



**Holy Cross**  
Catholic Primary School

*We share in Christ's life so He can guide our thoughts, words and actions.*

Laburnum Drive, Sutton Coldfield, B76 2SP  
T: 0121 675 2158 F: 0121 675 1387  
www.holycross-sch.net  
enquiry@holycross-sch.net

## Newsletter No 3

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 21 September 2018



We are certainly back in the swing of school life! Our new Early Years class has settled in very well. I am pleased to say that all the children have returned with a positive attitude and a love of learning which is great to see. We are running a variety of after school clubs this year and look forward to seeing a large number of children taking advantage of these opportunities.



**Early Years** - As Early Years Induction has now ended, parents of Early Years children are reminded that from Monday, they say goodbye to children at the KS1 gate and children walk into school on their own. Thank you.



### Punctuality

There was no winning class this week as each class had a number of late arrivals. Punctuality is very important and I urge all parents to ensure that children arrive on time for school. It is unsettling for children to arrive in class once the morning session has started. I thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.



### Bicycles

Parents are reminded that bicycles brought to school should be locked securely in the bike rack during the day and taken away at home time; they (and scooters) should not be left at school overnight.

*The school takes no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal items on the school site. I ask for your cooperation in this matter.*



**Letters emailed to parents this week:**

**Whole School:** Parents Evening letter

*Please contact the school office if you require a copy. Thank you.*



**Mass:** Year 5 will lead our Mass in school on Thursday 27 September. All welcome.

## Parent Mail



All parents should have received a letter regarding Parent Mail. Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about activities, events and things that really matter is something we care about. Parent Mail is the system that we use to send out emails and tests to parents. Once registered, if you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we highly recommend you download the ParentMail App for the best user experience. To do this, simply search for "ParentMail" in your App store. If you need any additional information or assistance, please visit the help site:

<https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/>



## Parents' Evening

**Wednesday 24 October 3.30pm to 7.00pm and Thursday 25 October 3.30pm to 6.00pm**

This year the process for booking appointments has changed. Appointments are to be made by parents logging into their *Parent Mail* account selecting Parents' Evening then choosing date and time required. The appointments are made on a first come first served basis. Appointments will be available to book from **09.00am Wednesday 10 October until 15:30 Friday 17 October.**

A letter has been emailed home to all parents today. Please contact the school office if you have any queries. Thank you.



## Curriculum Updates

Please check the school website for curriculum updates. We have added to each class page the Medium Term Plan for their Topic for this term which clearly shows the different objectives to be covered so that you can have discussions with your child at home. We have also updated the 'curriculum information' page which shows the Long Term Plan for 2018-19 showing the different topics that will be covered this academic year and also the educational visits that will be booked to support your child's learning. We have also updated the Mathematics page to show what objectives will be covered for this term and we are in the process of updating the English page. We hope this gives you a clear picture of what your child is learning at school and ideas on how you can support your child at home.



## Post Box

We have a post box in the reception area by the school office; access to this is available outside of the normal school office hours. This can be used for any correspondence or messages for the school. Please ensure that all envelopes are clearly labelled. Thank you.



## PTA

Thank you to those who attended the first PTA meeting on Wednesday 19 September. There are lots of plans for the coming year both to bring our school family together and to raise money for the children.

We have a small, very hardworking group of people who really need your help.

Successful PTAs are those where tasks and events are organised and supported by a group of people; with the workload shared. With the hectic lives we all lead, organisations cannot be run by a few people. If our PTA is to support our school and help our children, we must all try to support it in any way we can. I ask you all to consider if and how you can help this year; not necessarily on the committee but supporting particular events. They are very keen to welcome new members!

The PTA will be seeking volunteers to assist running the events this year so I do hope that you will give them your support. Thank you.

The next PTA meeting will be on **Wednesday 21 November, 7.30pm**. This will be the AGM. All welcome!



## Football Dates

Please see the following date for your diary:

Good luck to the team for tonight's match **AWAY** vs St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 28 September **HOME** vs St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

**Please note** that all the team are expected to attend every training session please inform Mr Hunt or Miss Crowley for any apologies.



## World's Largest Lesson

On **Monday 24th September** Holy Cross Catholic Primary School will be celebrating the World's Largest Lesson in partnership with UNICEF. As a Rights Respecting School, we recognise the importance of teaching our children about Sustainable Development and through teaching our children about the Global Goals are children learn the impact that they can have on Sustainable Development. Please watch this video to learn more <https://vimeo.com/273916993> and watch out for tweets about what Global Goals your child has learnt about!



## Macmillan Coffee Morning-Friday 28 September 9.00am to 10.15am

Year 6 invite you to come along to the Macmillan Coffee morning that they are organising on **Friday 28 September 9.00am to 10.15am**. Please try to support them so we can raise lots of money for this very worthwhile charity. We will also be inviting our neighbours, residents from The Oaks Residential Home and members from St Vincent de Paul Society.

## Holy Cross Showstopper Cakes

The children will have the opportunity to take part in a '**Holy Cross Bake off!**'

There will be a class star baker and an overall Holy Cross star baker awarded! The cakes will be tasted during the coffee morning. If your child would like to enter please send in their cake on **Thursday 27 September** labelled with their name and title of their bake. Thank you.

**Remaining cakes will be sold outside at the end of the school day.**





### INSPIRE Workshops

INSPIRE workshops were introduced to offer parents (or other family members) the opportunity to come into school and work with their own child, helping them to learn and gain ideas and support for helping them at home. These workshops always offer practical activities - things for parents and children to do together and hopefully are an enjoyable experience for children and adults alike! You (and your children) commented on how good it was to spend time working together - they liked having mom/dad all to themselves!

**Inspire Workshop for Year 5 and Year 6** this will be held on **Tuesday 2 October** 9.15am - 10.15am

**Inspire Workshop for Year 1 and Year 2** this will be held on **Tuesday 16 October** 9.15am - 10.15am

**Inspire Workshop for Year 3 and Year 4** this will be held on **Wednesday 14 November** 9.15am - 10.15am

One person per family is welcome to come along to support; please make every effort to attend.



### Grandparents' Lunch

A final reminder about our three lunch days being held on **Tuesday 2 October** (children with surname A-H) **Thursday 4 October** (children with surname I-N) and **Tuesday 9 October** (children with surname O-Z). A letter has been emailed to all parents (please contact the school office if you require a copy). Orders and payment via your Parent Pay are required no later than **Friday 21 September; please note that late orders will not be accepted.**

*If you would like to change your allocated day please send a letter to the school office.*

Grandparents need to arrive at **11.45am** and **will enter through Key Stage 1 gate.**

We are really excited and looking forward to grandparents coming to our school and enjoying a meal with the children and we know the children are just as excited. Thank you.



### Year 4 and Year 5 Trip to Cadbury World

Arrangements have now been made to take the children in Year 4 and Year 5 on a visit to Cadbury World on **Wednesday 3 October 2018**. A voluntary donation of £17.00 is now required to cover the cost of transport, admission and insurance. Payment for this trip is via Parent Pay; deadline for payment is **Friday 28 September**. A letter has been sent home to all Year 4 and Year 5 parents please complete and return to the class teacher no later than **Friday 28 September**. If you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



### Eye Tests for EYFS

Letters have been sent home with our EYFS children. The Orthoptist will be visiting our EYFS children on **Wednesday 3 October** to undertake a screening eye test. Only return the form to school if you **do not** want your child to be tested. Thank you.



### Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

On **Monday 8 October** the nurse will be in school carrying out height and weight checks for the Year 6 children. Parents were sent a letter giving further information. If you want to opt out and **do not** wish your child to participate please complete and return form no later than **Wednesday 3 October**. Thank you.



### Roald Dahl - Year 4

On **Tuesday 9 October** Year 4 will be taking part in 'Dahlicious Dress up Day'. Children are required to dress up in their favourite Roald Dahl character. Thank you.



### Year 6 visit to Birmingham Back to Back Houses

Arrangements have now been made to take the children in Year 6 on a visit to Birmingham Back to Back Houses on **Tuesday 23 October 2018**. A voluntary donation of £8.00 is now required to cover the cost of transport and insurance. Payment for this trip is via Parent Pay; deadline for payment is **Wednesday 17 October**. A letter has been sent home to all Year 6 parents; if you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.

### Harvest Mass

Our Harvest Mass this year is on **Thursday 25 October 9:15am**. This is a lovely occasion when we thank God for the gift of food. As in previous years, we want to provide offerings for our local community in need. Therefore we are asking for shoe boxes to be sent into school to be decorated ready to make our lovely food hampers. In order to make the hampers, we would ask for the following donations from each family:



#### Shoe Boxes - Week beg 1 October

Tinned food - Week beg Monday 8 October one tin per child.

Packets of food (rice, pasta, biscuits etc.) - Week beg Monday 15 October one per child

Fresh fruit and vegetables by Wednesday 24 October.

Thank you in anticipation!



### Transfer to Secondary School

The closing date for applications to be submitted to the Local Authority for those children transferring to secondary school in September 2019 is **Wednesday 31 October 2018**.





### Open Day Tuesday 7 November

We are having two open sessions for prospective parents who have children due to start in the Early Years Reception class in September 2019. These will be on **Tuesday 6 November** 9.15am - 10.15am and 2.00pm - 3.00pm. If you know of any Catholic families who are in this position please let them know. We are looking forward to meeting you all.



### Supplementary Forms

Supplementary Forms available now from school office for children who wish to start our Early Years Class in September 2019. These forms need to be signed by Fr Neil; please see him about this when you go to Mass. The deadline for these to be returned to the school office is **Friday 15 January 2019**.



**Attendance - Our school strives for 100% attendance.**

Government legislation states that 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.

*Parents should also be aware that referrals to the school nurse will be considered for those children with an attendance rate of below 95% due to health related absences.*

**This week the Attendance Award was won by: Year 6 with 99.3% Well done!**

### Recommendations

#### Recommendations:

**EYFS:** Noah F **Year 1:** Rachel J, Nylah B, Sofia H **Year 2:** Ronan L, Aidan J **Year 3:** Charlie G, Annie E **Year 4:** Maggie R, Myles O'D **Year 5:** Mollie-Mae H, Eloise H **Year 6:** Cillian K, Sam W.

**Lunchtime Award:** Nathaniel C (Y3).

**Sports Award:** Orlaith F, Caitlin L, Ethan L, Thomas S, James M, Harry M, Ryan K and Frank W.



### Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being '**Compassionate and Loving**'. 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 week's winners are: **Mr Hunt:** Isabelle A **Mr Rowlands:** George B **Miss Stewart:** Gabriella L  
**Miss Stevens:** Ellie M-B **Miss Lovelock:** Eden H **Mr Mayor:** Orlaith F **Miss Cross:** Maria L, Thomas S  
**Mrs Hope:** Mollie-Mae H (Y5).



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays  
this week:

Jack W, James W (Y2), Joseph M (Y4), Elyssa P (Y6).

Dates for Diary - September 2018		
Monday 24 September	All day	World's Largest Lesson
Friday 28 September	9.00am to 10.15am	Macmillan Coffee morning
Friday 28 September	3.20pm	Football match (home) vs St Nicholas Catholic School
Dates for Diary - October 2018		
Tuesday 2 October	9.15am to 10.15am	Year 5 and Year 6 Inspire Workshop for parents
Tuesday 2 October	11.45am to 12.45pm	Grandparents' Lunch children with surnames (A-H)
Wednesday 3 October	All day	Year 4 and Year 5 Trip to Cadbury World
Wednesday 3 October	All day	EYFS Eye Test
Thursday 4 October	11.45am to 12.45pm	Grandparents' Lunch children with surnames (I-N)
Monday 8 October	9.00am to 10.30am	Nurse to carry out Year 6 height and weight checks
Monday 8 October	12.00pm	HSBC in school
Tuesday 9 October	9.00am Refreshments 9.15am Start	Year 4 Assembly
Tuesday 9 October	All day	Y4 Dahlicious Dress up Day
Tuesday 9 October	11.45am to 12.45pm	Grandparents' Lunch children with surnames (O-Z)
Friday 12 October	All day	Nasal flu vaccination
Tuesday 16 October	9.15am to 10.15am	Year 1 and Year 2 Inspire Workshop for parents
Monday 22 October	12.00pm	HSBC in school
Tuesday 23 October	All day	Year 6 trip to Back to Back Houses Birmingham
Wednesday 24 October	3.30pm to 7.00pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 25 October	9.15am to 10.00am	Harvest Mass
Thursday 25 October	3.30pm to 6.00pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 26 October	All day	Inset Day school closed to children
Wednesday 31 October		Deadline for Year 6 to apply for Secondary School
Dates for Diary - November 2018		
Monday 5 November	8.50am	Return to school
Monday 5 November	12.00pm	HSBC in school
Tuesday 6 November	9.15am to 10.15am And 2.00pm to 3.00pm	Open Day for prospective parents children starting September 2019
Tuesday 13 November	Morning	Academy Photographers - Families, siblings & individuals
Wednesday 14 November	9.15am to 10.15am	Year 5 and Year 6 Inspire Workshop for parents
Wednesday 21 November	7.30pm to 8.30pm	PTA AGM Meeting - all welcome
Friday 23 November	All day	Year 6 Takeover Day

**\*Other dates available on website**

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Miss T Cotter  
Principal



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Registered Office: Bishop Walsh Catholic School, Wyld Green Road, Sutton Coldfield B76 1QT  
T: 0121 351 3215 enquiry@bishopwalsh.net Company No. 08706247