

Newsletter No 11

Dear Parents/Person with Parental Responsibility

Friday 20 November 2020

It is lovely that we have all the classes in and working well, fingers crossed that this continues as we love to have the school full and busy!

Preparations for Christmas

Several parents have spoken to me or contacted the school office regarding Christmas cards or gifts. Due to the needs to minimise handling and touching items between several people and the huge number of cards that come in, we will be not be able to have Christmas cards in school this year. Classes will be completing different and creative activities to ensure that we all wish each other a Happy Christmas.

Instead, the Mini Vinnies have chosen *The Fireside Centre* as our Christmas charity, where families and staff can, if they wish, donate the money usually spent on Christmas cards to support the homeless this Christmas. This will be set up on ParentMail

Christmas gifts will be allowed in school; children bringing gifts need to bring them to school by **Friday 11 December** so that they can be quarantined and given out safely by the end of term.

We are taking every action to minimise the spreading of this virus and I ask for your support and cooperation in this matter.



Supporting the most vulnerable in our society during Advent

We are asking all children to take part in creating a 'Reverse Advent Calender' (1 per family). Please could your child use a small box or shoe box, decorate and place something in the box everyday up until Friday 11th December. Items to be placed in the box could be prayers, toiletries, goodies, canned or packaged goods. Then on Monday 14th December, we will distribute these gift boxes to St Chad's Sanctuary, Erdington Foodbank and Migrant help. By completing this act of kindness, it will help remind our children the true meaning of this time of year.



Christmas Lunch for children and staff

On **Wednesday 9 December** we will be having our Christmas lunch in school. On this day, children are also invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers! Every child is invited to take part, so if your child does not usually have a school meal, they are more than welcome to have one on that day. If this is the case, please log into Your ParentMail account and order your child's lunch. The cost of the meal is £2.30; the deadline for payment is **Monday 30 November**. **Please note that late payments will not be accepted due to ordering of food.**

If your child is in KS1 and normally has sandwiches you will need to order a child's meal. Please place your order via the school office. No payment is required due to the universal free school meal entitlement. Deadline to order a meal is **Monday day 30 November**. Thank you.

Online Safety

It has come to our attention that a growing amount of children are accessing and playing the game 'Fortnite'. This is having a negative impact on their time at school; it is distracting them from their learning and negatively impacting their choices of play during playtime. There is also growing research that children are becoming addicted to Fortnite; there are many elements which make it addictive e.g. near misses, winning games, purchasing items. The NSPCC have also reviewed Fortnite and rated it in regards of what children are



most at risk at if they were to play it: **'high risk'** for violence and hatred; **'medium risk'** for bullying and **'medium risk'** for suicide and self-harm.

As a school, we actively seek to respect the children's right to be safe and we discourage children from playing Fortnite due to the age restriction (plus 12 years old) and the impact on their mental and physical health. We would advise parents to review what games their children can access at home and consider restricting time on Fortnite or removing it. If you have any questions or queries about this, then please do contact the school and request to speak with Miss Crowley, our Online Safety Lead.



Christmas Decorations

We want to make this year extra special for our lovely children. If you have any spare decorations, lights or trees, please bring them in by Thursday 26 November. Thank you for the donations received so far.

Dates for Diary - November 2020

Friday 27 November	All Day	Inset Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
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Dates for Diary - December 2020

Wednesday 2 December	All Day	School Nurse carrying out Flu Nasal Immunisations
Friday 4 December	All Day	Creative Day - Letter to be sent home
Wednesday 9 December	11.30-1.30	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas lunch for children and staff
Friday 11 December	Afternoon	Christmas Film Afternoon
Monday 14 December		EYFS & KS1 Nativity sent out to parents
Tuesday 15 December		KS2 Carol Service sent out to parents

Dates for Diary - June 2021

Monday 7 June	All Day	Inset Day (2 further dates to be confirmed)
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Letters emailed to parents this week: **Foodbank Letter**
Contact the school office if you require a copy. Thank you.



The school raised £108.00. Thank you for your generosity.



School Photographs

School photographs have been sent home with children. Please return orders to school no later than **9.00am on Monday 30 November**. Any late orders parents will be required to send direct to 'Academy Photographers.' Thank you.



School Ties

We now have a supply of school ties in the school office. If you would like to purchase a tie, please come to the school office. Please ensure you have the correct money - £3.20 for elastic, £3.30 for non-elastic. Alternatively, the correct ties may be purchased from our school uniform suppliers; Clive Marks and Mapac. Thank you.

St Andrew's Day

On **Monday 30 November** we will be celebrating St Andrew's Day. Children are to wear **normal school uniform** but with an element of blue e.g. socks, bow, blue tie etc. Thank you.

Happy St Andrew's Day!



Supplementary Forms

Supplementary Forms available on the school web site for children who wish to start our Early Years Class in September 2021. The deadline for this to be returned to the school office is **Friday 15 January 2021**. You are required to get a Certificate of Practice from your Parish Priest.

Please note these Supplementary forms are not application forms for school places. Applications must be made online via Birmingham City Council.

Kids Club INSET Day - Friday 27 November

If you require childcare on the INSET day Holy Cross Kids' Club has availability for the day. Kids' Club is open as normal but you can book in for a play day from 8.40 am - 3.20pm at a cost £25. There are limited spaces available. Please email: juliekeeley@holycross-preschool.com for more information.

Recommendations:

EYFS: Leyton G, Louie S. **Year 1:** Harry H, Rory J. **Year 2:** Julia G, Ava M. **Year 3:** Hughie O, Zac L **Year 4:** Connor T, Patrick M. **Year 5:** Gracie D, Charlie G. **Year 6:** Maja D, Lucy L.



Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being 'Intentional and Prophetic'. 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:** Mia M **Mr Rowlands:** Maxwell C **Miss Cross:** Eamonn G **Miss Stevens:** Sofia H **Miss Nash:** Michael B **Mr Mayor:** Reuben R **Mrs Hope:** Siobhan C



Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Louie (EYFS) Julia G (Y2) Jack B (Y5)

Have a lovely weekend.
Yours sincerely



Miss T Cotter
Principal

