

Newsletter No 16

Dear Parents/Person with Parental Responsibility

Date Friday 12 January 2024



Welcome back! The Governors and staff hope that you enjoyed the Christmas break and wish you all a very Happy New Year.



The children returned to school looking very smart. As a whole school New Year's resolution (again!), please ensure that **all** items of school uniform are clearly named. It must be very frustrating when new items of clothing are lost and as you can imagine, very difficult for staff to identify any misplaced items. Parents are reminded that they must fully comply with the uniform policy. Please ensure that now the party season is over, all nail varnish is removed! Thank you.



Reception Admissions 2024 - FINAL REMINDER

The application process to apply for EYFS (Reception) places at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School has **two** phases and must be completed 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



Dinner Money

School Dinner payment of £63.75 for this half term of 5 weeks is now due. The deadline for payment is **Friday 19 January**. Please make payment through ParentMail. Polite reminder that if your child has school dinners and you want to change to packed lunch from home, you are required to give half a terms notice. Thank you.



Medication

If your child has been prescribed with any medication, please drop off your child as normal at the school gate in the morning and come into the office by yourself to complete the forms and hand the medication. Please do not leave the medication in your child's bag. Thank you.





New Year, new start! - The Importance of Sunday Mass

The Mass is the prayer of the Church; there is no greater prayer. We go to Mass not simply because it's an obligation. Rather, we attend Mass because it's our loving response to the God who has loved us first. We participate in the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ himself! We receive his body, blood, soul and divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta once wrote: "Jesus is my God. Jesus is my Spouse. Jesus is my Life. Jesus is my Everything. Because of this, I am never afraid." She went to Mass every day. If we love the Mass as she did, we, too, will live in Jesus and he in us, and will we never be afraid. Go to Mass. Love the Mass.

"Do not be afraid. Open, I say open wide the doors for Christ." Saint John Paul II.

So we ask that families, make a new year's resolution to go to Mass at the weekend as a family. This sends a very important message to the children, that we must practise our faith as part of our daily life and not just celebrate Mass when in school. Fr Neil would love to see as many families as possible.

Masses at Holy Cross are as follows:

Saturday - 6.00pm

Sunday - 8.30am and 10.30am.



School Enrichment Fund

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we pride ourselves on the high quality education and enrichment activities we offer our children and with your support we can sustain these into the future. We are asking parents to contribute a minimum of £10 a term per pupil (or £30 per family per year). Please support our school and your children so that we can provide extra opportunities both within and outside the curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support.



Ensemble

We are looking to recruit new members for our Holy Cross School Ensemble. We meet every Friday from 3.15pm to 3.50pm in the Year 4 classroom for a rehearsal with Mr Smith and Mr Mayor. The Holy Cross School Ensemble will be performing at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire during March and Symphony Hall in July (details to be announced later). Requirements: to have lessons on a musical instrument either in or out of school, or to be able to play and read music at a basic level. We are very excited to welcome you to this great opportunity.

Crested Schoolwear Sutton Coldfield

Crested Schoolwear have moved from Erdington to the Gracechurch Centre in Sutton Coldfield. They are now at Unit 182 Gracechurch Shopping Centre, next door to Costa Coffee. Please see the discount voucher attached.



Virtues and Values



This half term we are concentrating on being 'Compassionate and Loving.' 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:** Ciara **Year 1:** Honor **Year 2:** Flynn **Year 3:** Maisie

Year 4: Leylah **Year 5:** Skylar **Year 6:** Charlie

Recommendations:



EYFS: Mille & Austin **Year 1:** Ariel & Ava-Rae **Year 2:** Sophie & Evie

Year 3: Martha & Jayden **Year 4:** Rubi & Mason **Year 5:** Zachary & Skye

Year 6: Antoni & Emileen



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 6 with 1 day absent.

This week the Punctuality Award was won by: Year 1 & Year 5 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.

Termly attendance records for Autumn term are being produced - Reception and KS1 classes received theirs today and KS2 will receive theirs on Monday. Senior leaders will contact those parents where discussion regarding working together to improve attendance and or punctuality are deemed necessary.



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

Eddie - Year 1

Elliot - Year 2

Malachy and Olivia - Year 3

Rory - Year 4



Letters sent home:

Guitar, Young Voices, Chess Club, Y1 Phonics Screening, After School Clubs, Forest School.

Dates for Diary - January 2024		
Monday 22 January	12pm	Young Voices
Wednesday 24 January	9am	Year 1 Phonics Screening Parent Workshop
Wednesday 31 January	9am	Year 4 Class Assembly
Dates for Diary - February 2024		
Wednesday 7 February	9am	Year 3 Class Assembly
Tuesday 6 February	6 - 7pm	Sacrament of Confirmation
Friday 9 February	3.10/3.15pm	Break up for Half Term
Monday 18 February		Return to School
Dates for Diary - March 2024		
Thursday 7 March	All day	World Book Day
Thursday 28 March	3.10/3.15pm	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

