



Holy Cross School Newsletter Friday 4th October 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful week here at Holy Cross, with the start of Black History Month, an online safety workshop for KS2, a Governors learning walk and the full Rosary. What a very busy week! It is always a pleasure to show visitors around the School, the children spoke beautifully about their learning and demonstrated the behaviour expectations of being Ready, Respectful and Responsible perfectly.

Online Safety Workshop



Thank you to all the parents that attended the online session on Monday from the Breck Foundation. The whole staff had a further training session on Tuesday and the content has certainly had the whole staff team talking. I have put the link below for the parent session, which was recorded and is now available to for you watch until next Tuesday. It makes you aware that our very precious children could be targeted by

strangers wanting to groom them. Some of the statistics that were spoken about are frightening, over 70% of teenagers are groomed on social media sites such as Snapchat and Instagram. As parents we need to check that they only engage online with people that they have met and know well. I would really ask that you think carefully about when your children have access to social media sites, including WhatsApp. These sites are for young people who are over the age of 13. The children in KS2 had workshops about online safety, their sessions were really informative, please speak to your children for more information about these.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/30ilpotyfl_rTHfkV-tSKTVCM-ki4H2SRqgpREpmgnNGJQOuz-BMQubq_ScJUMKd4y.8XxzROPNNxm76-rW](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/97919328589)

Passcode: n=Sgg2zE

Rosary



It was lovely to have so many of you join us this morning for the full rosary. It was a beautiful, prayerful occasion, led wonderfully by our prayer leaders. We will continue with this at 8.30am on every Friday during this month of the Holy Rosary.

Parents Evening

Booking for Parents Evening is open and many slots have already been filled. If you are having any issues with the online system please see staff in the School Office who will be able to help you.

Harvest Festival

On Monday 21st October, at 11am, we will be holding our Harvest Festival in Holy Cross Church. All parents are welcome to join with us for this. Please could you send in 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.

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.

Black History Month



On Tuesday, 1st October, we began to celebrate Black History Month. Over the course of this month we will be welcoming special visitors into the school, have workshops for the children, and will end with a carnival

celebration! Mr Foster and Mr Parker have led some wonderful staff training round the theme of 'reclaiming the narrative' and I look forward to seeing the different activities across the School.

Mini Vinnie's Commissioning Mass

Next Friday Year 5 will be celebrating the Mini Vinnie's Commissioning Mass at St Augustine's Church at 11am, with the Year 5 class from St Augustine's. All children in Year 5 are Mini Vinnie's. Mini Vinnie's are the youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), which is an organisation dedicated to tackling poverty by supporting people in need. The children will spend this year living out their mission of see, think, do by supporting the local community alongside the Parish SVP. All parents and carers are welcome to join us for this very special occasion.

Composer of the Week: Ignatius Sancho



This week, in celebration of Black History Month, our Composer of the Week is Ignatius Sancho. Born into slavery in 1729, Sancho overcame incredible challenges to become a notable figure in British history, excelling as a composer, writer, and abolitionist. He is remembered as the first person of African descent to vote in a British parliamentary

election and is celebrated for his work in advocating for the abolition of the slave trade. Sancho's compositions, though lesser known, are significant in British musical history, combining classical styles with influences from his African heritage.

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

Head of School Awards

Henry in Year 5 for wonderful RE work, well done Henry!

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: Kalila
Year 1: Henio
Year 2: Paolo
Year 3: Emilia
Year 4: Valentina
Year 5: Chisom
Year 6: Melanie

UNICEF Rights Respecting School



This week, as part of our UNICEF work and Black History Month, we explored the theme of "Reclaiming Narratives," linked to Article 2 (non-

discrimination) and Article 30 (rights of children from minority communities). In assembly, we learned about inspiring Black figures such as Olympic athlete Alice Coachman, environmental activist Wangari Maathai, and poet Benjamin Zephaniah, all of whom have made significant contributions in their fields. The theme encourages us to correct historical inaccuracies and celebrate the full complexity of Black heritage.

Secondary Transfer

For the parents and carers in Year 6, please ensure that you begin your online application form. Please aim to have your application completed by the 24th October. If you are having issues or would like more advice please speak to either myself or a member of the office staff.

I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend,

Catherine Mahony

Head of School

Message from Miss Collins:

I think it may have finally stopped raining, I do hope that October is a little drier than September was, goodness me!

We have enjoyed another successful week here at Holy Cross. I was very glad that so many parents were able to join us for the Breck Foundation online meeting on Monday. This was about online safety for our children and was both eye opening and informative. If you were unable to join last Monday Mrs Mahony has posted a link to a recording

of the meeting that you can download watch. The link is available until next Tuesday, 8th October.

I hope that you enjoy a lovely weekend - if you get a chance do take the children to the park or just for a walk to enjoy the Autumnal colours we see at this time of year. Beckenham Place Park is looking spectacular!

Dates for the diary:

11.10.24	Mini Vinnie's Commissioning Mass at 11am
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
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