



# St. Cross News

*"Together we grow in God's love"*

27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Upper Marsh Lane,  
Hoddesdon,  
Hertfordshire.

EN11 8BN

Tel: 01992 467309

**Executive Head: Joanne Walsh**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our Lenten Term. We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for a busy and prayerful half term ahead. During this season of Lent, we focus on prayer, fasting and reflection on Christ's sacrifice. A sincere thank you to our Chaplaincy Team for creating the beautiful purple ribbons which will help us keep this focus at the heart of our school community throughout the term.

We are delighted to announce the three winners of the Year 6 Rotary Club Writing Competition:

- Lydia, who aspires to become a teacher
- Venudi, who hopes to be a flight attendant
- Isabella-Szofia, who would like to become a graphic designer

We are incredibly proud of them and wish them every success in the final local school draw.

A very special thank you to Year 2 Ava's Nan and Fibron Cable for their generous donation of High-Visibility jackets. The children have already put them to good use during their walk to Mass on Wednesday. We are also extremely grateful for the additional laptops donated to the school — your generosity makes a real difference to our children's learning.

During the week beginning 16th March, we will be marking Judaism Week. I am pleased to share that we have secured a workshop for every class. As part of the experience, children will have the opportunity to sample a small amount of traditional food (such as grape juice, bread, cookies or crackers). This tasting experience will enhance their understanding and engagement. All food provided will be peanut free, dairy free, vegetarian and halal. Food tasting is entirely optional — children may choose not to participate. To help cover the cost of the workshop and food, we kindly ask for a £2.50 donation, which is now available for payment via Arbor.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes next week, there will be an inter-house football tournament for the children in Years 1 and 2. Children who want to play have already signed up. They should wear their PE kits on those days with their house colour T-shirt. The matches will take place on the playground to avoid the mud so the children will wear trainers to play. Matches will take place after the children have eaten their lunch.

On Friday 13th March, the Friends of the School will be selling Mother's Day gifts in the afternoon. Please see the attached flyer for further details.

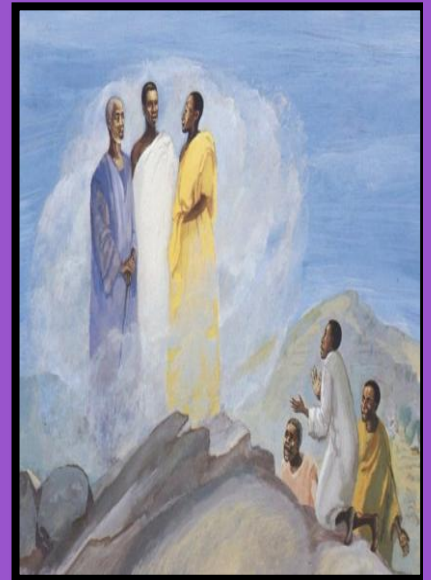
Finally, please see the [Academy Spring Newsletter](#) link. It beautifully highlights and celebrates the collaboration between our nine Catholic schools, showcasing the many ways in which we work together to enrich the experiences of all our children. We are proud to be part of such a supportive Catholic community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

**Mrs Joanne Walsh**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

**Second Sunday in Lent Year A  
Matthew 17:1-9**



### **Attendance Award Congratulations to Year 2**

Reception	97.3%
Year 1	90.4%
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>98.6%</b>
Year 3	91.7%
Year 4	93.3%
Year 5	91.9%
Year 6	91.1%

**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

# Key Dates for your Diary

<https://www.stcross.herts.sch.uk/diary/list/>

3 Mar	Y3 Roman Baths Trip Fr Julian – Year 2
4 Mar	Year 5 & 6 Mass, 9.15am – Parents Welcome
5 Mar	<b>World Book Day 'Alice in Wonderland'</b>
6 Mar	NHS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cohort – Reception
9 Mar	Science Week
10 Mar	Football Tournament, Cranbourne School
11 Mar	Chaplaincy Mass
13 Mar	Mother's Day Sale
17 Mar	Stations of the Cross, 9.00am Hall – Year 6 Parents only Y2 St Edmund's Tag Rugby Festival Y6 Reconciliation, 1.30pm
19 Mar	Netball A & B Tournament, The Broxbourne School Judaism Workshop
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
25 Mar	Football Tournament, Cranbourne School
27 Mar	<b>School Closes at 1.15pm</b>

**Note: The above dates/times are subject to change**

## Gold Book:

*Well Done Children*

<b>Reception:</b>	<b>Caterina</b>
<b>Year 1:</b>	<b>Luisa-Marie</b>
<b>Year 2:</b>	<b>Marissa</b>
<b>Year 3:</b>	<b>Jack</b>
<b>Year 4:</b>	<b>Lilah</b>
<b>Year 5:</b>	<b>Sebastian</b>
<b>Year 6:</b>	<b>Nicole</b>

## Happy Birthday

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

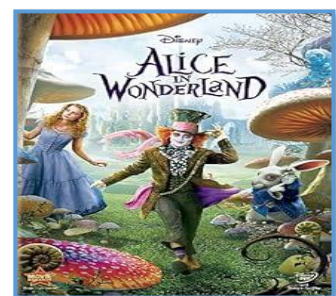
<b>Year Reception:</b>	<b>Alexio, and Stanley</b>
<b>Year 1:</b>	<b>Daisy and Grace</b>
<b>Year 5:</b>	<b>Charlotte, Harry and Luca</b>
<b>Year 6:</b>	<b>Freddie</b>

## Sporting News

**Mini-London Marathon:** We are incredibly excited to share a truly special opportunity for your child — we have secured 15 places for children from Years 4 -6 to take part in the iconic TCS Mini London Marathon — an inspiring 2.6K event where children and young people can run, jog, walk, or wheel in the heart of the capital and receive the coveted Mini Marathon medal. The event takes place on Saturday 25 April 2026, starting at Horse Guards Parade and finishing on The Mall. Imagine the pride and excitement as your child makes their way along the course and crosses one of the most famous finish lines in the world — cheered on in the electric atmosphere of marathon weekend. This will be an unforgettable experience that builds confidence, resilience, and lifelong memories. If you would like your child to take part please let the office know. If there is a lot of interest then we will draw names out of a hat. Please note that you will be responsible for getting your child to the start and collecting them at the finish line. Thank you to Mrs Satwick for organising this wonderful opportunity for the children. We hope you'll join us for this amazing adventure!

**St Cross Mini Marathon:** We will be holding our own St Cross Mini-Marathon on the afternoon of 1st May and parents are invited to take part with their children. We will share more details nearer the time.

## World Book Day - Thursday 5 March



Our theme this year is *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Please see your class page sign-post for simple costume ideas. There will be a prize for the best authentic costume in each class — we look forward to seeing the children's wonderful creativity!

In addition to the above, I can confirm that Aspens will be hosting a special themed dinner on this day – **all previous orders have been deleted so you will need to rebook if required. Thank you.**