



St. Cross News

"Together we grow in God's love"

Thursday 17th September

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Executive Head: Paul O'Rourke

Well done to Year 6 for attending Mass at church yesterday and helping us begin the school year with a strong spiritual start. Gathering as a community to worship reminds us of our motto 'Together We Grow in God's Love' and sets a gentle, prayerful tone for the weeks ahead.

It was a joy to be at the first celebration assembly last Friday and to see what a talented, caring community we have at St Cross. A reminder about birthdays: we will continue to celebrate birthdays that fall between the previous Sunday and the coming Saturday. These are announced at assembly and appear in the newsletter. The Golden Book recipients are announced in the same assembly and their names will be published in the newsletter the following week.

Congratulations to Year 3: the attendance award went to Year 3 last week with an incredible 99.7% attendance. Well done to the children and thank you for supporting them!

We are looking forward to tomorrow's assembly, when we will announce the school council, Head Boy and Head Girl, house captains, Eco Council and class ambassadors. Congratulations to every pupil who took part in the voting — this was a meaningful, hands-on lesson in democracy. A particular thank you to those who nominated themselves: your courage and willingness to serve at such a young age exemplify our values of respect and trust.

Our school traditions matter. I am looking forward to the Reception Tie Ceremony next Friday and, with the weather currently looking favourable, we hope to hold the event in the school grounds as is our custom. These moments of spirituality help us grow together in faith and community.

I trust our Year 6 pupils enjoyed Crucial Crew. Thank you to the staff who supported the visit. They will soon receive a hard copy of the essential 'Junior Life Skills' handbook.

Thank you to all parents who attended our Curriculum Evening. Your support is vital to your child's learning and I hope you found the session helpful and informative.

Swimming has started for Year 3 and we hope the children are enjoying their lessons. Swimming is a statutory part of the national curriculum and, regrettably, costs have risen. If you have not yet made a contribution, please do so at your earliest convenience.

From now on we will aim to write and distribute the school newsletter on Thursdays where possible so that any issues that arise can be followed up on Fridays.

With every blessing,

Mr P O'Rourke BA (Hons), NPQH, NPQEL, MA
Executive Headteacher

Sunday 20 September 2026

**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A**

Matthew 20¹⁻¹⁸



"God is Change - Seed to tree, tree to forest; Rain to river, river to sea; forever Changing. The universe is God's self-portrait."

Octavia Butler

Next Week in School

Fri 18 Sept

Celebration Assembly (9am)

Thurs 24 Sept

St Mary's Catholic School Open
Evening 6pm

Fri 25 Sept

Reception Tie Ceremony (9am)

Attendance Award

Reception	96%
Year 1	92.1%
Year 2	93.5%
Year 3	99.7%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	96.2%
Year 6	94.8%

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): **Mr O'Rourke, Mrs. James, Mrs. Norton 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.

Gold Book

Congratulations to our Golden Book pupils, one child from each class who has lived our values this week through kindness, effort or faith. Together we grow in God's love. Well done to you all.

Reception	Grayson	Year 3	Sanuki
Year 1	Pippa	Year 4	Luca
Year 2	Kyla	Year 5	Olivia
		Year 6	Isabelle

Happy Birthday

Wishing you another fabulous birthday full of God's blessing

Reception:

Year 1 **Alessia**

Year 2 **Nancie**

Year 3 **Jacob**

Year 4

Year 5 **Ben**

Year 6