

### A message from Mrs Dowdeswell

I trust you all had a lovely summer and managed to spend some quality time with friends and family. I have to say the high temperatures of the summer months feel like a bit of a distant memory now, but it was lovely to have a summer break whereby we could enjoy the outdoors quite so much.

Myself and the staff have greatly enjoyed welcoming the children back to school and it has been lovely to see existing pupils settle so well into their new classes and a delight to welcome the new children who joined us in Ash and Oak.

We had some building work completed over the summer and this has allowed us to revamp our school libraries and also create some new work spaces for the children – all were very excited to see the new layout!

The joy of the new school year was tinged with sadness at the news of the passing of Her Majesty the Queen, and the school held classroom-based worship to celebrate her life and to thank God for our most cherished sovereign. A book of condolence is available for children and staff to write a message should they wish.



May Flights of Angels Sing Thee to Thy Rest



### Feast of the Holy Cross

Father Thomas and the children from Year 6 will lead Mass on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September to celebrate the school's feast day, reminding us that we are part of a loving community and the 'Family of God'.

### Harvest

The children in Year 5 shall be leading our Harvest Mass at Holy Rood Church on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 5:30pm. All children are expected to attend as we come together as a whole community to celebrate this special time of year. A separate letter is attached which gives details of both the Mass and also the collection for Swindon Food Collective. Any donations will be most gratefully received.



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### Parking

We are pleased to advise that the police and local traffic enforcement officers are working with the school and our parents to ensure that there is no illegal parking in the lay-by directly outside the school. We ask all parents to park in the surrounding residential areas or the County Ground car park please, and then walk your child(ren) to the school gate so that we can keep all our children and families safe. The police have agreed to attend on a regular basis and will also contact those whose registrations have been captured whilst parking illegally.



Thank you for helping us to support the safety of our children by parking safely at all times.

### Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 3:30pm – 6:30pm. Sessions will be available to book shortly via ParentPay.

### Swimming – Year 5

Swimming lessons begin for Year 5 children on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Please ensure your child brings a swimming costume or trunks, a towel and a swimming hat for girls with long hair. It is easier for girls to wear socks rather than tights on the days they swim. Swimming is an essential skill to learn and children should participate in every lesson. A note from parents will be needed if a child is unable to swim on a particular week.

### Parents and Friends Association (PFA)

In the past the school has always benefitted from a fantastic group of people working together to raise funds for the school through arranging fun events for our children. These events included school discos, Christmas fayres, sponsored walks etc. and the funds raised allowed us to buy valuable resources for our school. I am very keen to reintroduce a PFA and would ask anyone interested in joining to pass their name to Mrs Fernandes in the office or to email [admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk) by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Ideally, we would have at least one parent from every class 😊.

The PFA meetings would run once per half term immediately after school and then there is often an additional meeting required if an event is coming up. I speak from experience when I say that being part of a successful PFA can be really rewarding and a good chance to give something back to the school whilst making new friends and meeting other parents.

### School Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart in their new school uniform and I thank you for ensuring the children look their very best when representing the school.

I would like to remind parents that children should not be wearing jewellery or nail varnish to school. School shoes and not trainers should be worn (unless a PE day) and a reminder that hair should not be highly stylised; long hair should be tied up; and no artificial colour should be in the hair. PE uniform should be a plain white t-shirt and navy blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms.

Full details of our uniform can be found within the school prospectus.

We have now placed lost property outside of the children's entrance so that parents and pupils can easily search for mislaid items and I would highly recommend that all items of clothing are labelled.

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## Safeguarding

It is the responsibility of everybody to keep children safe. Please see below details of who to contact should you have a concern about a child:

## Worried about a Child? Safeguarding and Child Protection

If you have a concern about the safety or well-being of a child please speak to one of our safeguarding team. In this school this is:

### Designated Safeguarding Lead



Contact details: Mrs S Dowdeswell  
[Head@holycross.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:Head@holycross.swindon.sch.uk) 01793 527679

### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Contact details: Mrs E O'Neill  
[honeill@holycross.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:honeill@holycross.swindon.sch.uk) 01793 527679

### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Contact details: Mrs G McDowall  
[gmcdownall@holycross.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:gmcdownall@holycross.swindon.sch.uk) 01793 527679

### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Contact details: Mr J Green  
[jgreen@holycross.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:jgreen@holycross.swindon.sch.uk) 01793 527679

## Worried about the actions of an adult working/volunteering in the school?

If your concern is about a member of staff, an adult volunteer or visitor please report to the Headteacher before leaving the site. If your concerns are about the Headteacher please contact the Chair of Governors as soon as possible.

### Headteacher



Contact details:  
[head@holycross.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:head@holycross.swindon.sch.uk) 01793 527679

### Chair of Governors



Contact details:  
[paul.kehoe@Cliftondiocese.com](mailto:paul.kehoe@Cliftondiocese.com) 07720 089526

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### Morning drop-off

Following feedback from parents, the school gate is now open from 8:35am rather than 8:40am. Lessons continue to start at 8:45am. Children in Year 2 – Year 6 should be encouraged to walk into school on their own with parents waving them goodbye from the school gate. This reduces the congestion at drop-off time and encourages the children to become more independent. Well done to the many children who already do this 😊.

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Flu immunisations
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Swimming starts for Y5
<b>October</b>	Black History Month
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	School photographs
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 5:30pm	Harvest Mass at Holy Rood Church – families invited to attend
<b>November</b>	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	All Saints Mass in school
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent's Evening
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying Week
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Advent Mass in school
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	TD Day – school closed to pupils
<b>December</b>	
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 trip to Wyvern & EYFS/KS1 panto in school
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Mass in school

### Open Mornings

There is an opportunity for prospective new parents to meet the fantastic staff and pupils at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, and to have a tour of the wonderful facilities we have on offer to our students. I am pleased to advise that the school will be holding open day sessions at the following times:

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 9:15am – 10:00am

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 9:15am – 10:00am

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 1:45pm – 2:30pm

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1:45 – 2:30pm

Visits must be by appointment and arranged via our admin team: [admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk)



Thank you as always for your ongoing support and for working together with myself and the staff to provide the very best education for your children.

### The Holy Cross Mission

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School,  
We learn about ourselves and about the world.

We grow in faith,

We act with kindness, generosity and love to ourselves and others.

We live life to the full and have a future full of hope.

*Learn, Grow, Love, Live*