

Newsletter No 2

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 15 September 2017



This morning we started our Anniversary year with a school Mass led by Bishop Robert Byrne. It was lovely to welcome governors, former staff and one of the previous headteachers back to Holy Cross. We had hoped to celebrate Mass outside but unfortunately the weather during the week was against us and we held the Mass inside. I know that many of you would like to have attended but unfortunately we did not have the capacity to host everyone in the hall. I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work in preparing for this occasion in such a short timescale; we are so lucky to have such a hardworking and dynamic team.

As part of his visit, the Bishop blessed our prayer garden. This is a beautiful and tranquil area that has been developed over the last year. The PTA have been extremely generous in financially supporting this project and we have also been greatly helped by the generous donation of materials, labour and time from Paul Figgs and Harry McLoughlin (Erdington Fencing) and Robert Dell (RJ Engineering). I also thank Miss Marron who has given so much of her time and creativity; it has been a real labour of love. We look forward to this area being an integral part of our collective worship.

We will be organising other events to mark our anniversary during the year to which we look forward to welcoming families from the past, present and future!



We are very proud of our Early Years children who started their school life at Holy Cross this week. They have all settled in really well and making themselves at home! You can see how their first week has been by following us on Twitter.



Mass: Year 6 will lead our Mass in School on **Thursday 21 September**, all welcome.



Sacrament Of Confirmation

Parents who have children in Year 6 and wish their child to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in February 2018 **must** register their child at a meeting in church on **Tuesday 19 September at 6.00pm**. Any parents unable to attend this meeting are to contact Father Neil. Thank you.



Music Lessons

Music lessons start on **Friday 22 September**. Violin lessons start on **Friday 29 September**. All music lessons will take place **on Fridays**. Music invoices will be sent out shortly. Any queries please contact the school office. Thank you for your cooperation.



Forest School

Year 1 and Year 2 Forest School

Years 1 and 2 will be taking part in weekly 'Forest School' every Friday afternoon commencing **Friday 22 September**. In order for your child to take part in forest schools they must be appropriately dressed for all weather conditions. Please send your child to school in old outdoor clothing, a warm waterproof coat, scarf and gloves. They are required to bring a pair of wellington boots. **Please send in full school uniform in a separate bag.**

A letter has been sent out to all Year 1 and Year 2 parents; please contact the office if you require a copy. Thank you.



Nasal Flu Vaccination

Letters have been sent home with **EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4** from Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust. Parents are required to read and sign the relevant forms. Please return the completed forms to the school office no later than **Friday 25 September**. Thank you.



Grandparents' Lunch

This year we are holding three lunch days; these are being held on **Tuesday 3 October** (children with surname A-H) **Wednesday 4 October** (children with surname I-N) and **Tuesday 10 October** (children with surname O-Z). A letter has been sent home with children, order and payments are required no later than **Friday 22 September; please note that late orders will not be accepted**. If you are concerned that your child will not pass on form/payment to the class teacher please use white post box in reception by school office; this is open from 7.00am to 6.00pm. Thank you for your support.

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. As this is a one off event we request payment via cash or cheque. Thank you.



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 26 September 9.15am - 10.15am

Inspire Workshop for Year 1 and Year 2 this will be held on Tuesday 10 October 9.15am - 10.15am

Inspire Workshop for Year 3 and Year 4 this will be held on Tuesday 17 October 9.15am - 10.15am

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

Football Dates

Please see the following dates for your diary:



Wednesday 27 September AWAY vs The Shruberry School
Monday 9 October 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.

Harvest Mass

Our Harvest Mass this year is on **Thursday 19 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 25 September

Tinned food - Week beg Monday 2 October one tin per child.

Packets of food (rice, pasta, biscuits etc.) - Week beg Monday 9 October one per child

Fresh fruit and vegetables by Wednesday 18 October.

Thank you in anticipation!



PTA

Thank you to those who attended the first PTA meeting on Wednesday 13 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 (which is also the AGM) is on **Wednesday 1 November at 7.30pm** - all welcome!



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, messages or payments for the school. Please ensure that all envelopes are clearly labelled. Thank you.



Absence Request Form (In exceptional circumstances only)

Parents seeking permission to take children out of school must complete an 'Absence Request' form.

These are available from the school office or on our website under Parent Information/letters. Thank you.



School Kitchen

Please see prices of items available for children from the kitchen at break time:

Milkshakes: 60p, toast: 20p, juice: 35p and bottled water: 35p.

If you wish your child to have items please send money in with them each day.



Plastic Drinking Bottles

Children are to bring their own water bottles in every day; the school will no longer provide plastic drinking bottles for children. Please send your child with a drink of water in a transparent plastic non spill bottle (clearly labelled with child's name); cans or glass bottles are not allowed for safety reasons. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day and during PE lessons. Children can refill their bottles when needed. Please do not be alarmed if your child comes home with a full bottle of water it means that they have refilled it. Thank you.



School Nurse

Our school nurse is called Ms Liz Rouse. She will visit our school every two weeks. Her contact details are: bchnt.suttoncottagesnurse@nhs.net (0121) 465-5457

School nurse team provide help and support for many issues including emotional health, weight management and behaviour issues. If you would like to speak to the school nurse about any concerns, you can contact her directly or contact the school office to arrange an appointment for you.

As part of our Attendance Policy, children with low attendance due to health related reasons can be referred to the school nurse for further advice and support. I will discuss with individual families as appropriate.

Brownies*

7th Sutton Coldfield (Holy Cross & St Francis) Brownies

There are vacancies at the Brownie group at Holy Cross Church. On Tuesdays at 6.15pm to 7.45pm; if your daughter is interested in joining please take her along. Thank you.

ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



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 EYFS, Year 4 and Year 6 with 100%!

The Punctuality Award for the week: EYFS, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6!

Recommendations

Recommendations:

Year 1: Bethany McK, Kaya G **Year 2:** Charlie G, Annie E **Year 3:** Joseph K, Frankie J **Year 4:** Mia B, Olivia W
Year 5: Imogen A, Frank W **Year 6:** Eva P, Stephene A.



Class of the Week: Year 3.

Sports Award: Harry K (Y3), Alice F (Y2).



Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being '**Eloquent and Truthful**'. 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: **Miss Stevens:** Jacob H **Mr Hunt:** Stephene, A Francis C (Y6), Anaha P

Mr Mayor: Lily H **Miss Lovelock/Miss Crowley:** Dylan G **Mr Rowlands:** Maria L **Miss Cross:** Marcus P-W.



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

Rachel J (EYFS), Florence H, James W, Jack W (Y1).

Dates for your diary - September 2017

Tuesday 19 September	6.00pm-7.00pm	Confirmation meeting for Year 6 parents in Church
Friday 22 September	Morning	Year 1 and Year 2 start Forest Schools
Friday 22 September	All Day	Music lessons start today
Tuesday 26 September	9.15am-10.15am	Year 5 and Year 6 Inspire Workshop
Wednesday 27 September	3.30pm	Football Match away at The Shruberry School
Wednesday 27 September		School nurses to carry out height and weight check Year 6

Dates for your diary - October 2017

Tuesday 3 October	6.00pm-7.00pm	First Holy Communion information meeting in Church
Tuesday 3 October	9.00am refreshments 9.15am start	Year 4 Assembly
Monday 9 October	3.30pm	Football Match home vs St Nicolas
Tuesday 10 October	9.15am-10.15am	Year 1 and Year 2 Inspire Workshop

Wednesday 11 October to Friday 13 October		Year 6 trip to Alton Castle
Friday 13 October	All day	School nurse to administer 'Nasal Flu' for Years EYFS,1,2,3 and 4
Tuesday 17 October	9.15am-10.15am	Year 3 and Year 4 Inspire Workshop
Tuesday 17 October	1.30pm-3.20pm	Get Your Grown Ups Growing all invited
Wednesday 18 October	3.30pm-7.00pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 19 October	9.15am	Harvest Mass
Thursday 19 October	3.30pm-6.00pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 20 October	All Day	Inset Day - school closed for children

***Other dates available on website**

Yours sincerely

T Cotter

Miss T Cotter
Principal



ST. JOHN PAUL II
Multi-Academy Company

Bishop Walsh Catholic School | Holy Cross Catholic Primary School | St Joseph's Catholic Primary School | St Nicholas Catholic Primary School



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