

Newsletter No 11

Dear Parents/Person with Parental Responsibility

Date 24.11.2023

TAKEOVER DAY

Today has certainly been exciting -I am so grateful to be able to have the day being Miss Cotter and I am glad to have my team. The staff beside me made me feel calm even when I was nervous! I want to say thank you to my classmates as they have been such wonderful teachers and heads of school but also to Miss Cotter and Mrs Hope for giving me this opportunity that I will never forget.

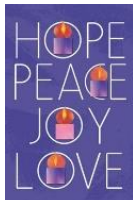
Miss Wigley (Acting Executive Principal):

Well I've had a great day; I think Martha and her staff could easily run the school! The children worked really hard and showed a very professional attitude in the way they confidently embraced their new roles. You should be very proud of them - well done to all of Year 6! Miss Cotter

World Youth Day

On Sunday we will be celebrating World Youth Day and our Mini Vinnies will be speaking at all the Masses at Holy Cross and St Francis at the weekend, including the Commitment Mass for those children in Years 3 and 6 who are receiving Sacraments this year. They are a bit nervous so it would be fantastic if as many of our families attended mass this week to support them - thank you.

A reminder to all families of children in Year 3 and 6 that as part of their preparation for the Sacraments, children must attend 10.30 mass on Sunday. Please contact Fr Neil if any problems or queries.



Advent - On Sunday 3 December we begin the season of Advent when we officially start the journey to Christmas. We will start our Advent journey with a service on **Monday 4 December, starting at 9.00 a.m.**; you are all welcome to attend. Advent is the time when we really reflect and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As you can imagine, we are all very busy preparing for the many different events to make this a very special time for all our Holy Cross family. Please try to support these events and help us to show the children the real meaning and magic of Christmas.



Children in Need

We raised a grand total of **£340!** This is fantastic - Thank you so much as always for your continued support.

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

Catholic Partnership Chess Competition



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School came first in a Chess Competition that took place on Thursday 16 November. They came first and broke a long standing record of many years. Congratulations to all the children involved and to Mrs Hope, who is very proud!



Mass: Year 3 will lead our Mass at Church on Thursday 30 November. Reception class will join us for the first time. Please see separate letter sent to EYFS parents. All welcome.



The Mini Vinnies have decided this year during Advent they would like the school to participate in the Rudolph Run to raise money for Birmingham Hospice (St Mary's and John Taylor's Hospice). This will be a sponsored event which will be held on Thursday 14th December and the link to the just giving page is below. The children had an assembly on Wednesday 15th November to look at what happens with the money that is raised and the impact it has.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/holy-cross-1700723067941?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fholy-cross-1700723067941&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

Everyone at Holy Cross, children and staff are very excited about this event and we appreciate all of your support.



Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being 'Attentive & Discerning.' 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: Aurora Year 1: Zach D Year 2: Ivy Year 3: Louie Year 4: Felix Year 5: Mason (no Y6 this week)**

Recommendations:



EYFS: Paisley & Sophia Year 1: Amos & Finley Year 2: Freddie & Phoebe Year 3: Sienna & Lily Year 4: Martin & Cadie Year 5: Isabelle & Louis (No Y6 this week)



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 week the Attendance Award was won by: EYFS with 0 days absent.

This week the Punctuality Award was won by: Y2/Y5/Y6 with 0 late marks.

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.



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

Ava-Rose EYFS

Zachary D Y1

Sophie K Y1

Letters sent home:



Jingle & Mingle / Bikeability (Y5) / Tree Workshop (Y4) / EYFS & KS1 Christmas Performance Arrangements for Attending Mass at Church (EYFS)

CAFOD Christmas Gifts



A reminder that this Christmas, instead of buying Christmas cards to send to each other in our school, we are going to raise money towards CAFOD's World Gifts charity. World Gifts are a range of charity gifts that help transform the lives of poor communities and families in developing countries. It can include a water supply; chickens; bees; or a vegetable garden. Last year we bought a marvellous moo cow!

Therefore, please hold onto your Christmas card money as we will not be exchanging Christmas cards in school in order to support this wonderful initiative. Thank you.

Enterprise Shed-Mini Vinnies



In addition to our Christmas card initiative, some of our Minnie Vinnies are doing a sale from the enterprise shed from December 4 up until December 15. They will be selling the following: Bows at 50p, Bookmarks at 50p, Christmas decorations at 50p and mindful colouring sheets at 50p. In addition to their sale, they will be hosting a raffle on December 15 and a cake sale on December 14 and 15. Any money raised is being shared between John Taylor Hospice, Red Cross and Cafod World gifts. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Christmas shoe-box appeal

The Mini Vinnies have once again decided that we would like to take part in the Christmas shoe-box appeal and as a School of Sanctuary we would like to help the most vulnerable and in need in our local community - the SIFA Fireside Services who support the homeless in our city.

Please find a list of the items that would be ideal for the shoe-box:

- Chocolates/Biscuits
- Hats
- Socks
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Toiletries



Please don't include second hand items.

It would be lovely if the shoe-box was gift wrapped but it will need to be left unsealed.

Your Christian generosity is always greatly appreciated and this is a wonderful opportunity to give to those who are much less fortunate than ourselves.

Please could the shoe-boxes be returned to school by **Friday 8 December** to allow time for them to be distributed.

Bella - Mini Vinnie President

Mrs. Hope - Mini Vinnie Co-ordinator



Dates for Diary - November

Friday 24 November	All Day	Universal Children's Takeover Day
Sunday 26 November	10:30am	Y3 & Y6 Mass of Commitment
Thursday 30 November	AM	EYFS & Year 6 Height & Weight Checks

Dates for Diary - December

Friday 1 December	All Day	Non Uniform Day - Bring a Bottle
Monday 4 December	9:00am	Whole School Advent Service
Wednesday 6 December	All Day	Non Uniform Day - Cake Donations
Friday 8 December	9.00am	Advent Service
Friday 8 December	3:30 - 5pm	PTA Jingle & Mingle
Monday 11 December	2:00pm	EYFS & KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 12 December	9:00am	EYFS & KS1 Nativity
Thursday 14 December	12 - 1pm	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 14 December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 18 December	2:00pm	KS2 Carol Service
Tuesday 19 December	9:00 am	KS2 Carol Service

Have a lovely weekend

T. Cotter

Miss T Cotter
Executive Principal

C. Gorman

Mrs C Gorman
Head of School

Marthy

Miss M Wigley
Acting Executive Principal

