



Holy Cross Greek School

Newsletter

September - December 2021

Dear parents & students

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

The past couple months have been both an exiting process for most of us as well as an unsettled one for others. COVID-19 is still around us and we are now facing the mutation of the virus with the Omicron variant now showing its grip.

Since we reopened our school in September we have tried our best to settle in to our Saturday routine.

We had the pleasure in welcoming three fantastic new teachers Miss Garyfalia Koutsogianni (Years 1 & 2) Miss Despoina Boulaitou (Years 3 & 4) & Miss Despoina Gioltsidou (Years 5 & 6) who are a pleasure to work with and love teaching our children.

Along with our new teachers will welcomed 11 new student & their families which have seen our school rise in numbers, this is of significant importance for our school. 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.

Since September the children have been engaging in the work their teachers have been providing them with as well as learning about the different events in times gone by both on the Greek front and the Cyprus front that make up our remarkable 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.

On the 11th of October all the classes gathered together to watch small clips related to this event, we discussed the clips viewed giving the opportunity to the children to ask questions, learn about the key people of the time and the sacrifice our soldiers made for a free and independent Greece.

Our children also had the opportunity to recite their poems and the celebrational songs in memory of the events that took place. I am proud to say that they all tried their hardest and gave their best performance, Well done to everyone!!!



Μη διδάσκει στο παιδί σου
πώς να γίνει πηλούσιο.
Δίδαξε του πώς να γίνει
ευτυχισμένο...



Είσι όταν μεγαλώσει
θα γνωρίζει την αξία
των πραγμάτων
και όχι την τιμή τους...

Dates for your diary

2nd Trimester

Friday 07/01/2022 –

Monday 25/04/2022

Winter Half Term

Monday 14/02/2022 –

Saturday 19/02/2022

Christmas Holiday

Monday 20/12/2021 – Wednesday
6/01/2022

(We reopen Saturday 8/01/2021)

Our children drew a variety of drawings, such as the 'OXI' sign, the bird of peace and the Greek & Cyprus flag, creating a '28th Οκτωβρίου' board.

They also created a small memorial box for the heroic soldiers of WW2.



Clips viewd for 28th October 1940 celebration:

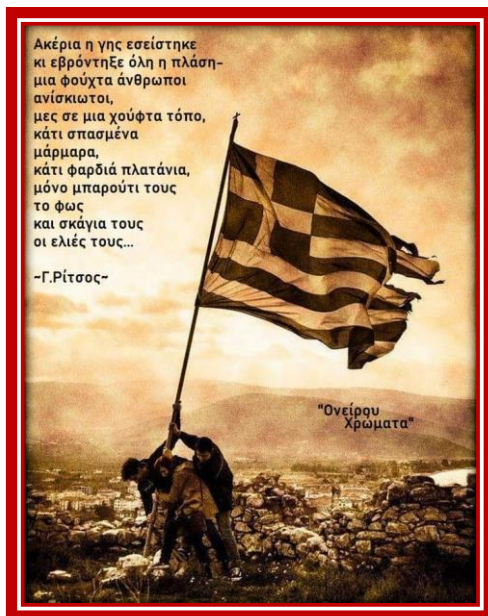
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1yqUKTRf7w>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pA4_UIrbJjo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsZltTr24w4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8JzuSXsoGU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3wsCLJ5ePc>



Το ήξερες....

Στο ελληνικό θαύμα του 1940 είχε τη δική της συνεισφορά και η Κύπρος μας.

Η κυπριακή νεολαία αυθόρμητα δήλωσε την πρόθεσή της να καταταγεί εθελοντικά στον ελληνικό στρατό.

Κάπου 650 Κύπριοι άφησαν την τελευταία τους πνοή στα πεδία των μαχών, αγωνιζόμενοι για την ελευθερία και την αξιοπρέπεια του ανθρώπου. Παράλληλα, χιλιάδες άλλοι Έλληνες Κύπριοι επιστρατεύτηκαν τον καιρό εκείνο και πολέμησαν το ναζισμό και το φασισμό, μέσα από τις βρετανικές δυνάμεις.

Πώς δέχθηκε η Κύπρος την 28η Οκτωβρίου 1940

<https://m.kathimerini.com.cy/gr/kypros/pws-dexthike-i-kypros-tin-28i-oktobriou-1940>



Correspondence Address

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

Tel: 0208 455 75 10 / Fax: 0208 45847 52

Schools' email: info@holycrossgreeksschool.org.uk

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.

In November the children once again had the opportunity to learn about another subject which at the time saw Greece making headlines all over the world and was implemented within our Greek history books.

It was relating to 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.

All the children had the chance to see small YouTube clips and hear the Radio station demonstrations the students had set up, helping them to communicate with the rest of Greece, the reason for their uprising as well as informing them about the events that were taking place.

Please note that some of the clips we showed the students did contain sounds of gun fire and people fighting so we tried to skip certain clips shown as to not make the children feel uncomfortable.

Clips viewed where:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMT_kl8oomM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fx8iz8CZIE>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzoeaOfY2Ew&t=48s>

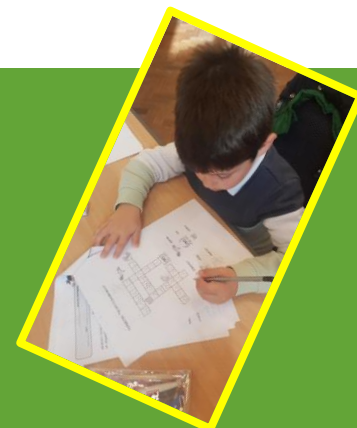


The children coloured in the Bird of Freedom with the carnation as a symbol of the lives lost during the events. Every year hundreds of citizens of all ages arrive at the Polytechnic University to lay wreaths and flowers, commemorating the Polytechnic uprising.



ΤΟ ΕΡΓΟ ΤΟΥ ΤΑΣΣΟΥ

Ο εικαστικός Τάσσος (Αλεβίζος) τιτλοφόρησε το έργο του απλώς "17 Νοέμβρη 1973"



Τι εγγραφαν οι εφημεριδες εκεινες τις ημερες:

We are now in December & have many celebrations to look forward too and most importantly spending it with our loved ones whether in the UK or indulging in the home comforts that Greece and Cyprus have to offer.

But what does Christmas symbolise for each and every one of us?

Is it the decorated streets with the colorful lights and the bright shop windows that have transformed into festive wonderlands inviting us in to look around? Is it the Christmas melodies that pour out from everywhere and proclaim the joyful news of the birth of Christ, offer joy to young and old and fill our memory and soul?

Or is it the decorated tree that shimmers in the living room with the gifts, the Christmas bread (το χριστόψωμο), a stack of kourabiedes, melomakarona and other festive delights, that have been so lovingly prepared, and of course the Christmas table with the happy faces of our loved ones sitting around it.

Christmas, may be all of the above, but at the same time it's the feeling that among us every year the God of love, hope and justice is born!

The birth of Christ also gave a wave of optimism to the human race that there is salvation for our souls by giving a helping hand, understanding and compassion to those who need it the most.

**«Χριστός γεννάται, δοξάσατε! Χριστός εξ ουρανών, απαντήσατε!
Χριστός επί γης, υψώθητε!»**

Besides the uncertainty that it going on around us and taking each day as it comes, our school began preparing for our Christmas celebrations. With our children, we began practicing for our Christmas poems & carols. The children did so well and we where all so proud of the hard work they put into it thanks to the dedication and support you have given them. Well done to all of them!!!



Ελάτε να θυμηθούμε.....

Ως χώρα της θάλασσας, η Ελλάδα είχε το έθιμο του στολισμού του καραβιού.

Το καράβι συμβολίζει την καινούργια πλεύση του ανθρώπου στη ζωή, μετά τη γέννηση του Χριστού. Έθιμο που υποχώρησε με το χρόνο, μπροστά σε αυτό του δέντρου, αλλά κανένας δεν δείχνει να το έχει ξεχάσει.

Τα περισσότερα παιδιά έφτιαχναν το παραδοσιακό, πλέον, καραβάκι, συνήθως, από ξύλο και λίγο χαρτί ή κουρέλια. Ήταν εμπνευσμένα από τα μακρινά ταξίδια των αγαπημένων τους προσώπων και τη νοσταλγία να τα ξαναδούν.

Αποτελούσε και ένα είδος τιμής και καλωσορίσματος στους ναυτικούς, που επέστρεφαν από τα ταξίδια τους.



Our children created their own Christmas cards using a variety of art & crafts.

Well done to all the children for reciting their Christmas poems & Carols so beautifully!!!

On the 5th of December our school delivered its annual Christmas Bazaar, which went really well & we managed to accumulate over £600!
We had an amazing turn out from friends, family and from parishioners attending the church on the day.

Our stalls were filled with delicious home backed goods courtesy of our parents, handmade crafts, colourful scarfs, delicately arranged hampers, imported olive oil from Greece by Loukakos Estates and we also had the pleasure of welcoming Ormos Foods who have kindly donated a generous amount of £300 towards our school!

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in our Christmas Bazaar, we cannot thank you enough for your contributions towards our school!!!!



Ormos Foods was kind enough to leave us an online voucher for our parents to use, with a 10% discount on their first order.

Please follow the link below if you would like to place an order adding 'THANK YOU 10' to redeem your discount

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

Loukakos Estate is a Greek family run business with a history of olive cultivation spanning over 5 generations.

Their olive oil production dates back as far as 1500 BC making it truly a product of rich history and heritage.

In acknowledgment to this, they have invested in the sustainable care of the land which enables them to grow healthy olives of the highest quality.

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

The New Year is around the corner but never the less (with a little caution in our minds) the pandemic should not be something that will stop us spending time with our loved ones.

On that note, on behalf of myself and the teaching staff, we would like to wish each and every one of you Merry Christmas and may the New Year 2022 be a blessed, prosperous, healthy, with new goals & achievements filed with joy and happiness!!!



In loving memory of
Xenophon Protopapas
14th February, 1947 - 2nd November, 2021

Despite the preparations over the previous months and the excitement that the festive season brings, we had some sad news to comprehend amongst our Greek school and the Greek Cypriot community.

Mr Xenophon Protopapas, President and Chairman of our Church, sadly passed away on Sunday 21st of November after a courageous and long battle with cancer.

Mr Protopapas was an avid advocate of our school and believed in the importance of preserving and passing on our heritage to the new generations. He generously donated and supported us and was always keen to see our school have a strong presence in the community. He was dedicated to his role within the Church Council with more than 40 years of service & 19 of those he served as the President and Chairman of our Church. He will be greatly missed by all.

Αιωνία του η μνήμη!



Correspondence Address

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

Tel: 0208 455 75 10 / Fax: 0208 45847 52

Schools' email: info@holycrossgreeksschool.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.