



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Telephone/Fax 01752 225420  
Website: <https://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web>  
Email: [holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs F Gill  
Newsletter No. 15: 15th January 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

*It has been a strange couple of weeks with so many of our children at home! The staff have been working around the clock to ensure the remote learning is shared with you so you all have everything you need. We are also working hard in school, teaching and supporting the children who are still attending. We are pleased to be able to help and support our critical workers who still need to go to work and would like to thank everyone for making alternative arrangements **when possible** so that we can maintain safe numbers.*

*We are unsure as yet of what will happen moving forwards but all we can do is continue to stay in contact and support the children to engage with the remote learning. Please continue to encourage your children to engage. Our daily Google Meets are a way of registering our remote learners and we are expected to report to the Trust and to the DFE on the level of engagement across the school. We need to see your child or receive work from them on a daily basis.*

*Many of you will have had a 'learning check-in' call/Dojo from the teaching staff this week and I hope you found this helpful. I have had conversations with many of you throughout the week, which amidst the strangeness, gave me great pleasure as it is so lovely to be able to touch base.*

*We would ask that you continue to use Class Dojo to communicate with the teachers and to ask questions, share concerns or make requests. It is important that we all look after one another and it is my duty and honour to look after all of our children and their families but also the staff. As you know, the teaching staff here at Holy Cross will bend over backwards to help if they can and during this lockdown, this is even more apparent than usual. They are so keen to help that I worry that they are not looking after themselves. If we don't look after them, they won't be able to look after the children. We must all remember that everyone has families, responsibilities and loved ones who may be ill or need care. I have advised teachers to set Class Dojo to 'Quiet Hours' outside the **8am to 5pm** window. Please feel free to send a message outside that time-frame if you need to, but please understand that the staff may not respond until the following morning.*

*You can also ring the school phone on 01752 225420 or email the office at [holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk)  
For any urgent requests/concerns please email me directly at [fgill@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:fgill@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk).*

*Stay safe,  
Mrs F Gill  
Headteacher*



Friday 12/02/21  
Last day of term

15/02/21—19/02/21  
Half Term

**Monday 22/02/21**  
**Non-pupil day**

The school will be closed to all children on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February for Trust-Wide staff training. This will include our vulnerable children and our key worker children.

Tuesday 23/02/21  
Term recommences

02/04/21—18/04/21  
Easter Holidays



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### *Our Catholic Life*

#### *Our theme next week is Come and See*

John the Baptist points Jesus out to two of the disciples, saying, "Look, there is the lamb of God!" These disciples are curious and follow Jesus. Jesus invites them to "come and see" where he lives. So the two friends come to Jesus' home where they stay for the rest of the day. The two friends realise that they have found the Messiah. One of the two friends is Andrew who invites his brother Simon to meet Jesus. Jesus looks hard at Simon and gives him a new name. Jesus tells Simon he is to be called Cephas, which is translated as Peter and means "rock".



#### *Let us Pray*

*If I follow you, my life will be complete. Help me to live like you did.  
Amen*

### TENTEN WORSHIP

Here at Holy Cross, we use a resource called Tenten to deliver some aspects of our collective worship and our Relationships Education. During lockdown, Tenten have made some wonderful resources available for you at home. Perhaps you would value the opportunity to gather together as a family to pray or to hold your own family act of worship. Here are the links for this week's resources. You don't need a user name or password – simply click on the link...

#### **ASSEMBLY VIDEO FOR HOME w/c 18 January 2021**

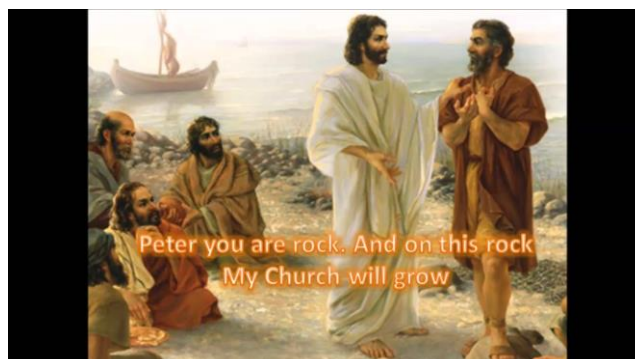
<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/34587235863403467q4/>

#### **DAILY PRAYERS FOR HOME w/c 18 January 2021**

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/782-675926834014863460/>

#### **SUNDAY LITURGY FOR FAMILIES**

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/sunday-liturgy-for-families>





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### Wonders of the Week



This week **Miss Buscombe** led our second whole school Remote Celebration Assembly. I hope you were all able to join in and had your strips of paper ready for your prayer activity.

Here are this week's winners of the Wonder of the Week award.

**Julia Donaldson: Sonia** for always putting 100% effort into everything she does and for working incredibly hard in phonics this week. She has blown us away with her progress.

**Allan Ahlberg: Anastazja** for her amazing effort applied to home learning. She has engaged with a range of activities and is learning in a variety of ways. Well done! Keep it up!

**Roger Hargreaves: Maya** for her efforts with home learning this week. Keep it up Maya. We love to see your work.

**Eric Carle: Stefan** for fantastic effort with his home learning and for wowing us all with your work on the Great Fire of London.

**Michael Morpurgo: Sadie** for persevering with her home learning. Keep it up Sadie – you can do it!

**Quentin Blake: Ruben** for putting a brilliant effort into home learning! Well done Ruben!

**Roald Dahl: David** for putting so much effort into his home learning, taking on board the feedback he is given and persevering even when he finds tasks difficult.

**Philip Pullman: Jeroen** for staying focused and working hard each day in school.

**Emma Carroll: Julien** for completing his home learning to a high standard and making sure he uses Google Classroom to turn in his work.

**J K Rowling: Ashleigh** for handing in lots of great pieces of work this week as part of her home learning. She has tried really hard and has clearly put a lot of time and effort into each piece of work.

### Gospel Values Awards

**Julia Donaldson: Harry** for **Courage** - for putting his hand up and sharing his ideas during group time and having a go at new activities during choosing time.

**Allan Ahlberg: Jack** for **kindness** - for always showing kindness and being a fantastic role model for his peers.

**Roger Hargreaves: Minaal** for **Courage** - for contributing to class discussions - her ideas and opinions are so valued.

**Eric Carle: Faith** for **kindness** - for being a kind friend and checking in on all her friends at school.

**Michael Morpurgo: Mahi** for **Kindness** - for checking in with her peers both in person and online. Making sure everyone stays connected!





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*Quentin Blake: Emilia for kindness -for creating an amazing poster about how to make good decisions while at home. Roald Dahl: Cristian for justice - I have really noticed this week how fairly he plays, following rules, taking turns and he always listens to others with an open mind.*

*Philip Pullman: Adam for Kindness - for always being available to help in the class and support adults.*

*Carroll: Ava for Courage - for having the courage inside and outside of the classroom, by giving new learning and new games a go!*

*JK Rowling: Nathan for Courage - This is a mixture of a WOW and a Gospel Value certificate. Nathan has been INCREDIBLE this week. He has worked so hard, we have heard so much more from him and the amount and the quality of work has been superb! We are so proud of you!*

### SPONSORED SLEEP FOR THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY, PLYMOUTH

Congratulations and many thanks to everyone who supported this cause...



**Eugene Fitzsimons** in Michael Morpurgo and **Gabriel Fitzsimons**  
**Oliver Redmond-Brettell** in Eric Carle who raised £285.68  
**Sebastian Jenner-Mendia** in Eric Carle  
**Maisy Evans** in Eric Carle who raised £145



### Goodbye and Thank you

Sadly it is time to say a fond farewell and a big THANK YOU to Miss McVicar and Miss Griffiths who are leaving us today having successfully completed their placements with us. The children responded well to them and they have both developed their teaching under the guidance of Miss Goddard and Miss Ormston. We wish them the very best of luck on this next step of their journey.





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### *Help and support*

- The Plymouth City Council's dedicated Covid-19 webpages are updated frequently:  
<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/coronaviruscovid19information>
- There is help with food, money and supplies for anyone needing to self-isolate:  
<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/coronaviruscovid19information/ineedhelp>

Advice and help is being co-ordinated by Caring for Plymouth, a partnership between Plymouth City Council, Livewell South West and a wide range of voluntary and community organisations:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/coronaviruscovid19information/caringplymouth>

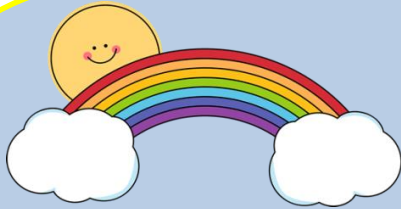
Plymouth Public Dispensary offers financial assistance for people in need who live in Plymouth and are unwell or convalescing to assist their recovery:  
[http://www.ppdtrust.co.uk/about\\_us.html](http://www.ppdtrust.co.uk/about_us.html)

Or phone 01752 782758



## CARING FOR PLYMOUTH





## Health & Wellbeing

To our amazing parents, you are doing a fabulous job! Some days will be easier than others - that's normal!

We will continue to catch up with phone calls, Dojo & emails but also please remember that you can contact us at any time if you need to.

Here's a reminder of some tips that a lot of parents have found useful:

- **Set a routine**  
Keeping wake up time, bedtime and meal time consistent helps children maintain their daily rhythm and comforting routines. Identify set times during the day when children will work independently and other times when you will be around to supervise, guide and teach. And finally, ensure you set a clear playtime, lunchtime and 'end of school' time, when they can feel free to do their own thing.
- **Co-create a daily timetable with your child**  
Give children a sense of control by involving them in daily decision-making, like choosing an activity or what they'd like for lunch.
- **Create a designated home 'learning space'** free from distractions with a table to work at.
- **Eat Well**  
Spending a lot of time at home can lead to boredom and unhealthy eating habits, so pay attention to food quality and involve kids in healthy snack and meal preparation.
- **Get Moving**  
Counter inactivity by incorporating movement and physical exercise into your at-home time. Join in together with Joe Wicks.
- **Talk** about how you are all feeling; support each other
- **Engage** in full family activities together
- **Take time** for relaxation & mindful activities
- **Keep connected** and stay in touch with us, with your wider family and with your friends.

Be safe, be kind and look after each other.

Keep Smiling!

Mrs Gill





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### **Breakfast Club/After School Club**

We continue to run Breakfast Club and After School Club as we try our best to support our key worker parents. However, for a variety of reasons, we have to place a cap of 10 on the number we can safely accommodate. Please make sure you have booked **one week** in advance. If you are not in need of the place, please cancel ahead so we can offer the place to someone who needs it. After School Club finishes at **5pm**.



**When dropping off or picking up from wraparound provision, please ring the number on the red door as usual. However, we will have to bring your child to the pedestrian gate off the playground as we are having some work done in front of the church.**

### **PUPIL RECORDS**

With all communication now virtual, it is vital that we have current, accurate contact information for you. Over the last couple of weeks, I have discovered that several telephone numbers and email addresses are no longer current.

If you have moved house or changed your phone number or email accounts, please let us know by phoning the school on 01752 225420 or by email to [holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk)

**We need to stay connected!**

### **Learning Packs**

There are still a large number of learning packs awaiting collection from reception. The remote learning we have planned is not all screen-based and your children would benefit greatly from having these packs to work on alongside the online learning provided. Please contact the school office to arrange a time that is convenient for you to pop in and collect one for your child.



**Have a lovely weekend!** ☀️