

Holy Cross School Newsletter

Friday 14th June 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an exceptionally busy week here at Holy Cross. We have welcomed different visitors into our School this week and they all commented on how fabulous the children are. We have had writing moderation in Year 6, a SEND review, Year 4 multiplication tests and Phonics screening for our Year 1 children, what a week! The children and staff have been magnificent and all have demonstrated true Holy Cross qualities throughout this week.

Year 6 Theatre Trip



On Wednesday Year 6 had a fabulous trip to the theatre to see Matilda. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed the experience of seeing a West End show. They loved the show so much that the ice cream in the interval wasn't even their favourite part of the day! The opportunity of seeing a big show in town is so important and gives our pupils a memory that will last with them forever.

Year 4 Art Workshop



Year 4 had a special art workshop with one of our very special parents, who is herself an artist. The children loved hearing about her career and were so engaged throughout the morning. They used acrylic paint to paint still life pictures with each group using different limited palettes. The work produced is amazing!



Cricket Festival

Today, our Year 4 children took part in a cricket festival at Forster Park with 19 other local schools. Thankfully they dodged the rain and there was even glorious sunshine by the end! They all participated brilliantly and had a wonderful day. We got through to the final and came a magnificent second! Some of our children were recognised for being

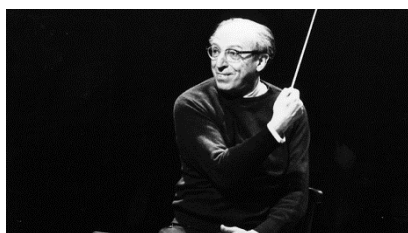
fabulous players, well done to Irene, Luca and Damiano. My thanks to Mrs Parr and all the parent volunteers that made this trip possible.



International Week

We will be holding our annual International Week from the 15th to the 19th July. This is always a wonderful celebration of the different cultures and heritages that make the Holy Cross community so special. We are inviting all parents and carers to join with us. You could read a story, help with some cooking or even teach the children some songs from your childhood. Please speak to your child's teacher if you are able to volunteer.

Composer of the Week: Aaron Copland



This week, we explored the life and works of Aaron Copland as our Composer of the Week. Aaron Copland, an iconic American composer, is celebrated for his ability to capture the spirit of the American landscape through his music. Born in 1900, Copland's works include well-known pieces such as "Appalachian Spring," "Fanfare for the Common Man," and "Rodeo," which have become staples of the American

classical music repertoire. His compositions often blend classical music with elements of American folk traditions, creating a unique and distinctly American sound. Copland's contributions to music extend beyond his compositions; he was also a mentor and advocate for contemporary American music.

You can learn more about the composers that we are exploring in school by visiting the Music section of the school website.

PSA Summer Party

I have sent out a separate letter with all of the information about the PSA Summer Party on Friday 5th July from 3.30pm. I know that this will be an amazing event.

Book Bingo

I had the pleasure of spending time looking books and talking about the learning of all of these fabulous children:

Reception	-	Nathaniel
Year 1	-	Everly
Year 2	-	Jabarie
Year 3	-	Milan
Year 5	-	Sena
Year 6	-	Eilish

Early Help Coffee Morning

Date for your diaries, on Monday 1st July, the local Early Help coordinator for Holy Cross will be holding a coffee morning in Hartley

Hall from 9am. This will be a very informative session, with lots of details about support available to you.

UNICEF Rights Respecting School



This week, we observed World Day Against Child Labour in our UNICEF oracy sessions. We learned about the harsh realities faced by children who are forced to work and the severe consequences this has on their education, health, and well-being. Our discussions were anchored around UNICEF Articles 32 and 36, which protect children from economic exploitation and harmful work.

During assembly, we delved deeper into specific jobs that children are currently undertaking around the world and explored the crucial work that charities like UNICEF are doing to help these vulnerable children. For homework, students are asked to connect our UNICEF studies with their humanities topics by researching the types of jobs children would have done in historical periods. This activity aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of child labour's impact both past and present, encouraging students to reflect on the importance of protecting children's rights globally.

Chocolate Award for Going Above and Beyond

Reception - Jaden

Year 1 - Sean
Year 2 - David
Year 3 - Olivia
Year 5 - Stefan
Year 6 - Sandra

Well done to you all!!

I hope you have a lovely weekend,

Catherine Mahony
Head of School

Message from Miss Collins:

I have been speaking to a number of parents over recent weeks about the growing campaign to ban smart phones for children in primary schools. Some local authorities have already implemented this ban and there is a push for Lewisham to also adopt this ruling.

The reason for wanting such a ban is because of the increasing amount of research about the damage such phones can have on our children. Primary school children having easy access to the internet on their own phone is a development of recent years and there is now increasing evidence to show the harms attributed to smartphone usage:

- a link between smart phone use and anxiety and depression

- safeguarding risks both through content children can see but also the vulnerability of children walking through the streets with expensive phones out and on show
- a negative impact on children's learning through a dependency on them and a reduction in attention span
- addiction
- sleep issues
- eye damage
- friendship issues

With all this taken into consideration I would like parents who are considering buying their child a mobile phone to seriously think about buying a 'brick phone'. This is a phone which allows you to make calls and send text messages but has no internet access. They are growing in popularity and used by many children now right into secondary school ages.

To begin I would like us, as adults, to be role models for our children and I am asking that from Monday morning when you are bringing your child to School or collecting at the end of the day you do not use your phone on the School site. This will most importantly give you time to talk with your child but also show them that you are reducing your phone usage. I look forward to phone free drop offs and pick ups!

Many thanks for your support, if you have any comments to add to the discussion please do let me know - together we will work for the good of those precious children.

Have a lovely weekend.

18.6.24	Year 4 trip to the Horniman's Museum
19.6.24	Reception Class. Assembly at 9.15am
20.4.24	Year 4 to the Corbett Community Library
21.6.24	Windrush Day Celebration
28.6.24	Year 3 Class Mass at 10am Big Summer Sing for the School Choir
1.7.24	Early Help Coffee Morning
4.7.24	Year 1 and 2 Beach Trip
5.7.24	Year 3 and 4 trip to Catford Broadway PSA Summer Party 3.30-5.30pm
8.7.24	Sports Week begins, PE kits to be worn all week
9.7.24	EYFS Sports Day from 2pm
10.7.24	Sports Day for Reception to Year 6
16.7.24	Year 6 Performance at 6.30pm
22.7.24	Leavers Mass at 1.45pm
23.7.24	School finishes at 2pm