



# St. Cross News

*"Together we grow in God's love"*

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Upper Marsh Lane,  
Hoddesdon,  
Hertfordshire.  
EN11 8BN  
Tel: 01992 467309

Executive Head: **Joanne Walsh**

Dear Parents,

The children have enjoyed a broad and enriching curriculum, and it has been a joy to see so many engaging so thoughtfully in our mental health activities.

During Children's Mental Health Week, Miss Gill led a special assembly to raise awareness about emotional wellbeing and the importance of caring for our minds as well as our bodies. Throughout the week, classes took part in "Tea and Talk" sessions, giving the children the opportunity to connect with someone new, share their thoughts, and build supportive friendships.

We were also delighted to welcome Saracens, organised by our PE Lead, who demonstrated how music and movement can support mental wellbeing. We spoke about how music can play a valuable role in mental health recovery. Dancing, in particular, boosts mental health by releasing feel-good endorphins, reducing stress hormones, and enhancing cognitive function. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting active while reflecting on the importance of looking after their wellbeing.

Year 2 had a wonderful visit to the Royal Gunpowder Mills on Tuesday. It was a fantastic day immersed in nature, science and history. Mrs Hill and Mrs Abas were incredibly proud of the children, who confidently answered questions throughout the day and demonstrated a strong understanding of their current topic. The highlight for many was making rockets, and congratulations to Oliver S, who won the competition! Thank you to Mrs Satwick and Mrs Bilben for your support on the trip.

In addition, the children have been learning about the use of Artificial Intelligence. With AI increasingly present in everyday life, it is important that children develop the skills and confidence to make safe and responsible choices when using smart technology. As part of this learning, every class had the opportunity to take part in a virtual reality lesson. Using ClassVR, the children were able to explore places that are not always practical — or even possible — to visit in real life, all from the safety of the hall. From travelling inside a blood vessel, to diving into the depths of the ocean, to standing on the surface of the moon, the sessions were filled with awe and wonder.

I am delighted to inform you that the playground equipment purchased with the funds raised from the School Council cake sale has now arrived and will be ready for the children to enjoy after the half-term break. Thank you to everyone who supported the cake sale — your generosity has helped make this possible for our pupils.

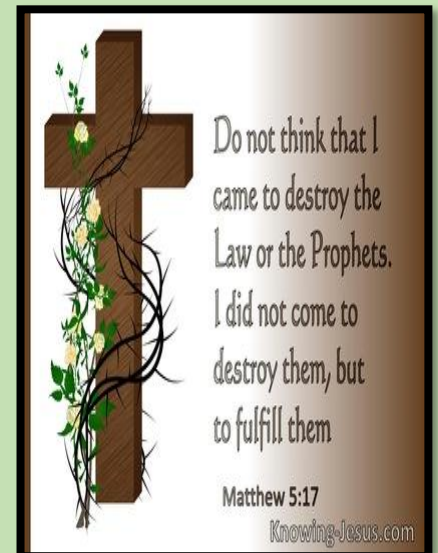
Today, the children will culminate Mental Health Week by making dream catchers and spending time talking with their friends, focusing on capturing only positive dreams and thoughts. It has been a truly uplifting week for all.

Have a wonderful and restful half term.

**Mrs Joanne Walsh**

**Sunday 15th February 2026**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Matthew 5:17-37**



### **Attendance Award Congratulations to Year 2**

Reception	96.5%
Year 1	97.1%
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>97.6%</b>
Year 3	92.3%
Year 4	91.3%
Year 5	94.5%
Year 6	96.1%

**Whole school target 96%**

### **Safeguarding**

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. Should any parent have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform the school's Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSP), members of Senior Leadership Team: **Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. James and Mrs. Panter**  
In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a statutory duty to discuss the issue with one of the DSPs to seek further advice.

# Key Dates for your Diary

<https://www.stcross.herts.sch.uk/diary/list/>

16 to 20 Feb	Half Term Week
23 Feb	Children
24 Feb	Fr Julian – Year 1
25 Feb	Year 3 & 4 Mass, 9.15am – Parents Welcome
27 Feb	Tuck Shop Year 5 Friends
3 Mar	Y3 Roman Baths Trip Fr Julian – Year 2
4 Mar	Year 5 & 6 Mass, 9.15am – Parents Welcome
5 Mar	World Book Day
6 Mar	NHS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cohort – Reception Indoor Athletics – The Broxbourne School
9 Mar	Science Week
10 Mar	Football A Tournament, Cranbourne School
13 Mar	Mother's Day Tea
17 Mar	Stations of the Cross, 9.00am Y6 Reconciliation, 1.30pm
19 Mar	Netball A & B Tournament, The Broxbourne School
20 Mar	Rocksteady Music Concert Tuck-shop Year 4 Friends
23 Mar	Y4 Reconciliation, 1.30pm
24 Mar	Y5 Reconciliation, 1.30pm Y3/4 Easter Play, 2pm/6pm
27 Mar	<b>School Closes at 1.15pm</b>

**Note: The above dates/times are subject to change**

Today we say goodbye to Oakley in Year 3 and Bella in Reception. We wish you all the very best for the future.

## **School Dinner Reminder**

Please be reminded to order your child's school meals for when we return after the half term break. Please also see the attached notification from Aspens regarding school meal costings. Thank you.

## Gold Book:

*Well Done Children*

Reception: **Teddy N**

Year 1: **Albie**

Year 2: **Florence**

Year 3: **Ian**

Year 4: **Bea**

Year 5: **Elizabeth**

Year 6: **Ethan**

## Happy Birthday

**Wishing you, another fabulous Birthday full of God's blessing**

Year Reception: **Bella, Danny, Finnley, Olivia**

Year 1: **Tatiana**

Year 5: **Katia & Verity**



Sign up to our 6-week online group

**Are you a dad and feel like you are constantly nagging at your child to get what you need?**

Join our free dads together 6-week online group to help increase your confidence in parenting and improve communication and listening skills.

  
Wednesday 11th February to  
25th March 2026  
7.00pm to 9.00pm  
Online via MS Teams

To book your place, call Louise on **0204 522 8700**, email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk) or scan our QR code to use our online referral form



Scan Me!

**We build better family lives together**

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

 @familyLivesHertsandBeds

Funded by  
Hertfordshire  
County Council



Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 387762. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: The Annex, York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, AL9 5AD.