



St. Cross News

"Together we grow in God's love"

23rd January 2026

Upper Marsh Lane,
Hoddesdon,
Hertfordshire.
EN11 8BN
Tel: 01992 467309
Executive Head: Joanne Walsh

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the halfway point of this term, it is encouraging to see the children's continued growth in both learning and confidence.

Thank you to the parents of Key Stage 1 who attended the Maths Workshop on Monday. We were delighted to hear such positive feedback. Parents shared that "the workshop was light, non-judgemental and extremely didactic," and that it demonstrated practical, engaging ways to support children with Maths away from screens. Using tactile, everyday resources such as whiteboards, laminated A4 paper and Lego pieces showed how Maths learning can be enjoyable, accessible and meaningful at home. Thank you, Miss Panter for leading this session.

On Tuesday, a small group of children from Years 3 and 4 were invited to the John Warner Centre to take part in a Badminton Festival, accompanied by Mrs Ives. The children thoroughly enjoyed creating fun challenges that supported cooperative rally play, both with and without a racket. They also worked on footwork through lunging and developed their understanding of serving. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and teamwork in action. Billie said, 'I just loved learning how to hold the racket!'

This week, Mrs James and I met with all teachers to review the progress of your children throughout the Autumn Term. We would like to thank parents who continue to support their children with reading and spellings at home. This commitment truly makes a difference and strengthens our partnership between home and school.

Our St Cross **Choir** joined the largest children's choir in the world on Thursday evening at the O2! Through this unforgettable experience, children discovered their voices, grew in confidence, and felt part of something truly extraordinary – all while inspiring a lifelong love of music. The children had a wonderful time and were impeccably well behaved throughout. A huge thank you to Mrs Daynes for her excellent preparation, and to Miss Panter and Mrs James for their invaluable support at the event. Thank you to all the parents for the positive emails and encouraging comments — we really appreciate your support!

As part of our Oracy 21 Programme, we will be introducing "Time to Talk and Listen" every Tuesday, starting next week. During these sessions, children will be given a subject and will have the opportunity to talk and share their ideas with one another for ten minutes, using the oracy skills they have been developing over the past year. This initiative supports confidence, listening, respect and clear communication—values that sit at the heart of our Catholic ethos.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Joanne Walsh

Sunday 25th January 2026

Matthew 4:12-17



Attendance Award Congratulations to Year 2

Reception	95.4%
Year 1	92.1%
Year 2	98.3%
Year 3	95.3%
Year 4	96.0%
Year 5	88.7%
Year 6	87.5%

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/>

27 Jan	Fr Julian – Year 6
28 Jan	Bag2School - Friends
29 Jan	NHS 1 st Cohort – Reception
30 Jan	Tuck Shop Year 6 Friends
3 Feb	Fr Julian – Year 3 Pre-loved Uniform Sale - Friends
9 Feb	Rec/KS1 – Midnight in the Toyshop
10 Feb	Y2 Royal Gunpowder Mills
16th 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
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

Gold Book:

Well Done Children

Reception: Rafe

Year 1: Joy

Year 2: Charlie

Year 3: Karim

Year 4: Louis

Year 5: Freja

Year 6: Myla

Happy Birthday

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

Year 1: Albert

Year 3: Tommy

Year 5: Amtej & Cecilia

KS2 Parental Filming/Image Consents

Thank you to those parents that responded to the email reminder link sent on Tuesday 20th January

As advised in the email, any children that we do not have a reply for by the end of today, will have their records updated giving parental consent for image and filming consents.

In addition, records will also be updated confirming that you agree to not sharing or uploading any photographs/recordings obtained from St Cross Primary School, to or via any social media platforms.

Thank you.

