



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs.J.Kingston

7th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all enjoyed the half term holiday with your families and friends. We returned this week looking forward to getting back to usual practices in school. Due to the government's lifting of Covid restrictions, we are now able to welcome you all back into school on a regular basis. It was wonderful to see so many of you joining your children for stay and play or read sessions on World book day last Thursday.

In school, we are able to mix classes and so the Year 6 pupils are looking forward to helping in EYFS and Key stage 1 again. It is one of my favourite things about our small school; seeing the older children acting as role models for the younger ones.

On Tuesday, I attended a local authority head teacher's briefing on living with Covid in schools moving forward. Although the legal requirement to isolate if you test positive with covid has been removed, pupils are still asked to isolate for 10 days (maximum) if they test positive for Covid. Both PCR and LFD tests are available until the end of March and current public health guidelines are if children have symptoms, they still need to get a PCR test to confirm if it is Covid or another illness.

However, with what seems like the end of the pandemic finally in sight as life is getting back to normal for the first time in 2 years, we now find ourselves facing a war in Europe. Schools are not places for politics but we are places to teach about compassion and what to do if the children have any worries. Many of the children are anxious about the current situation in Ukraine, especially if they have families in Ukraine, Russia or the surrounding countries. We are giving them the opportunity to ask questions confidentially if they wish, whilst praying (or thinking) for peace and for all those affected by the current situation. Of course, it is up to you, as parents, to decide what to discuss with your child about the events in Ukraine, but I would ask that you remind your child that other children may be worried or not be as aware of what is happening.

Last week in school:

All staff attended training on Monday on our new phonics scheme 'Unlocking letters and sounds' SSP. All schools are expected to follow a validated phonics scheme by the end of this year and we have chosen this one written by the Bristol English Hub. There will be a parents' meeting about the teaching of phonics on Wednesday 23rd March straight after school in the School Hall for parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. A creche will be available in the EYFS classroom.



On Tuesday, all staff received further training on behaviour management techniques from staff in Lansdown Outreach programme. They are our local provider of SEND provision for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. Following the pandemic and the lack of access to services during the past 2 years, we are keen to ensure we are able to meet the needs of those most affected. We are also reviewing our behaviour management policies and practices with the children. The school council will be getting the children's views over this term.

On Wednesday, Lent began and Fr Michael Healy came to school and celebrated Ash Wednesday mass with us. It was such a joyful and uplifting experience and we were able to have Years 2 to 6 together in the Hall for his service. Fr Michael commented on what a joy it was to hear the children singing and to see the children's faces all back together. (There is more information in this newsletter with an update on the current parish situation.)

On Thursday, everyone in school took part in special activities for World Book Day. Thank you to all of you who helped the children look absolutely amazing and to all of you who were able to come in for stay and read sessions across the school.

Staffing update:

Mrs James will be supporting St Nicholas of Tolentine 2 days a week this term as part of our ongoing partnership work. She will be helping with leadership in the school every Monday and Tuesday as their Head is currently unwell.

Ms Alison Mitchell, who the children, know very well, will be covering Y2 on Monday and Tuesday mornings for this term.

Storyboard Walk:

In celebration of Spring, Victoria Park Primary are hosting a Storyboard Walk with Koru Kids. It's an outdoor game, story and walk all in one! It's a community event, and everybody is welcome to join in. Children, together with their families, follow the trail to complete the story which helps Marina the Monkey get her balloon back. It started on Friday 18 February and runs until 13th March. It's perfect for families with children aged 3 - 10. Booklets and maps were sent home in book bags last term. Visit korukids.co.uk/bristolwalk to find out more.

Yoga Session:

On Thursday 10th March a parent is going to offer one more free yoga session after school in the hall at 3.30pm. This time both parents and children can come to the session together. Children can only attend with a participating adult. If you would like to take up this wonderful free opportunity, please let Miss Sims know by text message.

Snacks:

Please remember children are not given a government provided snack for playtime in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6). Please provide your child with a healthy snack if you wish.

Road safety and parking:

Thank you to all those who continue to park safely around school. Remember, corners, zig zags and double yellow lines need to be kept free for safety.



Assemblies/Visitors:

Class assemblies and other events for this term have been added to the calendar. If you are able to help in your child's class with reading or other activities, please let your child's teacher know via tapestry or class dojo.

Parents' Evenings:

A link to book a parents' evening appointment for next week has been sent out. Please contact Miss Sims if you have not received one.

Parish Update:

Last Sunday, Fr Rupert celebrated Mass for the last time in the school Hall as the Sunday Parish Mass, following the announcement from Bishop Declan that the church is formally closed and a decision about the future of the parish will be made on April 30th. All parishioners have been directed to the parish of St Gerald Majella in Knowle. Mass is celebrated at 10 am and 5pm on Sundays there and Fr George is very keen to welcome anyone wishing to attend Mass there.

I attended Mass there yesterday morning with my family and it was lovely to see many of you there. Fr George made us feel very welcome and afterwards I spoke to him about support for any families at this difficult time. He is very happy to support any of you who need to talk to a priest.

The Bishop is currently deciding who will provide pastoral provision for our school and as soon as I know I will let you know. Fr Michael Healy, as our Dean, has booked in some dates for Masses for this term and next term. He is also helping with the First Communion preparation programme.

First Holy Communion preparation:

Before he left the parish, Fr Rupert celebrated the sacrament of First Reconciliation with our group from school. The classes will continue each month at Holy Cross with the next class on Sunday, until the celebration on Sunday 19th June at 11:30am.

Confirmation preparation:

If you have an older child who is in Year 8 or above, they will be soon able to apply to make their confirmation. Classes will begin after Easter on Saturday 23rd April at Emmaus House from 10am till 12:30pm for four fortnightly gatherings leading up to Confirmation itself.

Each person applies to their Parish Priest and then will be asked to fill in the requisite form expressing their own free choice to be confirmed. Our parish representative, Anne Nash will be receiving these forms and will bring them to the school for anyone who wishes to apply. The date for return will be before Easter.



Community news:

There will be an event held at the South Bank Club on Dean Lane by a group of local residents who are organising a fundraising event for those fleeing Ukraine. It will be held on Sunday 13th March from 2-6pm. There will be several excellent ensembles and choirs from around Bristol, performing music with an Eastern European theme. There will be a bar and soft drinks, the hall decorated with a Ukrainian theme, and the garden for extra space. The charity we are raising for is the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). All children and their families are very welcome to attend, we would love to see them there!

Nut free school:

Please remember that we have a number of children with nut allergies: some airborne. This means that we need to **insist that all products sent into schools are nut free**. There are some food items you would not think contained nuts so please can all parents check labelling when making packed lunches.

Please check if all treats are nut free if you are sending them in for your child's birthday. Even cakes that say may contain nuts can be dangerous for some of our children. We are unable to give them out if this is the case.

Finally:

Thank you for all your support.

Take care,



Mrs Kingston.

Important Dates:

Date	Event
Wednesday 9 th March	Year 6 camp
Tuesday 15 th March	Year 4 Wild place Parents Evening 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Wednesday 16 th March	KS1 Dance Fest Parents Evening 3.30pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 17 th March	St Patrick's Day: Wear green
Friday 18 th March	Year 4 Class Assembly 9.15am
Wednesday 23 rd March	Phonics parents' meeting
Friday 25 th March	Year 3 Class Assembly 9.15am
Monday 28 th March	Year 2 Farm Trip
Friday 1 st April	Year 2 Class Assembly 9.15am
Friday 8 th April	End of term Mass 9.15am

