

Dear Parents and Friends of Holy Cross,

Message from Mrs Dowdeswell

This term is always a busy one, but for some reason Christmas seems to have crept up on us even more quickly this year! The children have been learning about Advent being a time of preparation and we have spent time as a whole school preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The children enjoyed performing the Nativity at Holy Rood Church and it was a delight to see so many of our families attend – I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. It was a refreshing change to put on such a performance without the need for expensive costumes and without any expense to parents. Photographs from the afternoon have now been posted onto our website. I would like to echo the thanks I gave during the performance to all of the volunteers that help the children of our school. We rely so heavily on such support, and I know I speak on behalf of all the staff when I say how appreciative we are of your time. The children from Y3 – Y6 have now started to walk to Holy Rood Church to attend Mass on a Thursday morning and feedback from children, staff and parishioners has been extremely positive. The Mass begins at 9:15am and families are welcome to attend.



On behalf of myself and all the staff at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023, and in the words of the children from the final carol: may the light of Christ shine brightly in your lives.

Mrs Dowdeswell



“Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!” Pope Francis

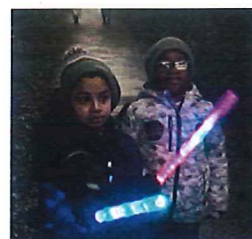
Old Town Enchanted Gardens Light Trail

We were very lucky to have been given some complimentary tickets to the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail Preview Evening this year. Thank you to Swindon South Parish Council for these free tickets and congratulations to the children who were randomly selected to attend – they had an amazing time!

“I loved the dancing part. I danced lots and lots!” *Benjamin Richman, Year 3.*

“It made me feel really Christmassy – I loved it!” *Natica Pereira, Year 5*

“The lights were really pretty and I liked the Christmas tree the best.” *Dorothy Barbosa, Y1*



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Christmas cards for the elderly



Our Chaplains organised for children across the school to send Christmas cards to the residents of Weymss Lodge, a local nursing home. The children found out the names of the residents so that the cards could be personalised and I am sure they will enjoy receiving some Christmas goodwill at this time of year.



Time to say Goodbye

It is always sad to say goodbye when a member of staff leaves us; however, we wish our friend and colleague, Louise, all the very best as she embarks on a new career. Although we shall miss her greatly, we know she will be fantastic in her new role and thank her for all the support given to the children of Holy Cross.

After School Club

Children who attend the After School Club have been enjoying making pictures using nature – aren't they fantastic! The After School Club runs from 3:15pm until 5:30pm and full details can be found on our website.



Christmas Fayre

What a success! A huge thank you to all who made this event such a memorable one! The children really enjoyed themselves and loved being given the opportunity to buy a gift for loved ones. Thank you so much for the donations – they made a lot of children very happy! Special thanks to all of the volunteers – it was hard work, but I hope you enjoyed it and found it rewarding. What a fantastic community we have 😊



Thank you to Hortico for donating a Christmas tree to the school: it is a truly magnificent one and we are most grateful to them. Thanks also to the staff who collected it from Malmesbury (it wasn't the easiest to manoeuvre!).



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Christmas Panto

The children had a wonderful time watching the Christmas pantomime. The younger children watched Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and the older ones walked to the Wyvern to watch Beauty and the Beast. This is a real highlight of the Christmas calendar for the children and it is a joy to watch their faces. Another huge thank you to the adults who volunteered to accompany our children on the walk to the Wyvern – we hope you enjoyed yourselves too 😊



PFA – Parents Friends Association

All of the wonderful events that your children have enjoyed have only been able to happen due to an army of volunteers helping out. These events include the Jubilee celebrations, Christmas Nativity, Fayre, Panto trips etc. and I would again ask for any parents/carers who are happy to help out at such events to please email admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk and register their interest in joining a PFA. As a school we recognise how important these events are to our children and for the adults, they can be a great way of working together with other families for the good of the school. School staff have also expressed an interest in joining a PFA but we need parents too please. Don't be shy – there will be a warm welcome for you. As well as providing fun experiences for the children, the funds raised through these events are used to provide valuable resources for the pupils: essential with the funding restrictions faced by all schools. Thank you so much for considering this.

Final Day of Term

We end this term on **Friday December 16th at 1:15pm** and ask that all children are picked up promptly. There will be no After School Club on this day.

Back to School in January 2023

Please note that Tuesday 3rd January 2023 is a Staff Development Day. Children will return to school on **Wednesday 4th January**.

Just a reminder that gates are open for drop-offs from 8:35 - 8:45am. **Lessons begin at 8:45am and all children need to be in class at this time.** Wherever possible, parents of children in Y2 - Y6 should encourage their child to walk to the classroom on their own after waving goodbye to them at the gate. Parents of children in EYFS and Y1 must walk with their child to the classroom. The gate closes at 8:50am to allow 5 minutes for those parents dropping off in Ash, Oak, Pine and Elm to get back to the gate before it closes. **Parents or children should not be entering through the gates after 8:45am.** Please make sure you have booked all your child's lunches for that week by Thursday 29th December.

January dates for your diary

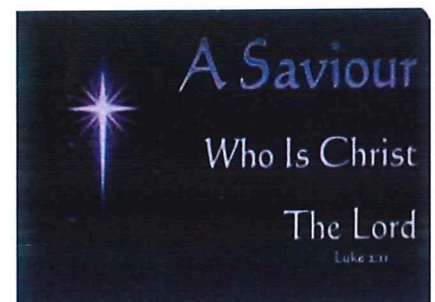
Mon 2/1 - Bank Holiday

Tues 3/1 - TD Day – school closed to all pupils

Weds 4/1 - Height and weight checks for children in EYFS & Y6

Tues 10/1 - TalentEd maths tutoring sessions begin

Thurs 12/1 - Wiltshire Air Ambulance workshops for KS2



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