

Newsletter No 16

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 15 January 2016

We are now back in full swing - Christmas seems a distant memory! The temperatures have certainly dipped so please ensure children are well wrapped up as we will try to keep playtimes running as normal - health and safety allowing.



Parents are reminded that notification of any unexpected closure will be announced through our texting service and also on the school website www.holycross-sch.net

In order for the school to send a text, we must have your current mobile number. Please ensure that you notify the office of any new mobile telephone numbers so that we can update our records. A letter explaining school/Academy procedures was sent out to all children and is on the school website. Thank you.

Yesterday we were very pleased to welcome, Fr C J Sebastian sdb, a Salesian priest from Kolkata, who concelebrated Mass with Fr Neil. How lovely to celebrate a Mass at the school where your nephew (Thomas Y2) attends.



Mass: Year 5 will lead our Mass in school on Thursday 21 January. Everyone is welcome.



Year 4 - Class Assembly

On **Tuesday 19 January at 9.15am** our Year 4 class will be performing their assembly about 'Dinosaurs'. I have seen them rehearsing and they all look and sound fantastic. Please come along and support our children. Thank you.



School Nurse

The School Nurse will be in school on **Tuesday 19 January** to carry out height and weight checks for our Year 6 children.

Guitar Lessons

We currently have vacancies for guitar lessons. If your child would like to learn the guitar please contact the school office for further details. Thank you.





Planting an Orchard

On **Wednesday 20 January** our Eco Warriors will be representing the school in a community project. They will be going to 'Berryfields' and take part in planting an orchard.



Houses of Parliament

On **Thursday 21 January** the School Councillors from Holy Cross (accompanied by Miss Crowley, Mr Mayor and myself) and St Nicholas Primary Schools are going to London to visit the Houses of Parliament, where they will enjoy a guided tour and participate in a workshop. The children will also have the opportunity to visit the British Museum. It should be a very interesting day and a fantastic opportunity for the children.



Chatterbox Challenge

Our EYFS Class will be taking part in the 'Chatterbox Challenge 2016' to improve our communication skills. We will be taking part in daily activities to improve our speaking and listening skills. Please contact school office if you do not receive one. Please see <http://www.chatterboxchallenge.org.uk/> for further information. Thank you for your support.



Disability Awareness Workshop - Tuesday 23 February

We have arranged for 'Mr John McCorkell' to visit the school on Tuesday 23 February 2016.

Mr McCorkell will spend a day in school, he will lead a whole school assembly in which he will explain to the children about the nature of his disabilities, the problems he has faced and the successes he has achieved in overcoming them. We ask for a voluntary contribution of **£2.00 per child** to cover the cost of the visit. Please pay using Parent Pay by **Friday 5 February**. A letter has been sent home with children please contact the school office if you have not received a copy, thank you.

Confirmation

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A letter has been sent home with Year 6 children requesting information for sponsor cards and Confirmation certificates. Please complete and returned to class teacher no later than **Friday 29 January**. Thank you.



Confirmation - Serving Refreshments Thursday 4 February

Volunteers are needed to help serve refreshments to parents and families after the Confirmation Mass. If you can spare some time please give your details to the school office or talk to a PTA member. Your help will be much appreciated - thank you.



ParentPay

Parents are requested to make all payments via ParentPay. This is a secure payment method and is a safer system than children bringing money/cheques into school. **Please note there is no charge to parents for using this service.** Thank you for your co-operation.



KS2 Create Your Own Healthy Pizza

City Serve is running a competition for KS2 children to create their own healthy pizza. Competition forms have been sent home with all KS2 children, the closing date for forms to be returned is **Monday 1 February**.



Rights Respecting Schools Award

Hooray! We have been awarded with the 'Recognition of Commitment' for our work towards becoming a Rights Respecting School. The next step is achieving the Level 1 award. Miss Crowley will be meeting with the steering group on Tuesday 26th January at 2.30p.m. If you would like to attend please let the office know.



Active Kids

We are collecting Sainsbury's vouchers again, please ask your family, neighbours and anybody you know so we can get lots of equipment for our school. Thank you for your support.

School Matters!



Attendance

Our school strives for 100% attendance.

Did you know...? Under new Government legislation, a child with an attendance of 90% and below is categorised as a "Persistent Absence Pupil".

An attendance figure of 90% equates to missing half a day every week that means four weeks of missed school work across the whole year.

This week the Attendance Award was won by Year 1 with 99.63%!

The Punctuality Award for the week: EYFS, Year 1, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5.

Recommendations: EYFS: Charlie G, Alfie J Year 1: Lola F, Sebastian H Year 2: Caitlin L, Jake M-B Year 3: Frank W, Oriath G Year 4: Madeline L, James R Year 5: Luke L, Annie D Year 6: Sadie M, Aiden G-W.

Lunchtime Award: Henry H.

Class of the Week: Year 5



Virtues and Values

As you know the Archdiocese of Birmingham has introduced a focus on Gospel Virtues and Values. This half term we are concentrating on showing 'Compassion' and 'Love'. As a school community we are looking for opportunities in our own lives where we show the virtues. Please discuss this with your children at home; highlighting times when you experience or show these virtues. This will also be the focus for our 'Angel of the Week' awards for this half term



Angel of the Week

Each week we will be recognising those children who we feel have made that extra special effort and show the virtues in their daily life. This half term we are try to be attentive and discerning.

This week's winners are: EYFS: Aleena S Year 1: Phoebe F Year 3: Scarlett T Year 4: Nathan G Year 5: Eva P Year 6: Iona T.



Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week:
Eloise H (Y2), Trinity H (Y5), Rhea T (Y6).

Dates for your diary - January 2016

Tuesday 19 January	9.15am	Year 4 Assembly
Tuesday 19 January	am	School nurse in school Year 6 height and weight check
Wednesday 20 January	10.00am	Planting orchard at Berryfields
Thursday 21 January	All day	School Council to London! Houses of Parliament

Saturday 30 January	Doors open 5.30pm 6.00pm start	Swimming Gala at Stechford Cascades
Dates for your diary - February 2016		
Tuesday 2 February	9.15am	Year 5 Assembly
Tuesday 2 February	11.30am	Year 6 going to Bishop Walsh to watch 'Annie' production
Thursday 4 February	7.00pm	Confirmation for Year 6
Tuesday 9 February	10.45am	Pancakes will be sold instead of toast 50p
Monday 22 February	All Day	Inset Day
Tuesday 23 February	All day	Disability Workshop in school for whole school
Thursday 25 February	pm	Year 2 start swimming lessons every Thursday afternoon
Friday 26 February	3.30pm	Football Match away vs St Nicholas Catholic Primary Sch
Saturday 27 February	6.30pm	Catholic Sutton Schools swimming gala
Monday 29 February		Book Week
Dates for your diary - March 2016		
Thursday 3 March	5.45pm - 7.00pm	PTA Bedtime Story
Friday 4 March	3.20pm	Football Match home vs Newhall Primary School
Tuesday 8 March	9.15am	Year 1 Assembly
Friday 11 March	3.20pm	Football Match home vs Mere Green Primary School
Wednesday 13 April	7.30pm	PTA Meeting
Tuesday 15 March	Time tbc	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Y3)
Thursday 17 March	Time tbc	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Y3)
Friday 18 March	7.00pm - 9.00pm	PTA Bingo Night
Monday 21 March	2.00pm	KS2 Easter Production Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 22 March	9.15am	KS2 Easter Production
Tuesday 22 March	3.30pm - 7.00pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 23 March	10.00am	Stations of the Cross - All welcome
Wednesday 23 March	3.30pm - 6.00pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 24 March	9.15am	Prayer Service - All welcome
Thursday 24 March	3.20pm	School breaks up for Easter
Monday 11 April	8.50am	Back to School

**Other dates available on website*

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

T Cotter

Miss T Cotter
Principal



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