



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

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



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Newsletter No.26

Dear Parents,

28th March 2014

Dates for your diary - April		
Tuesday 1 st April	All day	Y2 Trip to Black Country Museum
Wednesday 2 nd April	Morning	Y1 Shooting Stars Circus Skills (in school hall)
Thursday 3 rd April		No Mass
Friday 4 th April	2.30pm	Parent council meeting (all welcome)
Friday 4 th April	7.15pm	Family Bingo. Eyes down at 7.30pm
Tuesday 8 th April	9.30am	Easter Production
Friday 11 th April		Easter Bonnet Parade and Decorate an Egg Competition
Friday 11 th April		Break up for Easter Holidays
Monday 28 th April		New Principal – Miss T. Cotter assumes her role
Monday 28 th April		Please wear summer uniforms

Parent and Carer Questionnaires

Thank you to those who completed a questionnaire. We are very pleased with the responses which confirm that the overwhelming majority of families are very happy with the provision and care experienced at Holy Cross. Please see page 3 for results and responses.

Summer School Uniform

We have normally transferred into summer uniform by this point in the year but because the weather has been so wet and cold I have delayed this decision. Therefore I ask that all children wear their summer uniforms as soon as we return after the Easter holidays (hopefully we will be basking in tropical sunshine by then!) May I remind you that we have changed to an on-line uniform provider called Mapac. You can visit their site through a link on our school website: click on 'School Information' then 'School Prospectus' and finally 'Uniforms.' You can then purchase polo shirts with the school logo and summer dresses and they should be delivered to you well before the end of the Easter holidays. Thank you.

Lenten Activities

Our children will be raising money for important causes throughout Lent. Please remember to send your child in to school with a small amount of money so that they support their friends' activities. It is Year 3's turn next week. This week it was Year 4 and they raised the grand total of £144.00 well done!

Matchbox Challenge

The PTA will be running a competition throughout the school to raise money to benefit the children. From Thursday 3rd April children can purchase a matchbox for £1.00. Then over the Easter holidays they can fill the matchbox with as many different items as they can find. Prizes will be given out to winners in KS1 and KS2 for the best decorated box and most items in the box. Matchboxes to be returned to school with entry form by Wednesday 30th April. Thank you.

Kids Club and Nursery

Kids Club and Nursery will be opening a holiday play scheme running Whitsun half term from Tuesday 27th May to Friday 30th May. This is a payable service and details can be obtained direct from Kids Club. Places are limited; so if you require a place please contact Mrs Gordon on (0121) 675-1191 as soon as possible.

Easter Bonnet Parade and Decorate an Egg Competition

We will be holding an Easter Bonnet parade for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children and a decorate an egg competition for all children in Key Stage 2 on Friday 11th April. The Easter bonnet parade will take place at the start of the school day at approximately 9.00am and the decorated eggs will be displayed in our school hall and judged during the day. There will be more information to follow about prizes but we wanted to ensure that you had plenty of time to get creative!

Attendance

Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the classes with the highest attendance were Reception and class 2 with 100%. Well done.

Recommendations: Reception: Thomas B **Year 1:** Leilagh K, Johnny G **Year 2:** Marcus P, Ben O **Year 3:** Whole of Year 3, Nhea Renjith **Year 4:** Matthew M, Aoife O **Year 5:** Daniel W, Olivia O **Year 6:** Eilish O, Miles M.

Super Scribes: Reception: Oliver B **Year 1:** Marcus P, Ben O **Year 3:** Annie D, Qai'Rou M **Year 4:** Matthew M **Year 5:** Darragh R **Year 6:** Max E.

Lunchtime Award: Pierce B, Ethan S.

Top Table: Daniel W, Matthew M, Aoife O, Ethan S, Pierce B, Leilagh K & Johnny G.

Enjoy the weekend and have a great week.

i.gallagher

Ian Gallagher
(Acting Principal) and the staff team

'I am the light of the world'

Jesus, in your name the blind see, the lame walk, and the dead are raised to life. Come into our lives and heal the wounds of our broken hearts. Give us eyes of faith to see your glory and hearts of courage to bring you glory in all we say and do.

Amen



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Results and Responses to our Mid-Year Parent and Carer Questionnaire – March 2014

(2% represents one response)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child feels safe at this school.	82%	16%	2%	
My child is making good progress at this school.	67%	33%		
This school meets my child's particular needs.	64%	36%		
This school ensures my child is well looked after.	74%	24%	2%	
My child is taught well at this school.	67%	33%		
This school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics.	69%	31%		
There is a good standard of behaviour at this school.	58%	40%	2%	
My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour.	56%	38%	6%	
Cases of bullying are rare and the school has strategies to deal with incidents effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying).	42%	56%		2%
This school helps me to support my child's learning.	56%	44%		
This school responds well to my concerns.	65%	33%		2%
This school keeps me well informed.	67%	29%	2%	2%
I would recommend this school to another parent.	Yes	98%	No	2%

We are extremely pleased by the overwhelmingly positive response to our mid-year questionnaire.

100% of responses confirmed by agreeing or strongly agreeing that:

- their child is making good progress
- the school is meeting their child's needs
- their child is taught well
- the school helps to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and maths
- the school helps you to support your child's learning

The main issues highlighted by a small minority relate to behaviour and communication. In response, we have a very clear behaviour policy which is available for you to view on our website. This is reviewed on an annual basis at the start of every year. However your concerns have been noted and will be discussed in next week's staff meeting.

Regarding the sharing of information, we have worked extremely hard over the last term to further improve communication. We now have a new website which will be regularly updated and which also has a calendar of events. This was requested by our parent council when we consulted them about our new website content. We also have a mobile phone app, linked to our website, which gives constant access to our calendar of upcoming events. Our newsletters now have a 'dates for your diary' section and are now being e mailed to those who have requested this service and who have provided the correct e mail address. Staff will endeavour to provide at least a two week notice period for any school event and longer for school trips or other events that have a greater cost implication. So hopefully we can resolve any future communication issues with these measures.

Finally, if you have disagreed with any of the statements on the questionnaire, I invite you to meet with me, at your convenience, to discuss your concerns further. As a school we are striving to achieve 100% in all areas and welcome any feedback that can help us achieve this aim.