



St. Cross News

"Together we grow in God's love"

21st November 2025

Upper Marsh Lane,

Hoddesdon,

Hertfordshire.

EN11 8BN

Tel: 01992 467309

Executive Head: *Joanne Walsh*

Dear Parents,

This week, we recognised International Men's Day across the school. Our children reflected on the importance of positive male role models and learned that men, like everyone, can face mental health challenges. We encouraged open conversations, reminding our pupils that we are all called to support one another with compassion and understanding, following the example of Christ's love.

We were delighted to welcome new parents into our school community on Tuesday. It was wonderful to show them around, share our mission and values, and let them see the learning environment your children help to create each day.

You may have noticed that the outside bathrooms have now been removed, and the new Key Stage 2 bathrooms are already in use. Please see the photos included. The children are very excited - it is certainly a novelty at the moment!

On Thursday morning, Mrs James and I met with parent representatives from each class. The meeting was extremely positive. It was uplifting to hear how much our communication strategies are appreciated, and we were blessed with thoughtful ideas to help continue strengthening our school. A special thank-you to the parent who suggested linking our online school calendar to **Alexa** devices — a brilliant idea!

A link to the meeting minutes for more details will follow next week. I am sincerely grateful to all the parents who joined us. Your commitment and partnership is a true gift to our school. Our next meeting is planned for the Spring term. School is looking for afternoon school readers for the new year. If you are interested, please contact the school office. Thank you.

On Friday the 12th December our Year 6 children will host the Christmas Fair in the school hall. Children from Reception to Year 2 will be in the hall from 2:00pm to 2:30pm, and children in Years 3 to 5 will attend from 2:30pm to 3:00pm. Parents are warmly welcome to join their children during their allocated time.

We are kindly asking for nearly new toys and games to support our Christmas Fair tombola. If you have any suitable items at home that are in good condition, we would be very grateful for your donations. Thank you for your continued generosity!

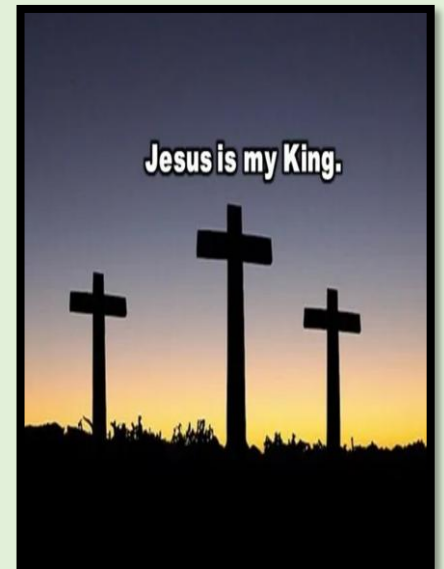
As we approach the last Sunday of the Catholic liturgical year and prepare to begin Advent, I am excited to invite you to 'Decorate the Classroom Day'! Let us come together to welcome the new liturgical season with festive spirit and joy.

Have a warm weekend!

Mrs. Joanne Walsh

Sunday 23rd November 2025

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Luke 23:35-43



Attendance Award **Congratulations to Reception**

Reception	97.6%
Year 1	95.4%
Year 2	95.3%
Year 3	92.7%
Year 4	95.9%
Year 5	87.1%
Year 6	93.9%

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 Nov Y2 Football Festival – St Edmunds College
- 28 Nov Decorate the Classroom Day: 9:30–10:30,10:30–12:00 and 1:15–3:00pm - **children can wear their own clothes/Christmas jumpers**
Y6 Football Tournament – St Edmunds College
- 3 Dec 10:30 Chaplaincy Team DOW Advent Concert
Festival of Carols (Choir), Hoddesdon Town, 11:30-12:00
- 9 Dec KS1 Nativity, 2:00pm & 6:00pm
- 10 Dec Y6 Mass 9.15am (Church), Parents Welcome
Flu Vaccination (catch up)
- 11 Dec Reception Nativity, 9:30am
Choir Trust Carol Service, 2:00pm

Friends School Disco - Rec/Y1/Y2 – 3:15-4:15pm
Y3/Y4/Y5 & Y6 – 4:30-5:30pm. **Tickets must be purchased (via Arbor under the School Shop Tab) by 1st December at the very latest. Thank you.**
- 12 Dec Rocksteady Musicians Concert, 9:00am (in school)
Christmas Fair – School Hall (separate letter issued)
- 15 Dec** Carol Rehearsal (Church), 12:30pm
Whole School Carol Service (Church), 6:00pm
- 16 Dec KS2 Shakespeare Day
- 17 Dec Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day, to be worn with school uniform
- 19 Dec End of Year Mass, 9:15am (Church) Parents Welcome
School Closes at 1:15pm
- Note: The above dates/times are subject to change**
- 6th Jan Children return to school
- 9th Jan Friends AGM 2pm School Hall

Gold Book

- Reception: Stanley Harris
- Year 1: Isla
- Year 2: Kristina
- Year 3: Lennie
- Year 4: Ryan
- Year 5: Charlotte
- Year 6: Cateleya

Happy Birthday

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

- Year 2: Sanuki, Tommy and Charlie
- Year 3: Lennie

Prayer for International Men's Week

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the men in our lives — fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, teachers, and friends — who guide, protect, and inspire us.

Bless all men with strength rooted in kindness, courage grounded in faith, and hearts open to Your love.

We pray especially for men who may be struggling in silence.

May they feel supported, valued, and held in Your gentle care.

Help us to build a community where every person knows they are loved and never walks alone.

Lord, guide all men to be examples of compassion and integrity, following the model of St. Joseph, a humble and faithful protector.

May Your grace accompany them today and always.

Amen.

