

May 23

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful weekend celebrating the King's coronation – we certainly had an amazing time in school celebrating this historic event. It was lovely that so many of you were able to see the school decorations and the children's artwork. Although the weather meant we had to bring our picnic inside, the children still managed to complete their treasure hunt and several of the games outside. I would like to offer my thanks to all of the staff who worked so hard to ensure the children had a memorable day – and a special mention to the teaching assistants, kitchen staff and MDSAs who worked so very hard both on the day and the week running up to it. The photos will soon be put onto the website:

<https://www.holycrossprimaryschool.org.uk/> for you all to enjoy.



We are now reaching the time of year where many school trips take place. Although there is an inevitable cost for these to take place, they are invaluable in supporting the children's learning and provide opportunities that we cannot otherwise produce in school. The Y4 children recently enjoyed a visit to The Living Rainforest, Newbury, where they met lots of interesting animals. It was wonderful to receive feedback on how knowledgeable our pupils were and that they were extremely well-behaved and respectful during their visit.



It's an important time for the children in Y2 and Y6 as they prepare to sit their SATs. We know that this can be an anxious time for some children and the children in Y6 have been invited to arrive at 8am on the SATS days so that we can all share breakfast together and the children can benefit from a calm and relaxed start to the day. Please do remember that the SATs are an opportunity for your son/daughter to show all that they know; however, as the poem below puts very well, let's remember that they do not tell the whole story:

SATs don't measure sports
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music,
Or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty,
SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons,
You were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic,
How you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly,
You can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter,
Or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse,
Of who you really are.

So sitting at your table,
With a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are,
Remember **you're the best!**

Thank you as always for the ongoing support you show to the children and staff of our amazing school.

Mrs Dowdeswell

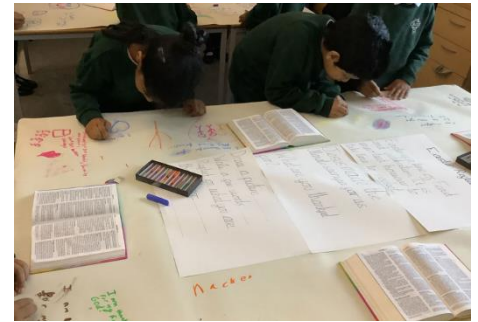
Learn, Grow, Love, Live

May 23

Easter

As a school we decided to celebrate Easter differently this year and each class prepared an activity to help the children reflect on the events of Easter. The children moved silently from one classroom to another where they were able to work collaboratively and reflect individually. It was a very moving experience to witness and the children found the activities and reflection areas a wonderful addition to our Easter celebration.

"I loved it. It was so good to see what each class had done and it was so peaceful that we could think about God and what he did for us." Y5 pupil.



Pentecost

The children are currently learning about Pentecost as we prepare for one of the most important feast days of the year that concludes the Easter season and celebrates the beginning of the Church.



¹ When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. ² And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. ³ Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. **Acts 2:1-4**

We look forward to 26th May, when Canon John and Y3 will lead the Pentecost Mass in school.



Our Catholic Social Teaching focus for this term is PARTICIPATION and the children have been putting this into action through the recent fundraising for the Greatwood charity. This charity, chosen by our school council, is based in Marlborough and combines animal welfare and mental wellbeing in young people. Within school, we have also seen the children actively participating in the creation of the Easter celebration classrooms and the coronation activities where the older children ran the activities for the younger ones.



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May 23



The children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 have now all had their skipping workshops and every child across the school now has their own skipping rope. We are seeing some fantastic results across Y3-Y6 where children have been challenged to increase their skipping times and the children are thoroughly enjoying getting better and better at this sport. Thanks again to Skip2bFit for the excellent work they did with all of our children.



Parking

Once again, I cannot say how incredibly grateful we are to STFC for allowing parents to use their car park between 8:30am – 9am and 3:10pm – 3:40pm during term time. Please do note that these times must be strictly adhered to and parking outside of these agreed times could result in a parking ticket being issued.



Attendance and Lateness

It is so important for your children to be in school and also to be on time. Lessons begin at 8:45am and children who are late miss out on valuable learning time. The first lesson of the day is often reading and if your child is late they miss out on learning the phoneme that is being taught that day. If they are regularly late, they will undoubtedly fall behind their classmates. Please do make sure your child is in the classroom at 8:45am so that they can make the absolute most of every second of education that we offer.

School Disco

We will be holding a school disco for the children on Wednesday 21st June. Payments must be paid via ParentPay and all tickets must be bought in advance. Please see the final page for further details and a separate letter shall follow shortly. Let's get our dancing shoes on! 😊



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17 May 2023 - Year 3 trip to Avebury

17 May 2023 - Ash and Oak Prince/Princess Day

26 May 2023 - Pentecost Mass

26 May 2023 - Non-school uniform day (raising money for Julia's House Children's Hospice)

8 June 2023 - Year 6 trip to Junior Good Citizen, Punjabi Centre

8 June 2023 - Year 5 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park

9 June 2023 - Year 6 Sycamore trip to New College

12 June 2023 - Phonic Screening Check held throughout the week

12 June 2023 - Year 6 Chestnut trip to New College

13 June 2023 - Ash and Oak trip to Farmer Gow's

14 June 2023- Year 6 trip to Clifton Cathedral for Leavers Mass

19 June 2023 - Multiplication Tables Check (Y4) held throughout the week

21 June 2023 - School disco and non-school uniform day

26 June 2023 - Teacher Training Day. School will be closed to all pupils

28 June 2023 - Sponsored walk

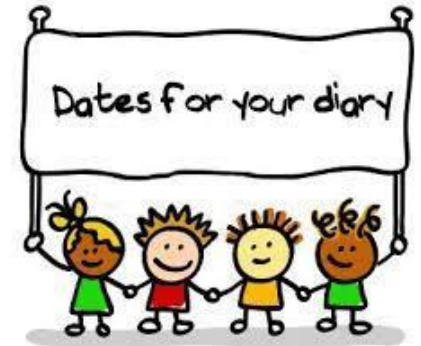
28 June 2023 - Parent evening for children starting reception in September 2023

30 June 2023 - St Peter and Paul Mass

11 and 13 July - Move up mornings - children will spend the morning in their new class with their new teacher.

25 July 2023 - End of Year Mass

Dates for sports day and summer fayre to be confirmed.



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**SUMMER
DISCO**

Wednesday 21st June 2023

£3.50 ENTRY INCLUDES A GIFT

NON UNIFORM DAY FOR ALL CHILDREN

EYFS 2:15-3:15pm
Y1 & Y2 3:15-4:15pm
Y3 & Y4 4:30-5:30pm
Y5 & Y6 5:45-6:45pm

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