

## Newsletter No 15

Dear Parents/Person with Parental Responsibility

Date: Friday 22 December



We have finally come to the end of a very busy term. We have entertained the Christmas shoppers in House of Fraser, we've Mingled and Jingled and sang for the residents of The Oaks and the parishioners. The last couple of weeks have been really hectic, with Christmas performances and class parties and today we are celebrating the end of term by enjoying a whole school sing-a-long in the hall! It really is beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Mrs Elliott leaves us after supporting us as SENDCo for the last term. We are so grateful for her support. We look forward to welcoming our new Assistant Principal, Miss Turner, in January.

*On behalf of the staff team, I thank you for all the cards and gifts received and for your support during the term.*  
#loveourholycrossfamily



### Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Enterprise Shed and Cake sale. We have raised £430! All the money we have raised will go to Cafod World Gifts, Birmingham Hospice and the Red Cross. Words cannot describe how thankful we are.



**Choir** - Congratulations to Holy Cross School Choir who have been living Catholic Social Teaching through their hard work and dedication by carolling in the school and local community over the past couple of weeks. Thank you to Mr Mayor and Miss Cotter for preparing them so well.



### Christmas Worship

Christmas is a special family time but it is also a very important time in the Church's year. Please remember to celebrate Mass this Christmas as a family. The Masses at Holy Cross are as follows:

#### Masses for Christmas:

**Christmas Eve:** 5:00pm & 9:00pm

**Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord:** 8:30am & 10:30am

The children have brought home a card from Fr Neil with all the times of Masses and Services over the Christmas period.

### Mass



There will be no Mass on Thursday 11 January. Year 6 will be leading Mass on Thursday 18 January 2024.



## Mingle and Jingle

Thank you again for supporting this wonderful event, we are delighted to tell you that it raised an incredible £1000! Thank you again to our PTA for their hard work and everyone that came along to support it.

Please keep an eye on the Newsletter for event dates in 2024!



## School Meals - Price increase from January 2024

The cost of living and the cost of food is something that is affecting everyone and unfortunately it is unsustainable providing freshly cooked meals at the current price. Therefore, the cost of a school dinner will increase from the start of the new term in January 2024 from £2.40 to £2.55. This is still good value for money for a cooked meal and dessert. This will be reviewed in the Summer term to ensure the school is not in deficit with the costings. I thank you for your support.

The cost for next half term is £63.75.



## 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



## Car Free School Streets

Please find attached an update from Birmingham City Council regarding our Car Free School Streets.



### Recommendations:

**EYFS:** All of Reception **Year 1:** All of Year 1 **Year 2:** All of Year 2

**Year 3:** Noah E & Mia **Year 4:** All of Year 4 **Year 5:** Xaven & Poppy **Year 6:** Eve & Ethan

## 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:** Paisley **Year 1:** Joshua **Year 2:** Luke **Year 3:** All of Year 3

**Year 4:** All choir children **Year 5:** Henry **Year 6:** Zachary

**Holy Cross Choir** Ellie-May, Mia, Aariana, Erin, Fabian, Evie, Hattie, Cherish, Orla, Isabella, Aoife, Ben, Madison, Lily, Jessica, Emileen, Julia, Skyler, Leylah, Sebastian, Rubi, Joshua, Abigail, Rogan, Zoe, Scarlett, Martin, Isabella, Olivia, Nancy and Ellie.



**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: Year 2** with 3 days absent.

**This week the Punctuality Award was won by: Year 3** 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.

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Year Group	Number of Days Absence this Half Term
EYFS	36
Year 1	53
Year 2	42.5
Year 3	37.5
Year 4	36.5
Year 5	57
Year 6	43.5

Well done to **EYFS** who have had the best attendance this half term. Very closely followed by **Year 4**!



**Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week and during the Christmas Holiday.**

Raye – Y1, Nancy – Y2, Lily – Y3, Mia – Y3, Cadie-Ella – Y4, Freddie – Y5, Zachary – Y6, Madison – Y6, Ben – Y6, Cian – Y6, Ethan – Y6, Jessica – Y6



**Letters sent home:** Letter regarding Inclusion Lead & SEND, Maths at your Fingertips, Letter from Miss Cotter, Walmley Cricket Club

Dates for Diary - January 2024		
Monday 8 January		Return to School - Spring Term
Dates for Diary - February 2024		
Friday 9 February		Break up for Half Term
Monday 18 February		Return to School
Dates for Diary - March 2024		
Thursday 28 March		Break up for Easter
Dates for Diary - April 2024		
Monday 15 April		Return to School - Summer Term
Dates for Diary - May 2024		
Thursday 2 May	All Day	School Closed - Elections



Have a lovely weekend

Miss T Cotter  
Executive Principal

Mrs C Gorman  
Head of School

### End of Term Prayer

We thank you Lord, for this term.

For the challenges, the successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt.

Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends.

Give us strength and courage to do what is right: to be witnesses of our faith.

Help us to be a practical Christian these holidays, to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others.

To be peacemakers in our family.

Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and good fun.

Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term.

We thank you for our classmates, teachers, parents

And a community that cares for us.

May we always be conscious of you in our lives.



**The staff team, Governing Board and Board of Directors wishes you all a very happy and holy Christmas.**  
Enjoy the festive season and see you all in 2024!

