



Our Y6 pupils at the Leavers' Mass in Clifton

Dear Holy Cross families,

Well, here we are approaching the end of another school year and I would like to begin by saying a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful school community. I feel an overwhelming sense of pride—not just in what we have achieved this year, but in how we have achieved it together. Schools are about so much more than lessons; they are places where children grow in confidence, discover new interests, build friendships and create lasting memories and it is a privilege to watch that happen every day. This year, we have continued to work hard to refine our curriculum to ensure learning remains engaging, purposeful and inspiring, giving every child the opportunity to flourish. I am delighted to share some of the recognition the school has received:

- Healthy Schools Swindon Bronze Award
- Swindon Schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Award
- 360 Degree Safer Online Safety Mark – Full Level 3 Award
- Primary Quality Science Mark
- Completion of the English Hub Graduation Programme
- Leader in Faith Bronze Award
- School Games Gold Award – our third consecutive Gold Award
- Modeshift STARS Accreditation
- 5-Star Food Hygiene Rating for our catering team

While these awards are wonderful achievements, what matters most is what they represent: the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm and resilience of our pupils, and the continued support of our families. Every success is truly a shared one.

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We continue to look ahead, and this year have been working towards the History Quality Mark, the Asthma Friendly School Award, the Live Simply Award and the Healthy Schools Swindon Silver Award. We hope to share news of these achievements with you in the new academic year.

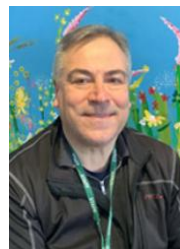
As is often the case at the end of a school year, we find ourselves saying goodbye to some valued members of our team. This is always a bittersweet moment. While we are naturally sad to see friends and colleagues leave, we are also excited for them as they begin new chapters in their lives and careers. Each person has made a lasting contribution to our school community, and we are incredibly grateful for the care, dedication and commitment they have shown to our children. Although they will be greatly missed, we wish them every happiness and success for the future.



Elaine O'Neill has been the SENDCo at our school for 14 years and was a teacher at the school before this. Elaine is an outstanding SENDCo who has always had the needs of the children at the very heart of all she does; she will be greatly missed by pupils and staff alike as she retires this year. Elaine, I would like to add my personal thanks for your tireless work to support our pupils – I know how much you will be missed by all, but raise a glass or two for us when you are travelling with your husband and dog in the camper van and enjoy every second of retirement – you have certainly earned it!



Krys Ratajczak is the longest serving member of staff at the school and has worked as a teaching assistant for well over 20 years. She taught both of my own children and supported me as the class TA during my very first year of teaching – thanks, Krys, I'm not sure I'd have survived it if it wasn't for you! Krys works so hard to provide the very best experiences for the children and is also a great support to friends and colleagues. Enjoy your retirement, Krys, especially spending time with your wonderful grandchildren.



Enzo Ratajczak is our facilities support officer (and husband to Krys!). Enzo will also be retiring at the end of this academic year and he will be missed more than he knows! Enzo works so hard and is always 'on the go', whether that be mending, fitting, cleaning or tidying up – he honestly never stops! Thank you so much, Enzo, for all you have done for staff and pupils whilst at Holy Cross; I am sure you will still be busy as I know Krys will have just as many jobs lined up for you. 😊

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Chloe Turner has been with us since September 2025 teaching Pine Class in Year 1. Chloe joined us whilst Ms Michienzi was on maternity leave. The children have enjoyed being taught by Miss Turner and pupils and staff will miss her greatly. Thank you for all your hard work whilst at Holy Cross, Chloe, and we wish you all the very best for the future.

We also welcome back Ms Michienzi who will be teaching in Year 4.

Of course, we must also say a very special farewell to our Year 6 children as they prepare to leave Holy Cross and begin the next exciting chapter of their journey at secondary school. It is always one of the most emotional moments of the school year. Watching our children grow in confidence, independence and character over the years is a real privilege, and this year's Year 6 class has been no exception. They have been a wonderful group of young people, and they will be greatly missed by us all.

To each and every one of you, thank you for the laughter, kindness, determination and enthusiasm you have brought to our school. You have helped shape the Holy Cross community, and we are incredibly proud of the young people you have become.

As you move on, my message is a simple one: dream big, believe in yourselves and never be afraid to work hard for the things that matter most to you. Embrace every opportunity, learn from every experience and always remember the values that have guided you during your time here. Once you have been part of the Holy Cross family, you will always be part of it. We will be cheering you on from afar and look forward to hearing about all that you achieve in the years ahead. Go and show your new schools exactly what you are capable of, continue to be kind, courageous and ambitious, and above all, make yourselves proud. We certainly couldn't be prouder of you!



Finally, 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!

Learn, Grow, Love, Live



A quick thank you for your support, understanding and kindness during the recent spell of exceptionally hot weather. I was pleased that we were able to keep the school open for those families who needed us, and I am incredibly grateful to the staff who ensured the children who attended were safe, happy and well cared for despite the challenging conditions.

All that is left to say is that I hope you all have a wonderful, restful summer with your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed, ready for new opportunities and excited for another fantastic year together.

Mrs Dowdeswell

Summer Fayre: 3rd July, 3pm - 5pm



Our Summer Fayre will now take place on Friday 3rd July, following its postponement due to the recent heatwave. This is one of our main fundraising events during the year and all monies raised help us to provide resources and experiences for your children that we could otherwise not afford. We really do fully appreciate your support for this event. The day promises to be great fun, with cakes, drinks and ice-creams. There will be lots of games and fun activities as well as a

live band and a display by our Indian Dance group. We'll see you there!

Y6 Production – 16th July 9:15am and 2:00pm

Our Year 6 pupils are busy preparing for their end-of-year production, Bongo Bandits. The children have worked incredibly hard learning their lines, songs and stage directions, and are looking forward to showcasing their fantastic performance skills. From rehearsing scenes to developing their confidence on stage, they have demonstrated great commitment and teamwork throughout the process and we are excited to welcome families to what promises to be a fun-filled and entertaining production. Although we do not charge for tickets, as a school we are charged licence and production fees to present this show and therefore we welcome any donations you are able to give. ParentPay has been set up to receive these donations and I thank you once again for supporting us in this way. The children cannot wait to share the results of all their hard work with you!



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Year 6 PGL Residential

Members of Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic residential visit to PGL, where they took part in a range of exciting activities including the Giant Swing, archery, canoeing and many more adventurous challenges. Throughout the trip, the children demonstrated tremendous courage, resilience and teamwork, embracing new experiences with enthusiasm and determination. They were excellent ambassadors for Holy Cross and should be very proud of how they represented our school. It was wonderful to see them growing in confidence, independence and friendship throughout the week – and most even managed not to miss their parents too much!



Y6 pupils enjoying learning new skills at PGL

Year 5 PGL Information Evening – 9th July, 3:30pm

Our current Year 5 students will be given the amazing opportunity of going to PGL next year. A reminder to all Year 5 parents and carers that the PGL information evening will take place on Thursday 9th July at 3:30pm. This meeting will provide important information about next year's residential visit, including activities, accommodation, kit requirements and key dates. We look forward to seeing you there. The residential trip is an important milestone in your child's journey through primary school. It provides opportunities for your child to try new experiences whilst developing independence and confidence needed for their transition to secondary school. We look forward to welcoming all Y5 parents to this event.

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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 the next academic year. Move-up mornings will be held on Tuesday 7th July and Thursday 9th July, and this is an opportunity for your child to visit their new classroom and meet their new teachers.

Year Group 2025-26	Existing Class	Existing Teacher 2025-26	Will Move To... New Class 2026-27	New Teacher 2026-27
EYFS	Ash	Mrs Nichols	Pine	Miss Lock
EYFS	Oak	Mrs Cox	Elm	Mrs McDowall & Mrs Burton
Y1	Elm	Mrs McDowall & Mrs Burton	Cedar	Mr Cox
Y1	Pine	Miss Turner	Beech	Miss Scott
Y2	Beech	Miss Scott	Willow	Mrs King
Y2	Cedar	Mrs Townsend	Maple	Miss Walker
Y3	Maple	Miss Walker	Hazel	Miss Ballinger
Y3	Willow	Mrs King	Larch	Ms Michienzi & Mrs McDowall
Y4	Hazel	Miss Ballinger	Alder	Mr Toogood & Mr Forrester
Y4	Larch	Bethany Lock	Aspen	Mrs Elliott
Y5	Alder	Steve Forrester	Chestnut	Mr Green
Y5	Aspen	Emma Elliott	Sycamore	Miss Vickers
Y6	Chestnut	James Green		
Y6	Sycamore	Jo Vickers		

The teachers are very excited to be meeting their new classes 😊

SATs and other national tests

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the children who have taken national tests this year, including: KS2 SATs, the Multiplication Check and the Phonics Screener Check. 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!

We are delighted with the results of the Multiplication Check and the Phonics Screening Check and will provide whole school results once the national data has been published.

KS2 SATS results are not released for a few more weeks but, again, whole school results will be published once the data has been produced from the Department for Education. If your child sat any of the national tests this year, their individual results will be included within their end of year report.



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Parking 2026-27

I am delighted to advise that we will continue to have the agreement with The County Ground for parents to use their car park free of charge during pick-up and drop-off times. Thank you to all of our parents who use this facility. As you know, we have pupils as young as 4 years old who attend our school as well as children with SEND needs, and your support in helping to keep our pupils safe is always very much appreciated. We also eagerly await the installation of the speed limit signs which should further support road safety in our area.



Litter Picking



Children from Chestnut and Sycamore Class put their Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Stewardship into action this week when they went litter picking in the local community. They all worked incredibly hard and by the end had collected a total of five bags of rubbish! This was an excellent example of the children taking action to look after God's creation whilst making a positive contribution to the local community. Well done to all involved!

Ash and Oak Class

Children from Ash and Oak Class had a fantastic time meeting some farm animals recently. The children all got to stroke the animals and learnt lots about them - they even managed to see a duck lay an egg! We are very lucky in Swindon to have several animal centres close to us – these include: Roves Farm, Farmer Giles, Cotswold Wildlife Park and Bristol Zoo. Why don't you try and do a visit over the summer holidays – the children would love it!



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2026-27 School Uniform

Please familiarise yourselves with the correct uniform before purchasing items of clothing and footwear in readiness for the new academic year. School uniform, including our PE kit, is compulsory and the correct uniform is detailed below. Any parents/carers experiencing difficulty in providing the uniform, please contact the office or the headteacher, as help may be available. When purchasing new PE kits for September, please ensure you are purchasing items of the correct style and colour.



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.

Recently, we have seen a recent increase in the number of girls with dyed hair and highly stylised haircuts for the boys. Although many children like to have colour put into their hair during the summer, this **must** be removed before they return in September, please. A reminder also that hair should not be highly stylised; this includes shaved hair lines or tramlines or stars 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_2025_2026.pdf

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

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Tel: 01793 527679 Email: admin@holycross.swindon.sch.uk

Year 4 Trip – Oxenwood



Year 4 stepped back in time and enjoyed an exciting Viking Experience Day led by Jarl Edgar, a Viking warrior who shared fascinating stories about his home, daily life and the gods he worshipped. Throughout the day, pupils were trained in the art of Viking warfare, learning how to use a shield and spear safely and effectively. They particularly enjoyed the opportunity to put their new skills into practice- including a memorable attack on Miss Ballinger! The children also learned how Vikings formed defensive shield walls to

protect their homes from invading enemies. Both Year 4 classes took part in an exciting battle against one another and had the opportunity to explore a Viking longboat, discovering how these incredible vessels enabled Vikings to travel and raid across great distances. To end the day in true Viking fashion, Mr Connolly was given a traditional Viking burial ceremony, much to the amusement of the children! It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning that brought history to life for everyone involved.



Year 6 Junior Good Citizen Trip

We are incredibly proud of the group of Year 6 pupils who represented Holy Cross at the Junior Good Citizens Challenge. Competing against 46 schools, our team achieved an outstanding second place, demonstrating excellent teamwork, knowledge and decision-making throughout the day.

The Junior Good Citizens Challenge is designed to equip young people with the life skills and understanding needed to respond safely in emergency or potentially dangerous situations. During the event, the children took part in a range of realistic scenarios that encouraged them to think carefully about personal safety, crime prevention and how to make responsible choices. The pupils approached each challenge with maturity, confidence and enthusiasm, applying their knowledge effectively while representing our school brilliantly. Their excellent achievement is thoroughly deserved, and we congratulate them on their fantastic success.

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"Year 6 had a fantastic day taking part in the Junior Good Citizens event at the Punjabi Centre. Throughout the day, we learnt about railway safety and how to stay safe around train tracks. We also explored how to keep ourselves safe when out with friends, the dangers of carrying weapons, and the harmful effects of drugs and smoking. It was a fun day filled with different activities and important life lessons. We all had a great time while learning how to make safe and responsible choices."

Zane, Chestnut Class, Y6

Y6 Leavers' Mass



Our Year 6 pupils attended a beautiful Leavers' Mass at Clifton Cathedral, led by Bishop Bosco. Holy Cross joined schools from across the diocese as we gathered to celebrate and give thanks for their primary school journey. The Mass provided a wonderful opportunity for reflection as the children prepare for the next stage of their education. Following the service, the children enjoyed a picnic and some well-deserved playtime on Clifton Downs in the glorious sunshine. A special congratulations goes to Declan and Danica, who proudly represented Holy Cross by carrying and presenting our school banner through the cathedral. They did so with great confidence and respect, and we are so very proud of them.



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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
- 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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Friday 3 rd July	Summer Fayre
Tuesday 7 th & Thursday 9 th July	Move-up days – classes meet their new teacher
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 3 Avebury Trip
Thursday 9 th July	Year 5 residential meeting
Friday 10 th July	Year 1 Beach Party
Monday 13 th July	African drumming workshop
Tuesday 14 th July	African drumming workshop
Wednesday 15 th July	Commonwealth Culture Day
Wednesday 15 th July	Music roadshow
Thursday 16 th July	Year 6 Performance – Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits
Friday 17 th July	Sports Day
Wednesday 22 nd July	End of year Mass
Wednesday 22 nd July	Last day of school.
<i>We finish for <u>all</u> children at 1:15pm on Wednesday 22nd July. Please ensure your child is collected promptly.</i>	
Tuesday 1 st Sept	TD Day – school is closed to all pupils
Wednesday 2 nd Sept	TD Day – school is closed to all pupils
Thursday 3 rd Sept	First day of the new term – we look forward to welcoming you back!

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SWINDON CARNIVAL 2026

4th July 2026 Polo Ground, Swindon SN31NR 10:00 Am onwards

SUPPORTED BY

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QR code: SCAN FOR TICKET BOOKINGS VALID TILL 2nd JULY 2026

Artists: MARK REYNOLDS, THE 7 NOTES BAND, XAVIER, RYAN NOGNI, SAVINO MIRANDA, LEM

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