on the school grounds unaccompanied before 8:30. Any child found on school property alone before this time will be put in to Breakfast Club and the parents charged for the use of this facility.

Commonwealth Choir at Horse Guards Parade- Commonwealth Day 2019

On Monday children from Holy Cross, as part of the Commonwealth Choir, travelled to Horse Guards Parade to celebrate Commonwealth Day 2019.

Commonwealth Day had a special significance this year, as 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth. The Commonwealth represents a global network of 53 countries and almost 2.4 billion people, a third of the world's population. Each year the Commonwealth adopts a theme, which this year was, 'A Connected Commonwealth.'

When singing, the children were accompanied by the band of the Welsh Guards conducted by Major Simon Hall M.B.E.

They were also accompanied by the honorary vice-president and well known British soul singer Mica Paris when singing 'Believe-It Can Be You', the song for Commonwealth Day 2019.

Many thanks to the children who represented us so well and to those parents who supported this trip: Mrs. Cater, Mrs. Tieu, Mrs. Wells and Mr. Osei.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **1S**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award this week with **98%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **4E**, also achieving **98%** attendance!

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



Year 5 visit to Parliament

This is certainly a highlight of the year, and what a week to visit! We experienced, first hand, freedom of speech and democracy in action during our day which included touring Parliament and visiting Westminster Cathedral. Our children were so respectful and as usual, plenty of people commented on their excellent behaviour.

Thank you to all involved.



Forest School

Unfortunately the children were unable to be outside this week in Forest school as the windy weather deemed it too dangerous. However as part of the Geography curriculum, we created maps to-scale of our forest school area. Our aim is to have these laminated and used within our forest school sessions as well as becoming confident using compasses.

We are hopeful that warmer weather is on its way!

Some exciting news...

Please see the latest flyer for the 'Easter Holiday Forest school club'.

Places are limited so you need to book early. There is an attached booking form, in the Parentmail sent, for you to complete if your child wishes to come along.

Any questions please speak to Mrs Allardyce.

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS

CAFOD
Just one world

WEEKLY
Reflections

Based on the gospel for Sunday 17 March, Luke 9:28-36

"As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning."

Jesus takes Peter, John and James up the mountain to pray. There he is transformed. His clothes shine brightly and Moses and Elijah appear in their glory.

Eshita is a farmer who lives in a part of Bangladesh that can be waterlogged for seven months a year, making it hard to grow crops.

So she has learned new farming techniques, including composting and poultry rearing. This brings in enough for her to save towards her family's future.

The support Eshita received has completely changed her life. She explains: "Before, even though I had a paid job, it wasn't enough money. We lived in bad conditions. My husband and I often quarrelled. I felt hopeless.

"Now I'm doing well, other people come to visit me to see what I'm doing. It makes me feel so proud to be showing people the progress that I've made.

"Both my husband and I now sit together and plan and discuss and sort our problems together."

Eshita is sharing her new skills. She vaccinates other people's chickens and ducks, and gives advice on animal rearing and farming techniques. She even helps resolve disagreements in the village.

Eshita's prospects have been transformed by hope. This is how a person's future can be changed by someone stretching out a helping hand.

This Lent let us seek to change our own lives and reach out to our sisters and brothers to change their lives too.

God of light, inspire me to listen to your Son Jesus and to follow his example of love and compassion. Work through me as I try to bring about change in my own life and throughout the world. Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

If you believe in God you must try to live justly with everyone, according to the golden rule: "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you" (Mt 7,12).



**Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
In Partnership With
Natural Flair Coaching
Presents:**

Enough of The Huff!

Tantrums, Tears and Parenting Tools

**A Masterclass for
parents & carers of
children; EYFS2, KS1
and KS2**

**Delivered by one of
Hertfordshire's Top Parent
Coaches and winner of
Parent Coach of The Year
2015.**

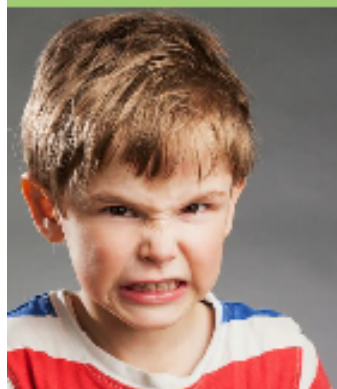
**GUEST SPEAKER:
Sharon Lawton**

Topics covered include:

- **Learn why your child's personality and temperament is important in how you parent them**
- **Tried and tested tips on motivation and discipline strategies that work**
- **Tips on boundary setting, conflict and dealing with feelings and friendships**
- **Keys to positive communication and a calmer family life**

Time: 1-3pm

Date: Thursday 25th April '19



**Natural Flair
Coaching Ltd**

**To book – please advise school office of your
attendance**

***Come along and have a relaxing coffee and listen to our guest
speaker.***

***Places are limited - Please call NOW to secure your place on
this popular workshop***



EASTER HOLIDAYS

'FOREST SCHOOL FUN'

AT HOLY CROSS

MONDAY 8TH AND TUESDAY 9TH APRIL

10AM-3PM

£25 A DAY OR £40 FOR BOTH

COME AND EXPERIENCE

'A FUN FILLED DAY OF FOREST SCHOOL'

EGG HUNT - CAMP FIRE - COOKING

DEN AND SHELTER BUILDING - USING TOOLS

MUD KITCHEN AND POTIONS

CLAY SCULPTURES - FOREST ART TREE

CLIMBING - BUG HUNTING AND LOTS MORE!

LIMITED SPACES SO BOOK ASAP.

**TO SECURE YOUR PLACE, PLEASE RETURN THE SLIP ALONG
WITH PAYMENT TO MRS ALLARDYCE**





Easter Egg-stravaganza Event!

Dear Parents,

Please join us in our **Easter Egg-stravaganza event!**

Starting with an Easter Bonnet competition on **Wednesday April 3rd**. We are asking for a **£1 donation** for this competition. There will be a winner in each class and each winner will receive a prize, winners will be announced on the 3rd.

On **Friday April 5th at 1:30** after school, please join us in the playground for **Easter themed fun and games with prizes** including:

Mask Making

Egg piñata



Hook a duck



Easter tin can alley



Guess how many eggs in the jar

Face painting and glitter tattoos



Guess the name of the chick



Throw the beanbag through the bunny

Refreshment stall with sweets and cakes



Please remember to bring your loose change on the day! Easter bonnet competition is to be paid prior to the event by parentmail. Those that prefer can pop the money in an envelope. Please clearly mark the envelope with your child's name and class and pop it into the box in the main reception at school.

Good luck in the competition and we look forward to seeing lots of you on the 5th!

Reception Class





Publish date: 06/02/19

What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:



Universal, suitable for all ages



Parental Guidance required



Suitable for people aged 12 and over



Suitable for people aged 12 and over; anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult



Suitable for people aged 15 and over



Suitable for people aged 18 and over



Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:



PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info

Wednesday 13th March 2019 - 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 17th March 2019 - The Second Sunday in Lent

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 Sunday 17th March 2019 - The Transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28-36)

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah," – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him." And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

3 Reflect

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

The gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent is always the account of the Transfiguration, preparing the chosen three disciples and ourselves for the coming Passion of Christ. It is a scene of Christ's heavenly glory, his clothes bright as lightning, his glory extending even to the appearance of Moses and Elijah: these two Old Testament personalities are here privileged to speak to Jesus because they each had a vision of God on the holy mountain, called both Sinai and Horeb (in the Old Testament these are two names for the same mountain). The Voice from heaven at the baptism had been addressed to Jesus himself (in Mark and Luke); this time the Voice is a public declaration of Jesus' Sonship, and presents him now as the Chosen Teacher for all people. Luke foreshadows the Passion when he mentions Jerusalem – the place where Jesus is to suffer and die on the cross. The fact that the disciples are praying, and are the same three disciples as are present at the Agony in the Garden, makes a strong link with the Passion of Jesus. This gospel also highlights the importance of prayer in Luke's gospel, for Luke mentions Jesus' prayer and the significance of prayer on several occasions and in several parables (e.g. in the Unjust Judge, the Friend at Midnight, and the Pharisee & the Tax-Collector).

What do you find the best form of prayer? What commitment to prayer can you make this Lent? Jesus was transfigured on the 'Holy' Mountain. What makes a place 'holy'?

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**

www.wednesdayword.org

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 17th February 2019



First Reading: *A Curse and a Blessing*

Jeremiah 17:5-8

The Lord says this: 'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited. A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Actually, this passage is neither a curse nor a blessing. It is not invoking or wishing upon a person the blessing or the curse. Instead, the prophet is here saying that people who behave in these two ways are respectively blessed and accursed. There is no need to wish it on them, for their own behaviour merits it and brings it on themselves. Such statements of blessing and its opposite are frequent in the Bible; an example very similar to this is in Psalm One. In Jeremiah's prophecy here, unlike most of the instances in the Bible of 'beatitudes' in both Old and New Testaments, there is no list of ways of moral conduct; blessing is simply a matter of trust or faith. It is not a person's achievements which count, for we cannot earn blessedness; we can only trust in God. However, if God is the real centre of our trust and reliance, we will try to behave as we were created, in the image of God, imitating the divine generosity, forgiveness, attentiveness to human need, fostering life rather than restricting it. This will mean that our heart is truly turned to the Lord, and the Lord will care for us, as the stream does the tree.

How true is it that we bring blessing and curse on ourselves?

Second Reading: *A People of the Resurrection*

1 Corinthians 15:12. 16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

“ We will be wrapped in the joy of the presence of God. ”

As he nears the end of his great letter to the Corinthians, which we have been reading for five Sundays, Paul teaches about the resurrection, the bedrock of Christian faith. Last Sunday he was rehearsing the most primitive proclamation, that Christ had truly risen from the dead and had encountered a host of witnesses. Now Paul tackles the resurrection of Christians, of which Christ's resurrection is the first fruits and the model. The importance of Christ's resurrection is not only that it places him in glory at his Father's right hand, but also that it is the forerunner of our own resurrection. We can know little about the transformation which will take place in us at the resurrection. We will be physical, but physical in a quite different way. The glorified body is a body, but not like any body which we know. The traditional Christian picture of clouds and harps is not to be taken too seriously. The only important thing is that we will be wrapped or rapt in the joy of the presence of God, enveloped in utter contentment. Nothing else will matter but the enjoyment of the most lovable of all beings.

Why will it not be possible to get bored in heaven?

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday to... Cheri Uzuegbuna, Joseph Robson, Emil Danel, Bartosz Seiler, Callum Hollingworth, Clay McQuillan-Clark.



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Praise Owolabi, for making fantastic progress with her writing skills

Violet Aldous, for being a kind friend and making sensible choices

Ladybirds: Martyna Gulka, for excellent drawing skills

1D: Amelia Tarczwska, for her fantastic multiplication work in maths

1S: Naomi Oregbhemhe, for really trying with her writing this week

2C: Victor Budnyak, for always trying his best especially with his reading

2HD: Isla Marsh-Gray, for trying hard to improve her story writing

3G: Mya Matunge, for producing a fantastic Patron Saint project (St Patrick's Day)

3N: Naavah Dixon, for working hard on her greatly improved handwriting

4C: Filip Szymanski, for awesome writing about Charlie Bucket

4E: Samantha Osei, for great fractions in numeracy

5P & 5S for representing Holy Cross so admirably on their trips to the Houses of Parliament

5P: James Kelly, for working really hard during swimming this week

Vusi Mazibuko, for great effort and continued effort and continued interest about the Houses of Parliament

5S: Molly Cozens, for always trying her best in all subjects and making good progress

6CA: Alexandra Nita, for her wonderful artwork— Well done Alexandra

6N: Julia Kibirango, for excellent improvement with her reading comprehension. Well Done!

Learning Mentor: Alex Gronet & Lily-Mae Stevenson, for their continued help with the gardening

Zach Gauchi, for making great progress in class

Diary Dates

Menu Week 3

Monday 11th March

Dance KS2 3:15 - 4:15

5P Swimming Lesson

Funky Fingers KS1 3:15 - 4:15

Y6 SATs Boosters 3:15 - 4:15

St Patrick's Cake Sale

Year 3 Mass in Church 2.00

(rescheduled from last week)

Tuesday 12th March

Year 6 SATs Boosters 3:15 - 4:15

Choir KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Football Team 3:15 - 4:30

Board Games KS1 3:15 - 4:15

Dodgeball KS1 3:15 - 4:15

Cosmic Yoga KS1 3:15 - 4:00

Reception Barleylands Trip

Wednesday 13th March

Football KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Karate 3:15 - 4:15

Multisports KS1 3:15 - 4:15

3G Eucharistic Service 9:10

Thursday 14th March

Hockey KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Choir KS2 3:15 - 4:15

International Forest Day - non uniform day

Friday 15th March

Netball KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Girls' Football Team 3:15 - 4:30

Karate 3:15 - 4:15

4E Library Visit

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St George

S. McQuiggan

Miss S McQuiggan

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