



Newsletter No 8

Dear Parents/Person with Parental Responsibility

Date 26 October 2023



Grandparents Lunch Days

It was so lovely to welcome grandparents back into school to enjoy lunch with the children. It has always been such a popular event enjoyed by both grandparents and children! Thank you to Mrs Watts and the kitchen staff for preparing the meals for both days and the lunchtime staff for working hard to ensure the days ran smoothly. The final lunch day is after half term.



Harvest Mass

Today we celebrated our Harvest Mass. A big thank you for your generosity in donating harvest goods. We were able to provide many hampers for the SVP and our own Mini Vinnies to distribute in the parish as well as providing food for the Bethany Food Bank. I would like to thank Year 6 who prepared such beautiful hampers (under the expert guidance of Mrs Jupp!) and the Year 5 children for their lovely prayers. A true example of living the virtues of being faith-filled, showing generosity, compassion and love and supporting families in our community as well as being active in our faith following the Catholic Social Teaching that God wants us to help those who are poor or who do not have enough food (Option for the poor); we believe that every child has the right to the best possible health. (Article 24)

Half Term



We have come to the end of a very busy first half term. I think that both the children and staff are ready for a well-deserved break! Please remember that **Friday 27 October** (tomorrow) is an INSET day. The children return to school on **Monday 6 November**.

Transfer to Secondary School - FINAL REMINDER



The closing date for applications to be submitted to the Local Authority for those children transferring to secondary school in September 2022 is **31 October 2023**.



Holy Cross Reading Challenge

During the Half Term holiday Mrs Hope would like you to join in with a reading challenge with the help of your parents! All the details are attached to this ParentMail.





School Uniform



When we return to school on **Monday 6 November**, all children must be in their *full school winter uniform*.

Bottle green skirt/pinafore dress or grey trousers

White blouse/shirt and red tie

Bottle green cardigan or jumper with school logo

Plain white sock or plain red or green tights (with skirts)

Sensible dark, low heeled school shoes - no trainers/no fashion boots

Grey socks (with trousers)

Trousers must be school cut, not flares or fashionable styles.

Thank you for your support.



Parking

A letter has been emailed regarding parking at the beginning and end of the day. I look forward to seeing everyone collaborating and cooperating to ensure Laburnum Drive is safe for all of our children.



Punctuality Reminder

If your child is late for school, please ensure that you bring them in via the School Office and sign them in using signing in system on the monitor. This is to enable us to accurately establish who is in attendance quickly and effectively. Thank you.



School Photographer

The photographer will be in school on the morning of **Tuesday 7 November** to take both individual and family photographs. There will also be a before school session where there is an opportunity for family photographs with siblings who do not attend Holy Cross School.

Parents wishing for these types of photographs please arrive at school for **8:00am prompt**.

As these are formal school photographs, I ask that the children are in full winter uniform. Thank you.



Open Day for prospective parents for Reception September 2023 - Wednesday 15 November

We are holding an Open Day for prospective parents who have children due to start in the Reception class in September 2024. We will be holding two open sessions during the school day so that you can see the school in action. These will be on at 9.00am - 10.00am and 2.00pm - 3.00pm. Then in the evening at 6pm there will be a meeting. During this meeting we will go through the procedures with you and tell you more about Holy Cross.

If you know of any Catholic families who are in this position, please let them know. We are looking forward to meeting you all.





Reception Admissions 2024



The application process to apply for EYFS (Reception) places at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

has **two** phases and must be completed by 15 January 2024.

This is because we are a Catholic School. Below is a brief summary of the process.

All of the detailed information can be found on our website.

Summary of the process

- Apply online - Birmingham City Council Website naming Holy Cross Catholic Primary School.
- Complete Supplementary Information Form for Holy Cross.

Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being 'Grateful & Generous.' 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 recognise those children who have made that extra special effort to follow Jesus' example and show the virtues in their daily life.

This week's winners are: **EYFS:** Emily **Year 1:** Sophie **Year 2:** Freddie **Year 3:** Evangeline **Year 4:** Jack **Year 5:** Xaven **Year 6:** Fabian



Recommendations: **EYFS:** Cian M & Roman **Year 1:** Kacey & Lexi **Year 2:** Elijah & Cainneach **Year 3:** Martha & M **Year 4:** Sebi & Rogan **Year 5:** Ayla & Poppy **Year 6:** Isabella S & Isabella M-S



Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays last week, this week and next week: Lola (Y 1) Isla (Y1) Flynn (Y2) Bentley (Y2) Abigail (Y3) Joshua (Y4) Ava (Y5) Nylah (Y6) Ruby (Y6) Isabella (Y6)





Letters sent home: EYFS & Year 6 Height and Weight Screening, Car Free Streets

Attendance - Our school strives for 100% attendance. This year one of our school priorities is to improve attendance further and we will be assessing attendance as the number of days absent rather than as an attendance %. This will be explained further at our 'Meet the

Teacher' sessions.

Last week the Attendance Award was won by: Year 3 & Year 4 with 2 days absent for each class

Last week the Punctuality Award was won by: EYFS

This week the Attendance Award was won by: Year 5 with 0 days absent

This week the Punctuality Award was won by: EYFS, Year 5 & Year 6

Government legislation states that a child with an attendance of 90% and below is categorised as a "Persistent Absence Pupil". This means that a child has missed 19 days or 38 sessions of school. This equates to your child missing half a day every week; four weeks of missed school work across the whole year.

Year Group	Number of Days Absence this Half Term
Reception	33
Year 1	37
Year 2	57
Year 3	40
Year 4	14
Year 5	58
Year 6	27

Well done to Year 4 who have had the best attendance this half term.





Dates for Diary - October 2023

Friday 27 October

All Day

INSET DAY

Dates for Diary - November 2023

Tuesday 7 November

8:0am

Academy Photos - Groups, Siblings and Individuals

Thursday 9 November

11.30-
1.00pm

Rearranged Grandparents' Lunch day (letters have been sent to appropriate families)

Monday 13 November

All Week

Kindness Week

Wednesday 15 November

9 -10am

Open Morning Prospective Children & Parents 2023-24

Wednesday 15 November

2 - 3pm

Open Afternoon Prospective Children & Parents
2023 - 24

Wednesday 15 November

6-7pm

Open Evening Prospective Children & Parents
2023 - 24

Thursday 16 November

3:15 -
5:15pm

PTA Film Night

Monday 20 November

AM

Flu Immunisations

Tuesday 21 November

11am -2pm

Year 5 Odeon Trip

Wednesday 22 November

11am -2pm

Year 6 Odeon Trip

Friday 24 November

All Day

Universal Children's Takeover Day

Thursday 30 November

EYFS & Year 6 Height & Weight Checks

Dates for Diary - December 2023

Monday 4 December

9:00am

Whole School Advent Service

Monday 11 December

2:00pm

EYFS & KS1 Nativity

Tuesday 12 December

9:00am

EYFS & KS1 Nativity

Monday 18 December

2:00pm

KS2 Carol Service

Tuesday 19 December

9:00am

KS2 Carol Service

Wednesday 20 December

TBC

Christmas Dinner



Have a lovely half term break.



Miss T Cotter
Executive Principal



Mrs C Gorman
Head of School

CAFOD Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza

Let us pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We remember especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies. We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Lord hear us.

