



St. Cross News

"Together we grow in God's love"

6th February 2026

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Executive Head: Joanne Walsh

Dear Parents,

Just to let you know that on Saturday evening, Mrs Milner gave birth to a healthy little girl, weighing 9 lb 3 oz. Henrietta has been warmly welcomed into the family. Mum and baby are both doing well.

On Thursday the 5th, children in Reception to Year 2 were treated to Midnight in the Toy Shop, where they stepped inside a magical toyshop and became toys that sprang to life as the clock struck midnight. However, their world was under threat. A tech entrepreneur planned to tear down the toyshop and replace it with an AI experience centre, so the toys had to prove that real children still want real toys. Alessia said, "It was brilliant!" and Tilly added, "We all had to pose and walk like toys." Everyone had a fantastic time.

Next week we will be marking Children's Mental Health Week 2026, with the national theme 'This is My Place'. This theme focuses on belonging and how feeling part of a community supports positive mental health and wellbeing. At St Cross, our aim is to ensure that every child knows they are loved, valued, and that we are all part of one family. Each class will enjoy a special 'Tea and Talk' session, giving children time to talk, listen, and connect with one another in a relaxed setting. We will also be exploring smart technology and making safer choices when using AI, helping children to develop awareness and responsibility in the digital world on Tuesday Safer Internet Day.

On Wednesday, we will be acknowledging Women in Science and exploring their contributions to medicine and scientific discovery. Thursday will follow with our VR Day, running from Reception through to Year 6.

During the week beginning 9th March, we will be celebrating Science Week – a week full of exciting investigations, fun challenges, and a wonderful medical Science workshop to celebrate the importance of science. If you have an area of expertise related to STEM that you would like to share with the children, we would love to hear from you. This could be anything from talking about your job in medicine to demonstrating what you do as a robotics engineer. The children would be thrilled to learn from you, so please get in touch!

Next Friday the 13th, Bows Football Coach will be holding trials for the Year 5 and Year 6 A and B teams for next half term matches. Please remember that children will be chosen based on their ability to play as part of a team and to represent the school well in matches against other local primary schools.

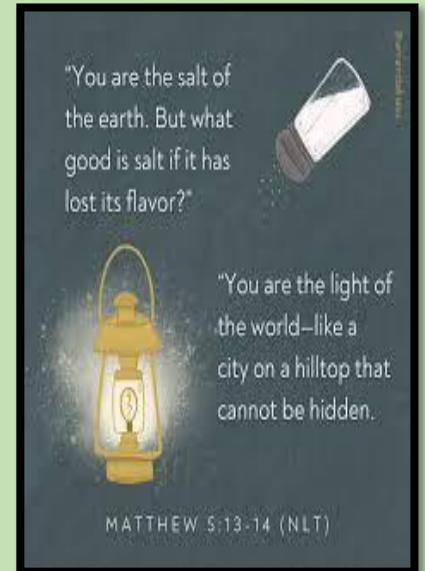
Next half term Miss Gill and Mrs Stewart will run a Year 3 and 4 Netball team on a Tuesday from 3:15 to 4:15 please sign up on Arbor.

We look forward to a busy and enriching last week of term.

Mrs Joanne Walsh

Sunday 8th February 2026

Matthew 5:13-16



Attendance Award Congratulations to Year 3

Reception	92.6%
Year 1	87.9%
Year 2	95.9%
Year 3	96.7%
Year 4	89%
Year 5	89.7%
Year 6	95.7%

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/>

10 Feb	Y2 Royal Gunpowder Mills
12 Feb	VR Day in School
13 Feb	Dream Catcher making afternoon, 1pm
16^{to} 20 Feb	Half Term Week
24 Feb	Fr Julian – Year 1
25 Feb	Year 3 & 4 Mass, 9.15am – Parents Welcome
27 Feb	Y5 & Y6 Knex Workshop 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 nd Cohort – Reception Indoor Athletics – The Broxbourne School
9 Mar	Science Week
10 Mar	Football 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	School Closes at 1.15pm

Note: The above dates/times are subject to change

Thank you to those parents that have signed-up to help with the Dream Catcher afternoon next Friday. Please note, we still have 3 spaces available in Year 1 if you are free (Reception & Year 2 class are full).

Gold Book:

Well Done Children

Reception: Edie

Year 1: Mireya

Year 2: Evelyn

Year 3: Isabella

Year 4: Blake

Year 5: Evie-Rose

Year 6: Zachary

Happy Birthday

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

Reception: Rafe

Year 4: Rosie

Year 5: Verity

Year 6: Brody W

The Year of St Francis *A Jubilee Year of Grace*

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed 2026 as a Special Franciscan Jubilee Year to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. The Jubilee Year will run from 10th January 2026 to 10th January 2027 and is offered as a time of spiritual renewal, peace, and care for creation. Pope Leo XIV said the example of St Francis was needed now more than ever:

“In this age, marked by so many seemingly interminable wars, by internal and social divisions that create mistrust and fear, he continues to speak. Not because he offers technical solutions, but because his life points to the authentic source of peace.”

The Year of St Francis invites us to rediscover how St Francis lived the Gospel through simplicity, joy, and love for all. It is a time to renew our faith, become witnesses of peace, and rebuild relationships with God, one another, and the natural world