



Holy Cross Greek School Newsletter September - December 2022

Dear parents & students

Merry Christmas - Χρόνια πολλά, Καλά Χριστούγεννα και καλή Πρωτοχρονιά σε όλους!!!

Since opening our doors this September to welcome the new academic year it has been an exciting process for all involved. It was lovely to see our children's smiling faces again as well as welcoming new children and their families, which saw the number of students rise significantly.

This is not only important for our school, it is also important in keeping our community flourishing and cultural heritage alive within the diaspora.

We also had the pleasure in welcoming four new teachers & two volunteers this year:

Miss Elena Praraskevopoulou (Nursery)

Miss Apollonia Koukios-Zagoritou (Reception)

Miss Sofia Staga (Years 3)

Mrs Mairy Zagoritou (Year 6)

Miss Maria Mamoula (Volunteer)

Miss Maria Golfinopoulou (Volunteer)

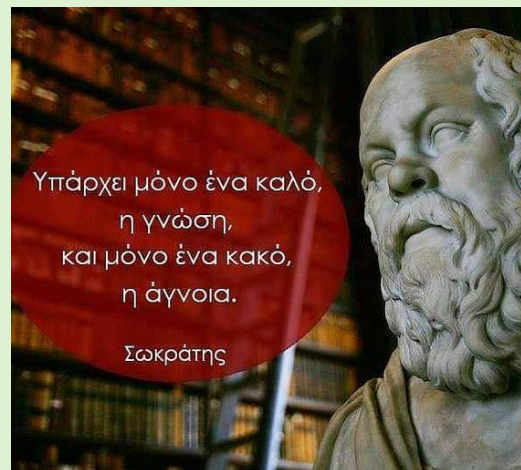
They are all a pleasure to work with and enjoy supporting our children and our school.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in making the Greek school a lovely environment to be in and I am grateful to all our parents who have placed their faith in us to support their children through their education and learning of our vast language, along with implementing our distinctive culture and heritage, which makes up our identity.

On Saturday the 17th of September Father Vasileios performed the blessing of our school & wished us all an inspirational & happy school year and a positive progress to the children's education.



Το σήμερα
είναι το αύριο που
σε ανησυχούσε χθες.
Ζήσε το σήμερα και άσε
το αύριο στην Αγάπη Του Θεού.



Υπάρχει μόνο ένα καλό,
η γνώση,
και μόνο ένα κακό,
η άγνοια.
Σωκράτης

Dates for your diary

2nd academic term

Saturday 07/01/2023 –

Saturday 01/04/2023

Winter Half Term

Monday 13/02/2023 –

Saturday 18/02/2023

Christmas Holiday

Monday 19/12/2022 –

Friday 6/01/2023

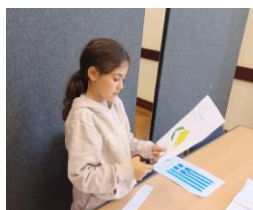
(We reopen Saturday 7/01/2023)

Since September the children have been engaging in the work their teachers have been planning for them such the seasons and everything that is implemented within this topic, healthy eating within the fruit & vegetable subject, our body, our emotions and our five senses, as well as learning about historical events that have shaped modern Greek & Cypriot history.

On the 28th of October together with other Greeks all over the world, we celebrate the anniversary of 28th October 1940 (WW2), the anniversary of the legendary "No" 'OXI'. The date commemorates the rejection by Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas of the ultimatum made by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini on 28 October 1940.



Our children drew a variety of drawings, such as the 'OXI' signs as well the Greek & Cypriot flags, creating a lovely remembrance atmosphere for this special day.



On the 5th of November our children did us proud, by helping us to get in touch with our roots and remembering the heroes that fought during the WW2 occupation by reciting their poems and national song...



Οι γυναίκες και οι μάνες του 1940...

είχαν και την δική τους συνεισφορά, που εκτός από σύζυγοι και μαμάδες ήταν και οι αφανείς ηρωίδες του έπους του 1940.

Εκτός από τους άνδρες που αμέσως έσπευσαν να πολεμήσουν με περίσσια ανδρεία και θάρρος για την Πατρίδα.

Αξιοθαύμαστος ήταν και ο τρόπος που ανταποκρίθηκαν οι γυναίκες εκείνης της εποχής στο κάλεσμα της πατρίδας.

Έπρεπε να αντικαταστήσουν τους άνδρες που είχαν επιστρατευθεί. Νυχθημερόν έπλεκαν χωρίς να σταματούν ούτε λεπτό μάλλινες φανέλες και κάλτσες για τους στρατιώτες.

Έγιναν εθελόντριες στον Ελληνικό Ερυθρό Σταυρό, μετέφεραν πολεμοφόδια και τρόφιμα στους στρατιώτες μέσα στα χιόνια και η λίστα συνεχίζεται.

Πολλοί που τις έζησαν τις χαρακτηρίζουν αλύγιστες, βουβές, με αδάμαστη θέληση και ηρωική αυτοθυσία!



<https://www.mothersblog.gr/paidi/story/31286/28i-oktovrioy-oi-gynaikes-kai-oi-manes-toy-1940>



In November the children once again had the opportunity to learn about the Athens Polytechnic uprising which occurred in November 1973 which saw a massive student demonstration of popular rejection of the Greek military junta of 1967–1974.

The uprising began on 14 November 1973, escalated to an open anti-junta revolt, and ended in bloodshed in the early morning of 17 November after a series of events starting with a tank crashing through the gates of the Polytechnic.

Within their classes the children had the chance to see small YouTube clips and hear the Radio station demonstrations the students of Polytechnic had set up, in order to communicate with the rest of Greece, expressing their reasons for their uprising as well as informing them about the events that were taking place.



A drawing by Alexandros in Year 3, with the slogan the students of the Polytechnic used...

‘Ψωμί, Παιδιά, Ελευθερία’
(Bread (employment), education and freedom)



A drawing by Stylianos in Year 3, showing the army tanks pushing through the barricades the students have raised and along with another slogan...

‘Κάτω η Χούντα!’
(Out/down with junta (communism))



A drawing by Ellie in Year 3, showing the army tanks shooting at the Polytechnic steel doors & then entering, injuring many students.

Every year hundreds of citizens of all ages arrive at the Polytechnic University to lay wreaths and flowers, commemorating the Polytechnic uprising & for the students that lost their lives.

<https://www.greeceindex.com/history/polytechnic-17-november-1973/>

Correspondence Address

THE HOLY CROSS & SAINT MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL
Golders Green Road
London
NW11 8HL

Tel: 0208 455 75 10

Schools' email: info@holycrossgreeksschool.org.uk

Schools' website: <https://holycrossgreekchurch.org.uk/>

Please note that any changes to the dates or information on this and any future Newsletters you will be informed at the earliest

Important: Holy Cross Greek School aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Please visit the GDPR website for more information.

Autumn has now given way to winter and when lights twinkle from house to house, you know Christmas is coming.

On the 4th of December our school hosted its annual Christmas Bazaar, we had an amazing turn out from family, friends & from the parishioners who attended the church service that the day. And thanks to these lovely people our school managed to raise £1,120.47! We cannot thank you enough for your contributions towards our school!!!!

Our stalls were filled with delicious home backed goods courtesy of our parents, handmade Christmas crafts and wreaths, essential oils stall, hair & beauty products, Christmas decorations as well as welcoming again Loukakos Estates who import olive oil from Greece and Ormos Foods who brought with them many Greek products with nostalgic remembrance of Greece and Cyprus.

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in our Christmas Bazaar, from out teacher to the children and their parent, to Father Vasileios and the church committee for their continuous support and especially our school's PTA team for organising everything & who made this day fun and enjoyable for all!

These are some of the businesses who set up a stall at our school's Christmas Bazaar, please visit their website where you can find lovely gifts and offers...



<https://www.loukakosestate.com/>



<https://www.ormos.co.uk/>



<https://www.ishaorganics.com/>



On Saturday the 11th of December we all got together again for our school's Christmas celebrations, we were pleased to have a visit from some of our former students who also joined in by reciting Christmas poems too. We also had another special guest... Santa himself pop by to hand our children their presents, making it an exciting day for all!

The children did so well reciting their poems and Christmas carols, we were all so proud of the hard work they put into it. Thank you to all the parents for the dedication and support you gave your children. Well done to all of them!!!



On our last day of Greek school, the children had fun creating their own Christmas cards, Christmas trees made of colourful wool as well as their own ornaments using a variety of art & crafts.



Christmas is all around us from the beginning of October, we start to notice the Christmas displays in the shop windows, presents ideas creeping slowly here and there with our loved ones in mind. By the end of November, the feeling of organising ourselves and some family members (if you are Greek, you know what I mean!) of who is hosting the Christmas lunch/dinner this year becomes even more real.

December is here and we are all set...The decorated tree is shimmering in the living room with bags of presents underneath it. The Christmas bread (το χριστόψωμο) is baked, the stacks of kourabiedes, melomakarona and other festive delights, that have been so lovingly prepared are laid on Christmas platters, and on Christmas day the table is beautifully set to welcome the happy faces of our loved ones who will be sitting around it.

And as always, we never forgetting about the loved ones who sadly cannot be with us on this special gathering of family and friends but will always be in our minds and in our hearts and if they were to be with us on this day it would be the most important gift of all.

The exchanging of gifts is one of the most important, significant and symbolic meaning of Christmas traditions. This is because the Three Wise Men presented Christ with the greatest valuable gifts up on his birth but most importantly is that God sent us the most precious gift of all, his only Son. Who was born in order to pay the price for the things we have done wrong: our sins.

Christmas is one of the most significant Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? The time we go to church so that we feel more in touch with your religion knowing that Jesus is our savior who was sent to free us from our sins? Is it the gifts? Spending time with family? Is it the children's anticipation of Santa? or the annual New Year's resolution we all try to make and keep? What does Christmas really mean to you?

On that note, on behalf of myself and all the teaching staff, we would like to wish each and every one of you Merry Christmas and may the New Year 2023 be a blessed, prosperous, healthy, with new goals & achievements filed with joy and happiness!!



**‘Χριστός γεννάται σήμερα εν
Βηθλεέμ τη πόλει**

**οι ουρανοί αγάλλονται, χαίρει η
κτίσις ὅλη.**

**Εν τῷ σπηλαίῳ τίκτεται, ἐν
φάτνῃ τῶν ἀλόγων**

**ο Βασιλεὺς τῶν οὐρανῶν καὶ
ποιητὴς τῶν ὁλῶν.’**

(Greek Traditional Christmas carols)



Children singing the Christmas carols in
Greece

Painting by Nikiforos Lytras

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSnhvgsTa04>

**«Χριστός γεννάται,
δοξάσατε! Χριστός ἐξ
οὐρανῶν, ἀπαντήσατε!**

Χριστός ἐπὶ γῆς, υψώθητε!»



Correspondence Address

THE HOLY CROSS & SAINT MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL
Golders Green Road
London
NW11 8HL

Tel: 0208 455 75 10

Schools' email: info@holycrossgreeksschool.org.uk

Schools' website: <https://holycrossgreekchurch.org.uk/>

Please note that any changes to the dates or information on this and any future Newsletters you will be informed at the earliest

Important: Holy Cross Greek School aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Please visit the GDPR website for more information.