

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, that's it - another school year nearly gone! As I sit here writing this final newsletter of 2022-23, I think back to the time my own children were at school. As a parent I have to say that time goes so quickly; it seemed such a short space of time between my own children starting their first day with a school bag that looked far too big for them and a tear in my eye as I looked at them thinking how big, but also how small, they looked as they tentatively walked into their class on that very first day. And then, within the blink of an eye, they were leaving with their shirts full of signatures and best wishes and perhaps a tear in their eye as they realise this special chapter is coming to a close. I know I speak on behalf of all the staff when I say it remains a huge privilege to be a part of this stage of your child's journey. Every member of our team works so hard to help our pupils **learn** all about the world they live in; **grow** into healthy and happy individuals; develop **love** for each other and respect for those around them; and be confident to **live** life to the full where they feel valued and know that they matter. We know that all of the children in Y6 are ready for the next step of the journey which begins with new schools, new teachers and new friends, and we wish you all the absolute best for everything the future brings. Remember to always follow your dreams Y6 because, with hard work and determination, you can achieve anything! It has been an absolute delight to have each and every one of you at our school and remember, just because you have moved on to your new schools, you forever remain part of the Holy Cross family. You will be greatly missed and hold a very special place in our hearts.

To the rest of our families, I wish you a happy and relaxing summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back on September 5th. Thank you as always for the ongoing support you show to the children and staff of our amazing school, as it is this team work that allows your children to flourish.

God bless,

Mrs Dowdeswell

Ofsted



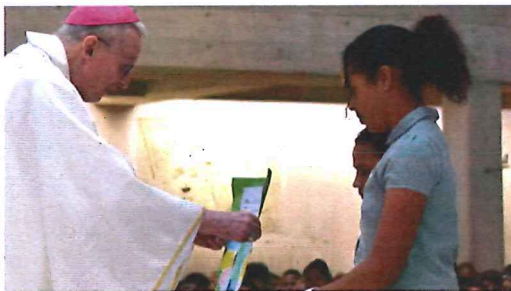
Thank you so to those parents who completed the Ofsted Parent View survey. The Inspectors were with us for two days and are now in the process of writing their final report. This takes a little while to complete and we are not expecting the report to be published until the end of the summer holidays. As soon as this is actioned, I shall be providing a copy of this to all parents.

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Physical Assault

I am saddened to advise you that a serious physical assault took place just outside the ambulance station on Queen's Drive on Thursday 29th June at school pick up time (approx. 3pm). One of our parents was punched in the face during an unprovoked attack by a man on an electric scooter who was riding on the pavement. The parent who was assaulted required medical attention and has reported this incident to the police. If you witnessed this – and the pavement would have been very busy at this time of day with parents on their way to pick up their children – please could you call the police on 101 and quote crime reference number 54230068420 so that they may gather all the information and hopefully catch the person who did this.

Y6 Leavers' Mass



The children from Y6 attended the Leavers' Mass at Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday 14th June. It was a wonderful time for the children to join with the schools across the diocese to celebrate their years at primary school. The pupils of Y6 presented Bishop Declan with a pictorial representation of all that they had contributed to our Catholic Social Teaching principle of Participation. They included all of the wonderful things the school has done for charity and how they had worked together to help those in need within our local community and beyond. Shakiya

and Adaya presented the offering to the bishop on behalf of the school. Afterwards, the children went up to Bristol Downs to have a picnic in the glorious sunshine and to enjoy an ice-cream.



Uniform

If you have school uniform that is of good quality and no longer fits your child, please consider donating this to the school so that it can be passed on to another family. Uniform is often discarded simply because it is too small and as a school we would like to promote recycling of such clothing. If you are happy to donate, please ensure the uniform is washed and brought to the office. We

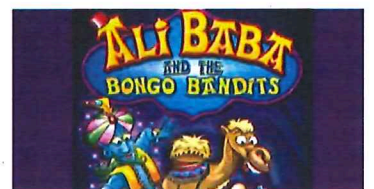
shall display all available uniform at the summer fayre so that parents have the opportunity to take what they need in advance of buying in preparation for September.

Many thanks to those who have already brought items in ☺



Year 6 Production

Wow! Year 6 parents are in for such a delight this year. The children of Sycamore and Chestnut have been working SO hard to get their production ready for you. I join with Mr Mac and Miss Vickers in being so proud of these children who have learnt a phenomenal amount of lines and lyrics and I know you will be equally as proud when you come to watch them. Although we do not charge for tickets, any donations made towards the cost of the licensing would be gratefully received – buckets will be available on the day to receive these ☺



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Goodbyes

It is always sad to say goodbye to members of the team, but it is important to remember that whilst it is sad for those of us who will miss them dearly, it is an exciting time for those who are looking forward to new and exciting challenges. I know you will join me in thanking the following members of staff for all the hard work and commitment they have shown whilst working at our school and for the amazing support they have shown to our pupils.

Andrew McEachron (Y6) will be leaving us to continue his career working at a local secondary school – good luck Andrew, your new pupils are so very lucky to have you and you will be such a welcome addition to your new team. Keep skipping!

Marian De Bryn (Y3) will be leaving us to continue her teaching career within another school. We wish Marian all the very best for the future.

Jess Hopewell (Y2) is looking forward to a break from teaching as she embarks on a change of career – good luck Jess, you'll be amazing and an absolute asset to the company and team you are joining!

Rebecca Salter (EYFS) is moving to Kent – good luck Becca, it has been our privilege to support you through your first year of teaching and we are so proud of all you have achieved.

Helen Townsend (Y4) began her maternity leave from June as she looks forward to the arrival of her baby – the staff are all looking forward to meeting the new arrival and having baby cuddles over a cuppa in the staff room. We wish you all the very best for this wonderful event, Helen.

Ellie Thorne (Y5) leaves us to begin a PGCE to become a class teacher. Ellie has worked across all of the year groups during her time with us and I know she will work hard to be successful in the exciting new chapter of her career. Please don't forget to come and let us know how you are getting on Ellie.

Clarina Braganca (EYFS) has been a hugely valued member of our team for several years and we wish her all the very best as she moves to Goa to be closer to family. Thank you so much for all you have done Clarina; we will miss you so much but wish you and your boys all the very best for the future.

Seema (Y3) leaves us to relocate to another area. You have been a real asset to the team Seema and we wish you and your family the very best of luck for the future.

Mandy Mercer (Office) Mandy has left us to begin a new career and we thank her for all the administrative support she gave to the school. We wish Mandy all the very best for her new role.

Welcomes

Whilst it is sad to say goodbye, we are extremely excited to be welcoming the following to join our team:

Kallie Michenzi – we welcome Kallie back from maternity leave following the birth of her daughter.

Matt Toogood – Matt will be joining us in the role of Y5 class teacher and assistant headteacher.

Rachel King – Rachel joins us in the role of Y6 class teacher and phase leader.

Emma Elliott – Emma will be joining us as a class teacher in Y2.

Sarah Nichols – Sarah will be joining the EYFS team as a class teacher.

A huge welcome to them all and I know you will join the staff in making them feel welcome within the Holy Cross family.



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New classes for September

I am delighted to be able to advise you of the classes for next year:

Existing Class	Moving to	New class teacher
	EYFS Ash	Mrs Rutherford and Mrs Nichols
	EYFS Oak	Mrs Cox
EYFS Ash	Y1 Elm	Mrs McDowell and Mrs Richardson
EYFS Oak	Y1 Pine	Miss Walker
Y1 Elm	Y2 Cedar	Miss Ballinger
Y1 Pine	Y2 Beech	Mrs Elliott
Y2 Beech	Y3 Willow	Ms Silva and Mrs Milsom
Y2 Cedar	Y3 Maple	Ms Michienzi
Y3 Maple	Y4 Hazel	TBC
Y3 Willow	Y4 Larch	Mr Green
Y4 Hazel	Y5 Aspen	Mrs Harmer and Mr Forrester
Y4 Larch	Y5 Alder	Mr Toogood and Mrs Moran
Y5 Alder	Y6 Chestnut	Mrs King
Y5 Aspen	Y6 Sycamore	Miss Vickers

Move up mornings will be held on *11th and 13th July* so that the children can spend some time in their new classroom and with their new teacher(s). Mrs Nichols, Mrs Elliott, Ms Michienzi, Mr Toogood and Mrs King will all be joining us for the move-up sessions.

Summer Holiday 'homework'

Topic Webs are now on the website for each year group and these show the topics that are covered during each term. Please do have a look at what topics are coming up in the autumn term for your child's new class and support them in doing a little homework to find out as much as they can about the topics in advance. Also, you will find all of the maths, English and science year-by-year objectives so that you can see what your child will be learning and, again, support from home.

Summer Safeguarding

Most of us look forward to the summer break with great excitement but for some young people it can be a time of anxiety especially for those who rely on regular face-to-face contact with their friends or who enjoy the security and structure provided by the school day.

If you are concerned about any young person in respect of their emotional wellbeing or you feel that they are vulnerable to harm or abuse and you are uncertain whether they are receiving support you may wish to contact one of the agencies listed. Many of the agencies have established links and will ensure that your concern or query is directed to the appropriate agency:

- ◆ The NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000
- ◆ MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) 01793 466903 swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk
- ◆ CEOP for online protection

If you believe a child is in immediate danger of harm, call 999 and ask for the police.

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We have added information regarding online safety to our website as we know that many of our children will be spending more time online during the holiday periods. Please do use the links provided to get more information and please do consider setting a limit for the amount of time your child spends on digital devices as it is important to get a healthy balance.

We also recognise that for some adults, the holiday periods can be a tricky time and can add strain to relationships. Here is a link to the Refuge Domestic Abuse helpline <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/> and their 24-hour telephone number is 0808 2000 247. In the case of an emergency you should call 999. Let's all stay safe.

Summer Reading Challenge



This year's Summer Reading Challenge is Ready, Set Read! This is a fun and engaging way for children to keep up with their reading whilst not in school and to develop their love and enjoyment of books. You will know from previous communications just how important reading is for your child and I strongly recommend that you enrol your child. Here is the link for you to register or you can pop along to your local library and register there. It is completely free and gives your child access to thousands of books, comics and digital productions. Happy reading! <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

SwinPup

We were delighted to take part in Swindon's Big Dog Art Trail (<https://www.juliashouse.org/news/we-reveal-where-our-swindogs-can-be-found-summer>) and as a school we raised a whopping £400 for Julia's House Hospice. We were also selected to have the Holy Cross Catholic Primary School pup on display – I wonder if you can find him over the holidays? Here is where the selected pups have been displayed:

- North Swindon Library
- Central Library
- West Swindon Library
- Pinetrees Community Centre
- The Wyvern Theatre
- The McArthurGlen Designer Outlet



Can you find where I am

Happy hunting!

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First Communion

Congratulations to those children who are taking their first Holy Communion. Some of the children of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School were asked to sing during the Mass and service to celebrate this important event. Thank you to all those children who attended over several Saturdays and to those staff who accompanied them. The singing was joyful and the children a credit to the school.



Sports Day

We are in the final stages of arranging sports day and will send a separate letter out shortly. Please note your child will need a t-shirt in their house colour and these are as follows:

- St. Ignatius – green
- St. Teresa – blue
- St. Francis - red
- St. Vincent - yellow

Reminder

Last day of term is Tuesday 25th July and school ***will finish at 1:30pm*** No after school care will be available on this day and we ask that all children be collected promptly.

Gates open at 1.15pm

All children must be collected by 1.30pm

September 2023

Friday 1st September - TD Day school closed for children

Monday 4th September - TD Day school closed for children

Children in Ash and Oak have a staggered start, please see your individual letters for start days and times.



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Letter from Chair of Governors



Dear Parents, Staff and Children,

As we come to the end of this academic year, I would like on behalf of the Board of Governors to extend my thanks to all our Staff, Parents and Children. I would also like to thank fellow governors who volunteer hours of their time to ensure that we have a vibrant and inclusive community where we live out our values.

This has been a very busy year. In the Autumn term we had our Section 48 Inspection from the Diocese. The Inspectors found that we are a good school. Staff and pupils have continued to work hard to improve so that your child receives quality teaching. Earlier this term I was able to join Year 6 pupils and staff at Clifton Cathedral with over 1000 other Year 6 pupils celebrate Mass with Bishop Declan as they prepare to move onto Secondary Education in September. Everybody at Holy Cross wishes them every success in the future.

Over the summer holiday, Governors have approved work on the outdoor play spaces which I know from talking to pupils, is a big issue, so in September we should have extended play space.

The end of any academic year sees changes, we say farewell to Year 6, to families who are moving away from our community and to staff who are moving to new opportunities. We wish them well.

Finally, as Chair of Trust Board, I would like to thank Mrs Dowdeswell as our Headteacher for the fantastic work that she has done and is continuing to do for our community.

I wish each and every one of you a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Paul Kehoe
Chair of Trust Board

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