

March 24

Dear Holy Cross families,

As we rapidly approach Easter, we are busy celebrating this special season and I am looking forward to seeing the Easter gardens that the children will soon be bringing in. These can be brought in from now and will be on display in the school. 😊



We have had some lovely events within school this term and I thank all of the staff for the hard work they put in to ensure the children have an excellent education and enjoy as many different learning experiences as we can possibly provide. The Year 1 trip to Queen's Park was a lovely opportunity for the children to see the wildlife at the park and I thank the parents who volunteered to accompany the children – without you, this trip could not have gone ahead so thank you so much. They also enjoyed a visit to STEAM to learn about travel and transport and learnt lots about Isambard Kingdom Brunel. They were so excited to tell me all that they had learnt and if you have not been to STEAM with your children, I would thoroughly recommend a visit. Year 2 and Year 4 have trips coming up to Westonbirt and The Living Rainforest and I know they are equally excited to be visiting some wonderful venues to support their learning.



“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16



On behalf of myself and the staff, I wish all of our families a peaceful Easter.

Mrs Dowdeswell

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Parking

A reminder that we have free parking available for all of our families at County Ground car park during drop-off and pick-up times. We are extremely grateful to STFC for allowing us to use their facilities so that parents are able to safely bring their children to and from school. We have seen a reduction in parents using the layby directly outside school and I thank all those parents who have made the decision to park elsewhere so that they can help to keep our children safe – I know it is appreciated by our families and our staff.



Sweets for birthday children



Please can we remind you that if a child wishes to bring sweets in to share with the class on their birthday, this must be Haribo sweets only. This is so that children with allergies are not given sweets which could be harmful to them. We have recently seen some children bring large party bags in and, whilst this is incredibly kind, it is difficult for the school to monitor the content of these bags.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held on Tues 19th and Thurs 21st March for most classes. Slots are now open on ParentPay and we ask that every parent book a meeting to discuss your child's progress. We look forward to sharing with you the amazing work your child has completed.



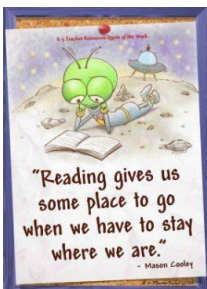
Passport verification

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to verify passports for our pupils. For further information about who is able to verify, please visit the passport site: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports>

PFA

Thank you to those parents who attended the recent PFA meeting. If you were unable to attend on the day of the meeting and were interested in helping out, please do email admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk so that we can give you the information you need.

Library



We are incredibly lucky to have two wonderful libraries in our school and I know the children all love to visit and select a book to take home and read. Please snuggle up and share the book at home with your child(ren).

A love of reading is one of the best gifts we can give to a child. 😊



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Wyvern Dance Festival

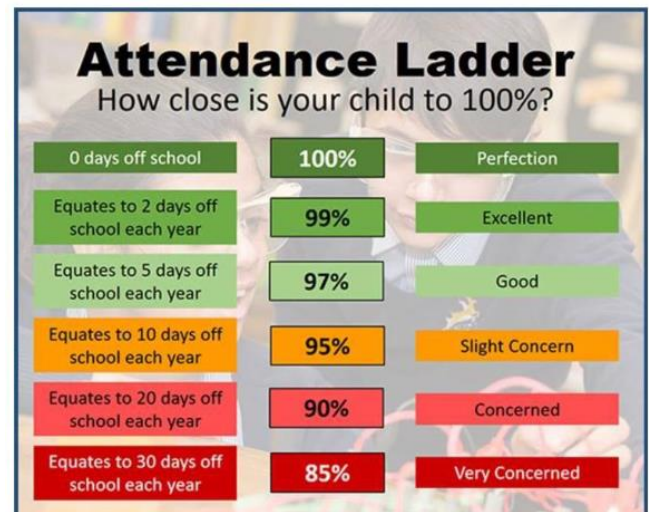


Mrs D'Costa's Indian Dance Club performed at the Wyvern Theatre as part of the Swindon Dance Festival. The children performed brilliantly and were by far the largest group there. Although many were nervous before they stepped on stage, they soon relaxed and did themselves, and Mrs D'Costa, proud. Well done to all who took part – you were absolutely fantastic!

Attendance

The school is fully supportive of the government's initiative to raise attendance across all schools. We fully appreciate the importance of children attending school to ensure they receive the very best education they can. Holidays or trips abroad for any reason, should only be taken during the school holidays.

Well done to all those children who have 100% attendance

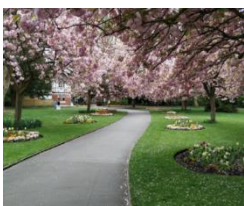


Cultural Capital

Definition of cultural capital:

- The values, knowledge or ideas that parents can pass on to their children, which can then influence their success at school and later in life.

In school, we work hard to give the children as many first-hand experiences as we can; however, we would love for the children to experience more. The term 'cultural capital' refers to the real- life experiences children have with their families, and these experiences have been proved to have a huge impact on a child's learning. Here are some ideas of places to visit in and around Swindon which you might enjoy with your child(ren).



Town Gardens

This is a lovely park in Old Town where you can spend an hour or two. There is no entry charge and there is a wonderful child's play area with lots of play equipment for both older and younger children to enjoy. There is an aviary and a pond, a bandstand where bands often play on a Sunday, and some wonderful statues of Peter Pan and Richard Jefferies. There's also a lovely café with outdoor seating.

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Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens

Cotswold Wildlife Park is an excellent day out where you can spend time discovering lots of different animals. There is lots of space for children to run around and a playpark and a train ride to be enjoyed. The wildlife park is about a 45-minute drive from Swindon and is a whole day's entertainment. Children and adults alike will love this place 😊

<https://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk/>



We hope you manage to get to visit some of the lovely places in and around our town during the Easter break.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| Wednesday 13th March | Junior Music Festival, Wyvern |
| Monday, 18 th March | Tag rugby competition at Lydiard Park Academy |
| Wednesday, 20 th March | EYFS Parents' Café |
| 19th and 21st March | Parents' Evening |
| Friday, 22nd March | Y2 trip to Westonbirt Arboretum |
| Friday, 22nd March | Y4 trip to Living Rainforest, Newbury |
| Tuesday, 26 th March | Whole school Easter egg hunt |
| Thursday, 28th March | Rock Pop Roadshow |
| Thursday, 28 th March | Whole school Easter celebration |
| Friday, 29th March – 12th April | HALF TERM |
| Wednesday, 17 th April | Class photographs |
| Friday, 26 th April | Crazy hair day |
| Week beginning 13 th May | KS2 SATs |
| Week commencing 3 rd June | Year 4 multiplication tests |
| Monday 3 rd June – 5 th June | Year 6 residential trip to PGL |
| Week commencing 10 th June | KS1 SATs |
| Thursday, 20 th June | Sports Day |
| Wednesday, 3 rd July | STFC Curriculum Day for Year 3, 4 and 5 |
| Friday, 5 th July | Year 5 sleepover |
| Tuesday 9 th July & 11 th July | Move-up day – classes meet their new teacher |
| Wednesday, 17 th July | Summer fayre |
| Friday, 19 th July | Sponsored walk |
| Thursday, 25 th July | End of year Mass |
| Thursday, 25 th July | Last day of school. We shall finish at 1:15pm. |

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