

Dear Holy Cross families,

A message from Mrs Dowdeswell

I often say that it is a privilege to be the headteacher of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, and this term has once again affirmed that. There have been reasons to celebrate; opportunities to offer support; challenges to face; and achievements to praise, and I would like to start this newsletter by saying a huge well done to the pupils of Chestnut and Sycamore who showed an outstanding attitude to the SATS which took place last week. The children were simply amazing and made the staff so proud in their approach to these tests. I would also like to say thank you to the staff and parents who supported the children so brilliantly in school and at home – you make me very proud.



It is always great to celebrate our pupils' achievements both inside and outside school. Here is Daniel who played the piano at a recent musical tournament and won not one but two very impressive trophies: well done Daniel! Thank you for sharing your fantastic achievement and maybe one day I could persuade you to play the piano for us? I would love that! 😊

I need to say a huge thank you to all those families who have provided Pritt Sticks – it is so appreciated! If anyone else would like to send some in, please do leave them with the office and thank you to those who had them delivered directly to the school from Amazon – I was only sorry not to have been able to thank you in person. Honestly, if we could get enough to provide every teacher with a class set, that would be amazing! **Keep them coming** 😊



It seems unbelievable that we are fast approaching the final term of the year – where has this year gone?! We have a busy final term with Sports Day, Summer Fayre, Y6 production and many more and I am really looking forward to welcoming parents into school for these events.

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Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all they do for the pupils of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School and, as always, a thank you to our wonderful families for the ongoing support you show to the children and staff of our amazing school.

Finally, I hope you all enjoy the half term break - let's hope the sun shines for us!

Mrs Dowdeswell



Please could you all ensure you read the messages sent via SchoolPing as this is now the primary method of communication between school and our families and important messages and reminders are sent through this platform.

Parking

A reminder that school does not have on-site parking facilities for families. It has been reported by concerned parents, that some drivers are tailgating cars that enter the car park at pick-up and drop-off times. This is not permitted and puts the safety of our children at risk. Please use The County Ground car park if you need to bring your child to school by car. We all need to take responsibility for keeping our children safe please.

Speed Awareness Day

A huge thank you to those parents who stayed to speak to the police and the press during our Speed Awareness Day. The day felt very successful, but of course this can only really be measured by Swindon Borough Council taking some action, and we are yet to hear a definitive outcome on this. The police were so impressed with the children's knowledge and behaviour during their time with us and it was a pleasure to see how fantastically they interacted with the children. The speed camera exercise was a particular favourite of the children as well as the live drone footage that was watched by the whole school during assembly. Congratulations to Emilia in Y5 for winning the poster competition and thank you to STFC for donating the prize of tickets for a family of four to see a match. As well as all the good work done by the police and the local councillor, it was a great example to our children of what can be achieved when people all work together for the good of the local community and true collaboration was seen on that day. I would like to give my personal thanks to Andy (Speed Enforcement Officer), Phil Wilkinson (Police and Crime Commissioner), Adorabelle Shaikh (Labour Councillor), Kirsty Phillips (PCSO) and all others who attended and supported the day. Of course, I



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also thank the children for their fantastic poster entries and their enthusiasm on the day itself – let's hope it achieves the intended outcome of getting increased signage – I'll keep you posted! Here's a link to the video that was taken on the day: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1BbufcgN9W/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Catholic Life

Pentecost



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

The children have been 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. We look forward to 5th June, when Father Lucas and Y3 will lead the Pentecost Mass in school.

The children in KS2 continue to attend Mass at Holy Rood Church on a Thursday morning. If you are able to assist with walking the children to church, please speak to your child's class teacher – we are always so grateful to all volunteers who help with this.

First Holy Communion



We congratulate all those children who have recently taken their First Holy Communion or are about to do so soon. We are so pleased to be able to support the pupils of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School as they develop and grow in their faith.

[1 Corinthians 11:26](#) - *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

Fr Lucas 30th Anniversary Celebration

We were delighted to invite Fr. Lucas to come in to celebrate his 30th anniversary of becoming a priest with us. The children sang his favourite hymns and read and acted his favourite bible story. Fr. Lucas was

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so touched and it was lovely to be able to celebrate this special anniversary with him. The children made cards and gifts for him and a special celebration cake was made and shared. Our only regret was that we didn't hold this celebration in the church as we would have been able to invite families to join with us. We thank Fr. Lucas for all he does to support the school and the local community.



5th May - Chaplaincy - Holy Rood Church Rosary



chaplains joined with other schools in Swindon to pray the Rosary. Praying the Rosary gave the children a meaningful and enriching experience. Thank you to the leaders of our chaplaincy group who provide so many lovely opportunities for our children to explore and deepen their faith.



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Year 2 – Forest School



Y2 children are really enjoying their time at Forest School and are learning lots of outdoor activities. They enjoy being outdoors and learning about the natural environment. We are hoping to be able to offer this to more year groups next year.

EYFS - Jungle Jonathan's



Jungle Jonathan called in to visit Ash and Oak class and brought lots of animal friends in with him. The children had a fantastic time and were brave and curious as they held a millipede and a snake. They also met a tarantula, and a few children got to hold a katydid. Using the microscope, they observed a tiny baby millipede up close and examined a shed tarantula skin. A great time was had by all! 😊

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Sport



Huge well done to the Holy Cross athletics squad who recently competed in an inter-school tournament at STFC. Huge congratulations to the whole team and a special mention to Sophie (Y6) who came 1st in the 600M race and Janiah who came 3rd and to Raphael (Y5) who achieved one of the biggest long jumps and longest throws of the morning. Well done to all involved and thank you to Mr Pidgeon and Mrs Ratajczak who accompanied the children.

Y4 – Museum and Art Swindon Art



“On Thursday 21st May and Friday 22nd May, Year 4 went on a trip to Swindon Museum and Art Gallery to learn more about the Anglo Saxons. We learnt that Swindon was called Swinedune in the Anglo Saxon times, which meant ‘Pig Hill’. We also learnt that in 2000, they uncovered a grave in Chiseldon. We worked as archaeologists and explored the art galleries to find out who was in the grave. We had so much fun and can’t wait to go back to visit.”

Imani and Georgia, Y4

The museum staff commented on how knowledgeable the children were and described their behaviour as excellent. Well done Y4!

The museum is a great way to spend a few hours in the half term holiday and there is always lots on 😊

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School places available

We still have spaces available for children across some year groups, including those who are due to start school in September. If you know of any family who would like their child(ren) to benefit from the excellent education we provide at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, please do ask them to contact the office and we can provide the information they need and offer a visit to the school. Here is the link to the video which shows how wonderful it is to attend our school, and this can also be found on our website

[Holy Cross Catholic Primary School](#)

Parent Governor Vacancies



Would you like to see Holy Cross Catholic Primary School grow and develop in the best interests of our children?

Would you like to play your part in this?

Then please think about becoming a Parent Governor – there's more information on the school's website.

Closing date for nominations: 9am on Monday 1st June 2026.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

Week commencing 25 th May 2026	Half Term Holidays
1 st June 2026	1 st day back to school
4 th June 2026	Year 6 Junior Good Citizen Trip
4 th June 2026	Year 4 Assembly
5 th June 2026	Year 3 Pentecost Mass
8 th June – 10 th June	Year 6 residential trip to PGL
12 th June 2026	Non - uniform day for summer Fayre
15 th June 2026	TD Day – school is closed to all pupils
18 th June 2026	Year 6 Leavers' Mass at Clifton Diocese
18 th June 2026	Year 1 Class Assembly
19 th June 2026	Year 4 Trip to Oxenwood
25 th June 2026	Year 5 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife park
26 th June 2026	Summer Fair
1 st July 2026	School Disco
7 th and 9 th July 2026	Move up day - classes meet their new teacher
10 th July 2026	Year 1 Beach party
16 th July 2026	Year 6 End of Year Production
17 th July 2026	Sports Day
22 nd July 2026	Year 6 Leavers Mass & Last day of school. Please note school will close to all pupils at 1:15pm. Please ensure your child is collected promptly. Many thanks.

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Around and About Swindon - 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).

Barbury Castle



Barbury Castle is an ancient iron-age hill fort that lies just outside of Chiseldon, Swindon. It is a great place for children to run off energy and especially good for kite-flying on a breezy day. There are some lovely spaces to enjoy a picnic and some great walks along the ridgeway path.

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/directory_record/8463/barbury_castle

Cotswold Country Park and Beach

This is a great day out and there is so much for the children to enjoy. From playing on the beach to swimming in the lagoon or playing on the adventure playground, this is a good day out for all the family. There are food outlets and water inflatables too. Please do visit the website for prices.

<https://www.cotswoldcountryparkandbeach.com/>



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



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