



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs.J.Kingston

6th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a restful half term holiday and managed to enjoy some quality family time. We were very fortunate with some good weather on most days.

Unfortunately, we are seeing the aftermath of the inaccurate Covid testing at the lab in Worcestershire in Bristol at the moment, meaning very high numbers of transmission in the community. Therefore, the local authority have asked that we pause large gatherings, including whole school Assemblies, and excessive numbers of visitors into school for the first 2 weeks of this term. Hopefully, this will have a positive effect on cases and we will see numbers start to fall. This is why we postponed parents evening until the week beginning 15th November and have paused stay and plays/reads until then as well.

Currently, the plan is for this week's Y4 Assembly to go ahead but the children will only perform to their parents in the school Hall. All parents and carers are asked to take a LFD test before attending and to wear a mask. Seats will be socially distanced and, of course, you are asked not to attend if you are displaying any symptoms of Covid 19. If we have to postpone I will let you know as soon as possible.

We are very lucky in that although 4 pupils and 1 staff member have tested positive for Covid in the past 3 weeks, none of them had attended school for at least a week before their positive test result, plus the additional half term week. We are very grateful that parents have kept their children home and had PCR tests, as we requested, if any other family member has tested positive. This has meant that we have all been kept as safe as possible. Please continue to support all the children in our school by keeping your child home and having them tested if they have symptoms and get them tested if another household member tests positive.

We have had a busy first week back in school with 2 monitoring visits to check standards across the school. On Wednesday we had a curriculum monitoring visit from the local authority with a focus on History and DT. The feedback was excellent and we were commended on the children's behaviour and engagement in lessons as well as the high quality of teaching and learning observed. Your children really are a credit to you and they always make us so proud. Thank you.

On Thursday school governors from the Mission and Ethos committee were in school checking standards in the teaching and learning of RE. Again the feedback was excellent and the children spoke especially well about the importance of respect and tolerance in today's



society. Fr Rupert was particularly impressed that Jesus' teachings were seen as even better than Greta Thunberg's views on how to look after the world by the children!

On Monday's INSET day, all staff received first aid training.

The children have been focussing on COP26 activities this week to replace our usual Assembly sessions and have wonderful views on how world leaders need to act to make positive change for their futures. Please talk to your children about their views on looking after the world as they are very well informed. Many have said they are going to talk to you about reducing waste, using less energy and walking or cycling more in your homes!

PTFA:

After school on Friday there was a cake sale to raise money for our annual pantomime. There will be a PTFA newsletter sent out next week with information on about upcoming events.

Parents' Evening:

Will now take place on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th November. The times will stay the same as previously booked, with Tuesday's times being moved to Thursday. If you are unable to make this time now, please contact Miss Sims who will try to organise a different convenient time for you. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Parish shoe box collection:

Holy Cross Parish are running the shoebox collection again this year. This is a charity based event where you can fill a shoebox with items to be send to a child in need around the world. For some children it may be the only present they have ever received. The boxes and leaflets will be available for collection every day after school this week. The deadline to return is Sunday 14th November.

Poppy collection:

The children will be selling poppies and other Royal British legion items every day after school this week to raise money in the Key stage 1 playground.

TT Rock stars competition:

The children will take part in a TT rockstars competition this week, to help them practise their times tables. On Friday as a celebration they are asked to come to school dressed as Rock stars. Y4 are asked to bring their clothes in to change into after their Assembly.

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.

School Dinners:

Just a reminder that the price of a school lunch has increased to £2.30 from 1st November. Also from today there has been an option of tomato pasta on the menu for all children to choose each day. This caters for all children with allergies.



School Governor Roles:

We have vacancies for a foundation and parent governor on our governing body. If you would like to apply for this wonderful role, please contact Mr Franks as the clerk. If you would like any further information, please see Louise the Chair.

Clubs:

If you have not signed up for clubs and would like a space, please speak to Miss Sims. Please remember that we have limited numbers in breakfast club and all after school clubs so you need to book prior to the day.

Finally:

Please see the important dates section below and add them to your family calendar. It will be, as always, a busy term leading up to Christmas. Please make sure the children get enough rest as we always notice how tired they get in this term. The dark mornings and evenings take a lot out of them – and us!

Please continue to pray for all those in need at this time, especially the Creary and Guthrie families.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l04FcfIVtclU>

Mrs Kingston.

Important Dates:

Date	Event
Friday 12 th November	Rock star dress up Year 4 class assembly: parents to attend
Wednesday 17 th November	Parents evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 18 th November	Parents evening 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Friday 19 th November	Children in Need Year 3 class assembly Family bingo 6pm – 7.30pm
Wednesday 24 th November	Year 1 Trip
Friday 26 th November	Year 2 class assembly
Tuesday 30 th November	St Andrew's day – children wear blue
Friday 3 rd December	Year 1 class assembly
Tuesday 7 th December	Reception visit to Post office
Wednesday 8 th December	Pantomime for children AM
Friday 10 th December	Christmas jumper day Talent show AM
Wednesday 15 th December	Nativity 1.30pm
Thursday 16 th December	Nativity 9.30am Christmas dinner day
Friday 17 th December	End of term End of term assembly AM Carol service 1.30pm

