

March 23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello all,

Phew, what a relief that we are finally beginning to see the return of lighter mornings and evenings and I, for one, couldn't be happier! I love the different seasons, but by this time in the year I think we are all ready to see a bit of sun, feel a bit of warmth and have more opportunity to get out and about once the school day has ended. 😊

This term continues to see lots of exciting opportunities for our children and it is great to see how these experiences help pupils to engage with their learning. These opportunities include: our Mini Police team meeting the police search dogs; Y1 visiting STEAM and learning about how the railways were built; Y2 making a bug house (we are all eagerly waiting to see the minibeasts it attracts!); and Y3 making some delicious bread to support their healthy eating topic.

Mr Forrester also organised for Skip2bFit to come into school to work with our KS2 children and the tournament between staff and pupils caused a great deal of excitement as it culminated in a 'skip off' during assembly – apparently it took staff a few days to recover! Due to the success of the visit, a further visit is being arranged for EYFS and KS1 children and I am delighted to tell you that the school has been able to purchase a skipping rope for each child. Physical activity is so important to the overall health of a child and it is great to see all children enjoying exercise.

World Book Day happened to fall on one of the strike days and therefore we decided to delay this until all children were back in school. Not wanting to ask for expensive costumes to be bought, we decided upon a 'bedtime story' theme where everybody came in wearing PJs. Lots of fun was had by all and the joy that can be had from sharing a great book was experienced by all. The Masked Reader was a real highlight and very funny as the children tried to guess which teacher was 'behind the mask' as they read an extract of their favourite children's book. Aside from being a fun day, the important message behind World Book Day is the importance of reading and the pure joy that can be had from reading a good book – please do read with your child regularly: as a parent of a 22 and 27-year-old, the time when your child wants to snuggle up and read with you soon passes and the opportunity to do this with little ones is so precious.

As a headteacher, industrial action is always a tricky issue to navigate. I would again like to thank everybody for their understanding and the support that has been shown. As explained, I am extremely proud of my staff for giving notice of their intention to strike as I know this made it easier for our families to arrange childcare and allowed disruption to be made more manageable. There are two remaining strike days planned for 15th and 16th March. Information has already been shared via a separate letter.

Finally, and in keeping with tradition, I have saved the best until last...I am delighted to be able to tell you that our new website launched TODAY and I could not be more pleased with it – I really hope you like it too! There are still a few updates outstanding, but I am confident that parents and pupils will be able to access information much more easily, whether that be admin information; updates on the work your child is completing in class; or photos of all the wonderful extra-curricular options we offer to our pupils. I thank all of the staff and governors for their contribution in getting the new website ready and I look forward to hearing your feedback. Here's the link: <https://www.holycrossprimaryschool.org.uk/> Enjoy!

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to all that this term brings.

Mrs Dowdeswell

Learn, Grow, Love, Live

March 23



Ash Wednesday

A huge thank you to Canon John for coming to lead our Ashes Service and our Reconciliation Service. The children in Y4 and Y2 did brilliantly and read beautifully. During his visit, Canon John also presented certificates to our chaplains. A proud day for many. I know I speak on behalf of myself and the children when I say a huge thank you to Mrs Coacci and Mrs Braganza for all their hard work in running our chaplaincy club – ladies, you are fantastic in all that you do!



Swindon Dance Festival



I felt extremely privileged to be able to watch the members of our Indian dance club perform on stage at the Wyvern for the Swindon Dance Festival. Oh my goodness, the girls were absolutely fantastic and we were immensely proud of each and every one who performed. The group performed a traditional Portuguese dance and not only



were they fabulous to watch, but they looked amazing – huge well done to each of the parents who provided a costume and special thanks to Mrs D'Costa who choreographed the routine.

Year 1 Trip to Steam

The children from Y1 enjoyed a trip to STEAM in support of their topic all about transport. The children had a fantastic day learning all about trains and how the people from Swindon has such an important part to play in the railways. The children's behaviour was impeccable and the teachers were proud to accompany them to this lovely museum.

For those who have not visited, STEAM is an excellent day out for families, and over the summer holidays it is worth keeping your eyes open for their Kids for a Quid offer.



Learn, Grow, Love, Live

March 23

Mini Police



The Mini Police had a great time meeting the police dogs and finding out how they are trained to do the amazing work that they do. It was lovely to see those children who were initially nervous of dogs and hesitant to touch them, gradually grow in confidence until all were happy to give the dog a tickle.

I think Mrs James has found a new best friend! 😊

We are so thankful for the police visiting and running this fantastic community event and the children gain so much knowledge and understanding about their roles.

Y5 Benin Day

The Year 5s have been learning all about Benin this term and have finished the term with an Art and DT week. They have made beautiful replica Benin bronzes using clay. They have also drawn some sketches of the bronzes using mixed media and finally the children cooked a traditional West African dish. If your son/daughter hasn't told you all about Benin, ask them to share what they know – you'll be amazed!



Y5 Benin Week

"This term in history we learnt about Benin. It was really fun, especially studying and observing the statues. We never knew that history could be so interesting, nor that an African country could be so wealthy.

In Benin Week at the end of the topic, we learnt many facts about Benin and made a timeline of events. (Did you know that Benin was invaded by Great Britain in 1897?) Then we made tiles with clay to represent the famous Benin Bronzes and we painted them with bronze paint. We also cooked jollof rice (a West African dish) which was really yummy! Before cooking the rice, we tasted some other African foods and we learnt how to cook, store and reheat cooked rice.

We really enjoyed Benin Week as it was very interesting."

Bo, Ava-Leigh and Ethan G

Learn, Grow, Love, Live

EYFS Trip to the Post Office

The children in Ash and Oak took a trip to the post office to post a letter. They learnt about some of the services offered by a post office and also what happens to the letter once it is put into the post box. Thank you to the parents who accompanied the children on the walk – these events could not happen without your support!



After School Club

The children have been busy with arts and crafts and have made some amazing jellyfish, snails and some lovely bookmarks celebrating their favourite Roald Dahl story: aren't they the most creative bunch of children 😊



Parking

Thank you to all of those parents who no longer park in the lay-by outside of the school. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness towards our children and their safety whilst walking to and from school. Very few parents continue to park there now, but if you are one that does please could you follow the example of those parents who have changed their behaviours for the safety of our children.



Attendance



Please remember that I am unable to authorise absences for holidays during term time. Good attendance is essential if a child is to reach their full potential and the link below shows you just how important it is for a child to be in school every day:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/02/24/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>

If your child is not in school, they are missing out on learning and this is not fair on them.

Learn, Grow, Love, Live

March 23

PJ Day – Swindon Night Shelter



Huge well done to the Chaplains as they organised a fun PJ Day to raise monies for the Swindon Night Shelter. A total of £326.61 was raised which will be put to good use by the charity. Well done to all of our wonderful children and families for the support shown.

Little Wandle



I am delighted to say that the children are loving Little Wandle and the new way of learning to read. A reminder please to listen to your child read each day and you can now find lots of Little Wandle resources on our website to help you to support your child at home.

<https://www.holycross.swindon.sch.uk/littleWandle.php>



Lenten Prayer

GOD OF GOODNESS AND MERCY,

**HEAR MY PRAYER AS I BEGIN THIS LENTEN JOURNEY WITH YOU.
LET ME BE HONEST WITH MYSELF AS I LOOK INTO MY HEART AND SOUL,
NOTICING THE TIMES I TURN AWAY FROM YOU. GUIDE ME AS I HUMBLY SEEK
TO REPENT AND RETURN TO YOUR LOVE.**

**MAY HUMILITY GUIDE MY EFFORTS TO BE RECONCILED WITH YOU AND LIVE FOREVER
IN YOUR ABUNDANT GRACE.**

**TRANSFORM ME THIS LENT, HEAVENLY FATHER. GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO
COMMIT MYSELF TO GROW CLOSER TO YOU EACH DAY.**

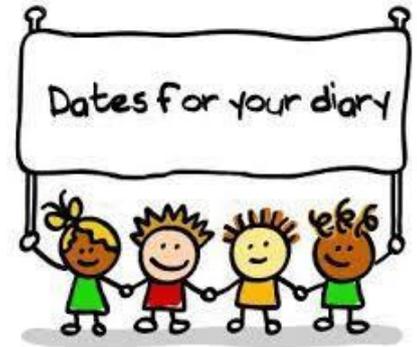
AMEN.



Learn, Grow, Love, Live

Dates for your diary

- 15 March 2023 - Junior Voice Festival at the Wyvern
- 17 March 2023- Year 4 trip to the Living Rainforest
- 17 March 2023 - Year 2 trip to Westonbirt Arboretum
- 21 March 2023 - Parents Evening
- 23 March 2023 - Parents Evening
- 29 March 2023 - Year 2 trip to Westonbirt Arboretum
- 31 March 2023 - Easter Celebration Mass
- 31 March 2023 - Holy Week charity event
- 19 April 2023 - Whole school group photographs
- 17 May 2023 - Year 3 trip to Avebury
- 26 May 2023 - Pentecost Mass
- 7 June 2023 - Year 6 Chestnut trip to New College
- 8 June 2023 - Year 6 Chestnut 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
- 14 June 2023- Year 6 trip to Clifton Cathedral for Leavers Mass
- 21 June 2023 - School disco
- 26 June 2023 - Teacher Training Day
- 30 June 2023 - St Peter and Paul Mass
- 25 July 2023 - End of Year Mass



Learn, Grow, Love, Live