



St. Cross News

"Together we grow in God's love"

Friday 4th September 2026

Upper Marsh Lane,
Hoddesdon,
Hertfordshire.
EN11 8BN

Tel: 01992 467309

Executive Head: **Paul O'Rourke**

Welcome back — I hope you had a restful summer and that your travels were safe and stress free. It is a real privilege to join St Cross as Executive Head and I very much look forward to getting to know pupils, parents and staff in the weeks ahead. Thank you to those who have already given me such a warm welcome.

As we begin this term we hold our motto close: together we grow in God's love. You can expect us to build on the great work already happening here: we will keep what is working well and focus on clear, purposeful classroom practice so every pupil can flourish.

We warmly invite parents and carers to our beginning-of-term Mass on Tuesday at 9.15am. Mass matters for our pupils because it brings the whole school community together in worship, strengthens our shared values of compassion and service, and gives children a clear, lived example of the faith that underpins our everyday life and learning.

This week we have moved to a new catering company. You may be contacted for additional or different information as we complete the changeover — thank you for your patience as we put the new system in place. We are working hard to make this more efficient and reliable for all our families.

It was wonderful to welcome our new Reception pupils this week at the start of their journey with us. Despite a few tears and nervous faces, within ten minutes of the start of the day they were playing happily. We can be really impressed with their bravery and resilience at such an early age.

We have already had a few children who have lost some precious items at school. Please be mindful about allowing children to bring items of value, sentimental or monetary, into school as it can cause great upset if they get lost.

Finally, please join me in congratulating Mrs Radburn on her pregnancy. We will be advertising for her replacement in good time so we can plan a smooth transition into her maternity leave and maintain continuity for the pupils.

Thank you for your ongoing support — I am excited for the year ahead and for everything we will achieve together.

I would also like to remind parents at the beginning of the year about the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. At St Cross we warmly ask every pupil to be in school, on time, every day. Last year's attendance of 92.8% meant that too many children missed vital teaching, friendships and opportunities to grow in faith and learning. Excellent attendance and punctuality underpin academic progress, wellbeing and our Catholic values; please make being present a priority from day one.

Finally, please note: the Dates section below includes our important **Curriculum Evening** and the secondary school open evening dates for Year 6 parents to help with transition planning.

With every blessing,

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

Executive Headteacher

Sunday 6 September 2026

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A**

Matthew 18:15 – 20



*"The Church has the mission to
proclaim reconciliation."*

St John Paul II

Attendance Award Congratulations to Year 3

Reception	91.6%
Year 1	92.5%
Year 2	92.75%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	95.8%
Year 5	89.8%
Year 6	88.7%

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: **Mr O'Rourke, 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/>

Tuesday 8 September

Mass at St Augustine's Church (9.15am)

Thursday 10 September

Curriculum Evening at School (6pm)

Secondary School Open Days

For Year 6 parents

The Broxbourne School
www.broxbourne.herts.sch.uk

Wednesday 9th September 5.30 to 8.30 pm

Goffs Academy
www.goffs.herts.sch.uk

Tuesday 15th September 5.00 to 8.30 pm
Haileybury Turnford
www.haileyburyturnford.com

Thursday 24th September 5.30 to 8.00 pm

The John Warner School
www.johnwarner.herts.sch.uk

Wednesday 16th September 5.30pm onwards
Goffs-Churchgate Academy
www.goffschurchgate.herts.sch.uk

Thursday 17th September 5.00 to 8.30 pm
Robert Barclay Academy
www.robertbarclayacademy.co.uk

Thursday 10th September 5.15 to 8.00 pm
St Mary's CE High School
www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk

Gold Book

Congratulations on your efforts this week

Reception:

Year 1:

Year 2:

Year 3:

Year 4:

Year 5:

Year 6:

Gold book will begin next week

Happy Birthday

Wishing you another fabulous birthday full of God's blessing

Reception:

Year 1:

Year 2: Lenni

Year 3:

Year 4:

Year 5: Bea, Zain

Year 6: Freja



"Not all of us can do great things,
but we can do small things with
great love"

(St Teresa of Calcutta)

Feast Day Sept 5th

PE Timetable

Please ensure your child wears their PE kits on the relevant days below. Thank you:-

Reception:	Tuesday and Thursday
Year One:	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year Two:	Tuesday and Friday
Year Three:	None (swimming on Wednesdays)
Year Four:	Thursday and Friday
Year Five:	Monday and Friday
Year Six:	Wednesday and Friday