

Holy Cross School Newsletter Friday 11th October 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another busy week here at Holy Cross, and it has been wonderful to have seen glimpses of the sun after all the rain we have had! I have enjoyed spending time in different classes this week, being with our fabulous children makes me so grateful. Their enthusiasm, sense of fun and determination to try their very best all the time is both inspiring and infectious. I am very proud of each and every one of our amazing children!

BHM Assembly



As part of our Black History Month celebrations, we were honoured to be joined by two special guests for our assembly on Monday: Gwen, our school governor, and her friend Onone. They shared their personal stories of migrating to Britain, with Ms Quintyn-Williams arriving from the Caribbean as part of the Windrush generation and Onone migrating

from Africa. During the assembly, they discussed the push and pull factors that influenced their and their families' decisions to make the journey to the UK. They spoke about what they miss most about their countries of origin and what they love about their new homes in Britain. It was a powerful and insightful session that helped deepen our understanding of migration and the important contributions of Black individuals and communities to British society.

Rosary

It was wonderful to start today with so many of you at the Rosary. It is such a joy that we have this opportunity to spend time with each other in prayer, in fact it is the best way to begin the day. I look forward to seeing many of you next week.

Names for Remembrance

During the month of November, we will be remembering all of our loved ones who have passed. If you would like the name of a family member to be put on our Remembrance Wall please email Mrs Wilson at jwilson52.209@lgflmail.org

Parents Evening

Next Tuesday and Thursday we have parents evening. Teachers are ready to share all of the learning that has already taken place in class and to discuss how each child can move on. There will be a creche available on both evenings. I look forward to seeing you all next week.

OPAL

We are always willing to accept donations of toys to support OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) which runs during lunchtime play. We

would be extremely grateful for any donations of small world toys, such as farm animals or dinosaurs, and small cars. Thank you for your support.

Harvest Festival

Please join with us on Monday 21st October, at 11am, for our Harvest Festival in Holy Cross Church. This is a wonderful celebration where we give thanks for the food that we have. We are looking for donations of dried goods, including pasta and rice, or tinned food. The food collected will then be donated to a local Foodbank supported by our Parish.

After School Clubs

Please remember that on Thursday the 17th October, after school clubs will not be running due to the parents evening. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Coffee Morning

All parents and carers are invited to join us for a coffee morning led by our amazing Speech and Language Therapist on 5th November at 9am in the hall. This will be an invaluable session that is open to all parents and carers.

Christmas Cards

Today your child would have received a special Christmas Card that they designed. Please order promptly if you would like to be able to send these wonderful creations to family and friends at Christmas.

PSA

A letter has been sent out regarding a coffee morning on Thursday 21st October at 9am in the school hall. It would be amazing to see as many

parents and carers as possible, and make the PSA a true reflection of our school community.

Black History Month Workshop



On Wednesday, we were delighted to be joined by storyteller Sister Africa for her captivating presentation, "Africa; My Story." Our children were taken on a beautifully vibrant journey into the heart of Africa and the Caribbean. Sister Africa, also known as Mama Africa, shared stories from her colourful childhood days to the darker moments of the slave trade. Through her storytelling, children experienced a range of emotions, from laughter to reflection, as they learned about the history and heritage of her ancestors. The assembly and workshops encouraged students to help ensure that these important stories and cultural legacies are never forgotten. It was a powerful and unforgettable experience for all involved.



Mini Vinnie's Commissioning Mass

Today, our amazing Year 5 Mini Vinnie's celebrated their commissioning Mass at St Augustine's church. The children read and sang beautifully and all loved spending time with their fellow Year 5 Mini Vinnie's from St Augustine's. My thanks to Father Uduak for celebrating the Mass with us. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers join with us as well.

Composer of the Week: Bob Marley



This week, in celebration of Black History Month, our Composer of the Week was the legendary Bob Marley. As one of the most influential figures in reggae music, Marley used his platform not only to entertain but also to advocate for social justice, equality, and peace. His iconic songs such as "One Love," "Redemption Song," and "Get Up, Stand Up" continue to inspire generations around the world. By blending music with powerful messages of unity and freedom, Marley became a global symbol for the fight against oppression. His contributions go beyond

music, as he is remembered as a key figure in celebrating and promoting Black identity, culture, and rights.

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

Chocolate Friday for Going Above and Beyond

Well done to all of these wonderful children who have gone above and beyond this week in School.

Reception: Osinachi

Year 1: Noah

Year 2: Nico

Year 3: Kyrie

Year 4: Kenzo

Year 5: Edie

Year 6: Dante

UNICEF Rights Respecting School



This week, in our UNICEF focus, we explored Articles 29 and 30 to celebrate World Teachers' Day. These articles highlight the importance of education in helping children develop into the best versions of themselves and ensuring every child has the right to learn, regardless of background. We discussed the inspiring story of Malala Yousafzai,

who risked her life to advocate for education for all, particularly girls in Pakistan, when the Taliban tried to prevent them from attending school. For homework, children are tasked with creating something persuasive to convince their teacher to add a new topic or even a new subject to the Holy Cross curriculum. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to use their voices to influence what they learn and think about the power of education in shaping our future.

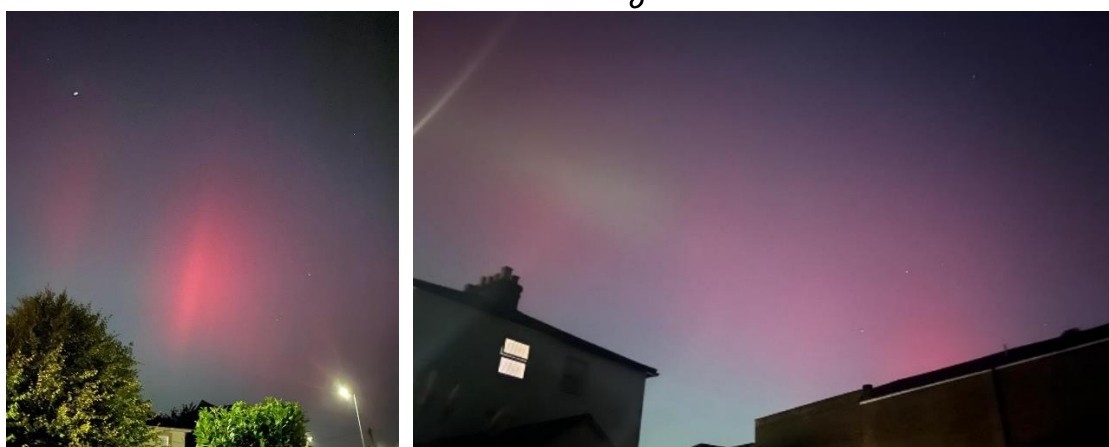
Head of School Awards

Dante in Year 6 for being an absolute superstar! Well done Dante!

Secondary Transfer

There are only a few weeks left for the parents and carers in Year 6 to fill in the secondary transfer forms. These must be completed online by the 24th October. If you have any questions please come and speak to either myself or Miss Collins.

Northern Lights



I was amazed to be able to witness the Northern Lights last night in South East London. It was such a fabulous experience and it makes

you truly appreciate what a wonderful world we live in. I hope either your children or you had the chance to glimpse this spectacle.

I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend,

Catherine Mahony

Head of School

Message from Miss Collins:

It has been a week of meetings this week - with other Lewisham Headteachers, with governors, with Challenge Partners and staff from other schools wanting to come and see Holy Cross! A member of staff from another Catholic primary school close by wanted to see how we have rolled out the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools programme. Many other schools are following our lead and signing up to the effective programme in action.

In between these meetings I have spent time with children and parents and I am always so grateful for the way our parents support what we are doing in School and work together with us for the benefit of our precious children.

I wish you a wonderful weekend, enjoy time with your lovely children.

Dates for the diary:

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| 15.10.24 | Parents Evening 5-7:30pm |
| 17.10.24 | Parents Evening 3:30-6pm |
| 21.10.24 | Harvest Celebration at 11am |
| 28.10.24 | Start of the half term |
| 4.11.24 | Children back to School at 8.45am |
| 7.11.24 | Nursery Class Trip to see Dear Zoo |
| 12.11.24 | Flu injections for Reception to Year 6 |

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| 13.11.24 | Year 5 Class Assembly at 9.15am |
| 15.11.24 | Individual and Family Photos |
| 20.11.24 | Year 6 Class Assembly at 9.15am |
| 20.12.24 | School finishes at 2pm for Christmas |