

July 25<sup>th</sup>

Dear Holy Cross families,

I cannot believe we have reached the final term of this year and that we will soon be looking forward to the summer holidays; I must be honest, after this week I am looking forward to spending some time sitting in my garden rather than a very warm office!

We have had such an exciting term so far with Careers Week being a real 'hit' with the children. We have had visitors from various professions who came to talk to the pupils, including a prosecutor from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), an author, an illustrator and a politician. We have also previously had the Mayor of Swindon and NHS workers to tell the children all about the work that they do. It's been really interesting and the questions asked by the children were excellent and really impressed our visitors. I feel this week has been so important in raising the aspirations of our pupils and has opened their eyes to the opportunities that await them in the adult world of work. I cannot thank the professionals enough who took the time to visit our school.

We have also had some fantastic class assemblies; Sports Day; school trips; Y6 Leavers' Mass in Clifton; New Starter Evenings; and our Summer Fayre is fast approaching. I also know that the Y1 children are hugely excited for their Beach Party which is coming up! It is such a busy term, but one filled with a sense of excitement and anticipation for the coming new academic year.

The end of an academic year is always a great time to reflect and I am so proud of all that we have achieved over the last twelve months. This is largely down to the excellent staff we have working at the school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their hard work, commitment and dedication that they show to the children of our school. In addition, we have so many volunteers and parent helpers who unselfishly give their time to support children's reading, helping with activities such as cooking and sewing, accompanying children on trips and to Mass. Once again, I am so very grateful and thank you on behalf of the staff and pupils. And finally, I would like to thank the governors of the school who work so tirelessly to ensure our pupils receive an excellent education and enjoy their time at HCCPS.

It is also that time of the year when we say goodbye to our Y6 pupils as the children leave us to continue their education at secondary school. It is always with mixed emotions that we say farewell as, although we are excited for them, we also know that we are going to miss them dearly. I know I speak on behalf of all the staff when I say that I wish them all the very best in their new schools and I know they leave us with all the skills they need to succeed on the next leg of their journey. To the Y6 children I say thank you for being such fantastic members of the Holy Cross family and it has been an absolute delight to watch you grow and



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flourish. Remember to carry on working hard and know that with hard work and determination, you can achieve anything you wish. Be good, be kind and be yourselves – always!

As well as saying goodbye to the Y6 children, we also say goodbye to two members of staff, both of whom have worked at the school for a very long time and will be sadly missed by pupils and teachers alike.



Jo Milsom has taught at the school for 31 years and has been an inspirational teacher to thousands of children over that time. Jo has always worked so hard for the pupils and is a great support to her colleagues. As well as being a dedicated class teacher, Jo has been the science lead for several years and her hard work within this subject allowed the school to apply for the Primary Quality Science Mark in June this year – we should hear whether we have been successful early in the new year and I know Jo will be so proud when we achieve this! Jo, you are an amazing teacher, an amazing person and an amazing friend to all of your colleagues and I thank you so much for all you have done for HCCPS.

Pam Coacci has also worked at the school for 12 years as a HLTA and ELSA counsellor and has, again, been a great support to so many children. Pam has run our Chaplaincy Club for several years and always goes the extra mile for the pupils of our school. Pam, you will be so greatly missed and we wish you every happiness in your new home in Milan – you have been and always will be an absolute superstar!



As well as saying goodbye, we also say hello to some new staff members who will be joining us in September. We offer a warm welcome to Chloe Turner who will be teaching in Pine Class in Y1, and Bethany Lock who will be teaching Larch Class in Y4.

I wish all of our families a wonderful summer spending time with your loved ones and look forward to working with you all again from September.


God Bless,

**"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17**

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## Classes for next year

I am delighted to be able to tell you of your child's new class and teacher for next year. Move-up mornings will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>, and this is an opportunity for your child to visit their new classroom and meet their new teacher. Two new teachers will be joining us from September and we offer a warm welcome to Miss Lock and Miss Turner. We also congratulate Miss Scott who qualified as a teacher this year. 😊

Existing class	Existing teacher(s)	WILL MOVE TO 	New class	New teacher(s)
EYFS Ash	Mrs Nichols		Y1 Elm	Mrs McDowall/Mrs Burton
EYFS Oak	Mrs Cox		Y1 Pine	Miss Turner
Y1 Elm	Mrs McDowall/Mrs Burton		Y2 Beech	Miss Scott
Y1 Pine	Miss Walker		Y2 Cedar	Mrs Townsend
Y2 Beech	Mrs Milsom/Miss Scott		Y3 Willow	Mrs King
Y2 Cedar	Mrs Townsend		Y3 Maple	Miss Walker
Y3 Maple	Mr Toogood		Y4 Larch	Miss Lock
Y3 Willow	Miss Michienzi		Y4 Hazel	Miss Ballinger
Y4 Hazel	Miss Ballinger		Y5 Aspen	Mrs Elliott
Y4 Larch	Mr Green		Y5 Alder	Mr Forrester/Ms Silva
Y5 Alder	Mr Forrester/Ms Silva		Y6 Chestnut	Mr Green
Y5 Aspen	Mrs Elliott		Y6 Sycamore	Miss Vickers

## 2025-26 School Uniform

Just a reminder for all parents to familiarise themselves with the correct uniform before purchasing items of clothing and footwear in readiness for the new academic year. We believe that a uniform looks smart, wears well, is cheaper for parents/carers and contributes to a feeling of belonging. School uniform is compulsory. Any parents/carers experiencing difficulty in providing the uniform should contact the Headteacher, as help may be available.



Please ensure your child also has the correct **PE kit**, as detailed below. **Football kits and different coloured t-shirts and tracksuits etc. are not permitted.**

If your child is joining Y6 in September, they will have the opportunity of purchasing the Holy Cross Y6 leavers' hoodie during Term 1 and this can be worn all year through. If you are intending to buy one of these, it will mean that you will not need to buy as many school jumpers for your son/daughter.

Although many children like to have colour put into their hair during the summer, this must be removed before they return in September. A reminder that hair should not be highly stylised and this includes shaved hair lines or tramlines etc being cut into the hair. Please refer our prospectus if you are unsure of expectations. [https://www.holycross.swindon.sch.uk/downloads/prospectus/Prospectus\\_2023\\_2024.pdf](https://www.holycross.swindon.sch.uk/downloads/prospectus/Prospectus_2023_2024.pdf)

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## BOYS

Summer Style (from Easter until the end of October)	Winter Style (from November until Easter)
White polo shirt Green sweatshirt or green V-necked sweater Grey or black shorts or trousers White, black or grey socks Plain black shoes	White Polo Shirt Green sweatshirt or green V-necked sweater Grey or black shorts or trousers White, black or grey socks Plain black shoes

## GIRLS

Summer Style (from Easter until the end of October)	Winter Style (from November until Easter)
White polo shirt Green sweatshirt or green cardigan Grey skirt, grey shorts or grey pinafore dress or green and white gingham small check dress White, black or grey socks Plain black school shoes	White Polo Shirt Green sweatshirt or green cardigan Grey skirt or grey trousers or grey pinafore dress  White, black or grey socks or grey tights Plain black school shoes

*(Skirts should be no shorter than 5 cm (2 inches) above the knee and without slits)*

**PE CLOTHING** - all children require a change of clothing for PE as follows:

White plain t-shirt or 'house' colour t-shirt  
Plain green or black shorts  
Trainers or daps  
White or black socks

## 360 Degree Online Safety Award



I am delighted to inform you that the school has been awarded the 360 Degree Online Safety Award. This is an externally moderated award which recognises the high standards we set as a school for online safety. We are extremely proud of this achievement and it celebrates the hard work we do each and every day in keeping children safe online.

## SATs and other tests

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the children who have taken the SATs test this year, along with the Multiplication Check, the Phonics Screener Check and all other tests which have been taken. Our staff work hard to reduce any worry or anxiety within the children and the pupils themselves have shown great strength of character when sitting these tests. We are so proud of all the pupils - well done!



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## Sports Day

Well, weren't we lucky with the weather! A great day was had by all and the children were so excited to have so many parents and family members watching. A huge thank you to all parents who were able to attend – it makes such a difference 😊



Huge thank you to Mr Pidgeon and Mr Forrester who worked hard to ensure the day went so well. Also thank you to the prefects who helped out.

Please can I also thank Vito (Schnieder's Dad, Y5) for supplying the sound system and to Sheila D'Costa and the Indian dancers for their wonderful opening display.

A great day had by all!

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## Y6 Leavers' Mass

Y6 children had a wonderful day at Clifton Cathedral as we celebrated the Y6 Leavers' Mass with Bishop Bosco. The bishop spoke about the importance of being a good person who displays kindness and respect to others, and I know that our Y6 children do this every single day. After Mass, we enjoyed a lovely picnic on the Clifton downs and just celebrated being in each other's company.



Lennon Vaz completed the opening reading and did so brilliantly! The level of confidence when standing in front of so many people and reading with such clarity was simply outstanding. Lennon, I hope you are extremely proud of yourself as I know I am so very proud of you! Mrs Dowdeswell



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## HOLI



In celebration of our 'Other Faiths' curriculum, we have decided to celebrate HOLI for the first time at our school. Holi is a major Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colours, Love and Spring. HOLI activities will run during the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> July and children will be learning all about this important festival. Our celebrations will end on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> with all children wearing colourful clothes instead of their school uniform. Holi is a colourful celebration, so the brighter the clothing the better.

## Y6 Production – Bugsby Malone

Our Y6 production this year will be Bugsy Malone and rehearsals are already well underway. Year 6 families will be invited to come and watch and I know you will be so proud of the hard work your children have put into producing a wonderful show for you. Although we do not formally charge for tickets, the school does have to pay for license fees and production rights, and therefore any donations on the day would be very gratefully received.

Can't wait to see you there! Buckets will be available during each performance for cash donations to be made. Thank you so much.



## Summer Fayre: 17<sup>th</sup> July, 3pm - 5pm

The Summer Fayre is our main fundraiser of the year and the school relies heavily on the monies raised to buy valuable resources for your children; therefore, we thank each and every family for fully supporting this.



Children have been asked to bring in the following:

Reception – children's paints, crayons, pencil-crayons, felt-tips, colouring books.

Year 1, Year 2 – sweets, biscuits (without nuts and no lollies).

Year 3, Year 4 – small unopened gifts, candles, toiletries, perfumes etc.

Year 5, Year 6 – small unopened gifts, candles, toiletries, perfumes etc.

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Please could all year groups bring in bottle donations. These need to be soft drinks (no alcohol), unopened and in date please – canned drinks and bottles will all be gratefully received. Any unwanted toys, games or books (no soft toys) in good condition would be gratefully received for a second-hand stall. In order to produce the very popular hampers, we need lots of goodies to go inside, so as many donations as possible are needed please 😊

We will need help to be able to run all of the stalls we have planned, therefore if you are willing to help at the fayre, please could you email [admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk). As always, we hugely appreciate your help and support.

Also, we will be running a cake competition with the theme of 'flowers'. All cakes will be sold at the fayre after being judged, and a prize shall be awarded for first place – let's get baking!

A separate flyer will be sent about the fayre closer to the time.

## Summer Safeguarding

Although many of us look forward to the summer break, for some 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 of the school day. If you have any concerns for a young person's mental wellbeing or if you feel they are vulnerable to harm, neglect or abuse, please contact one of the agencies listed below:

- The NSPCC helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Contact Swindon - Safeguarding Team: 01793 464646
- CEOP for online protection <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

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

We have lots of information regarding online safety on our website as we know that many of our children will be spending time online during the holiday periods. Please do consider setting a time limit for the amount of time your child spends on digital devices as it is important that a healthy balance is maintained.



We also recognise that for some adults, the holiday periods can be a challenging time and can add strain to relationships. Here is the link to Swindon Women's Aid <https://swadomesticabuse.org/> and their 24-hour helpline is 01793 610610. In the case of an emergency, you should call 999.

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Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Move-up Days – classes meet their new teacher
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> July 3:30pm	Presentation for all Y5 parents of children moving to Y6 in September
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Bugsy Malone – 2 performances: 9:15am and 2pm.
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fayre
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Rock and Pop Roadshow
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year Mass
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of school.
<b><i>We finish for <u>all</u> children at 1:15pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July. Please ensure your child is collected promptly.</i></b>	

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	TD Day – school is closed to all pupils
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	TD Day – school is closed to all pupils
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	First day of the new term – we look forward to welcoming you back 😊

Last, but by no means least, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge and heartfelt THANK YOU to all of the staff, governors, volunteers, families and pupils of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School for making the school the amazing place it is. Together we **Learn, Grow, Love and Live**, and through God's love and guidance we achieve amazing things each and every day. Thank you so, so much! Once again, I wish you all a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Mrs Dowdeswell

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## Message from our Chair of Governors



Dear Parent and Carer,

As we come to the end of another successful academic year at Holy Cross, we must say farewell to a number of staff who will be moving on to new roles in September, we say thank you for all that you have done. To our Year 6 students who have been perfect ambassadors for our school, we wish you every success in your new school in September.

I would like to thank all the staff at Holy Cross for their continued hard work and diligence in supporting and working with our children. To our parents, to our Trust Board, who as volunteers, support the school in so many ways. And finally, a massive thank you to Mrs Dowdeswell whose leadership, support and care for our community has been the bedrock for the continued success of our school.

I look forward to the challenges of the new academic year but wish everybody a happy and safe summer break.

With kind regards

Paul Kehoe  
Chair of Governors.

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