



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dean Lane, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 1DB

Tel: 3772199 E-mail: holycrossp@bristol-schools.uk www.holycross.bristol.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs.J.Kingston

16th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Due to the current high rates of infection in the community, we are treating each day as possibly the last school day for our year 6 class, and spoiling them with lovely treats. Fr Rupert came in and said Mass this morning with the class as a way to say thank you for them. We are so proud of them and all their achievements and truly think they are a wonderful gift. The children were so respectful in Mass today and it was a special occasion for them. Then, in the afternoon, they had a pizza and film afternoon as a treat – rather than their usual class trip to “ZaZaBazaar”.

Coronavirus update:

It has been a sad week in school as we have had to send home 3 classes due to positive lateral flow tests. We are awaiting the results of the follow up PCR tests to know whether the classes have to stay closed and will update the parents of those affected as soon as possible. Poor Mr Smart went home to isolate today and it is his birthday!

We are really saddened that the year has ended in this way for some of our pupils and are praying that the rest of the school will make it to the end of the year – especially Year 6.

The cases in Bristol are above national averages at the moment and the numbers are particularly high in the Southville ward, so please continue to follow Covid safe practices this weekend.

Some rules change on Monday but the legal obligation to isolate if you are positive or have come into contact with someone who has will remain. To give our pupils, still in school, the best chance of remaining until the term ends – especially our Year 6 class - please do not send your child into school if they are showing symptoms, they have been in contact with someone who has or **another member of your family has symptoms or is awaiting a test result.**

Even though general restrictions will have lifted from Monday 19th July, we are not going to change our current operation procedures this academic year. The children and staff will remain in their bubbles for the last 3 days of the term, and staggered start and end times will also continue.

I am currently working through the guidance for the return to school in September and will send out details next week. However, following discussions with governors this week, I have decided to keep things the same for the start of the new school year. We can re-evaluate at



the end of September when we will have a more accurate picture of infection rates in the area.

Remember, the rules on isolating do not change until the 16th August.

Sports Days:

We were so pleased to run our sports days for Years 1 to 6 this week and were so impressed with the sporting attitudes shown by so many of our pupils. The winning house will be announced in Wednesday's Assembly and the sports' cup given to the sports captains from that house. Thank you to those parents who came and supported.

End of year Assemblies and Y6 Leavers' events:

The end of year celebration assembly will take place in a different format this year. Each class will have their own short Assembly during the morning of Monday 19th July which will be livestreamed to any parents who wish to join. A link will be sent out via class dojo on the Friday before by the class teacher. Each class will award a citizen and learning skills winner of the term and there will be our special annual Good Samaritan and St Paul awards from each key stage awarded as well. All classes isolating will have an online Assembly livestreamed so, if you are able to, please join from home.

The Year 6 Leavers' Celebration Assembly and the end of the year performance of 'Hoodwinked' will take place on Monday 19th July and Wednesday 21st July. Both events will go ahead in the school Hall and because restrictions will be lifted **we are allowing 1 parent for each child** to attend each event. Seats within the Hall will be socially distanced and the Hall will be well ventilated. Both events will be livestreamed for other family members to watch.

Parking at drop off:

We have seen a huge improvement in safe parking and turning outside school this week. Thank you. Please continue to follow the guidelines below to keep everyone safe.

Please do not pull up outside school on the zig zags to drop off, even if you are late or in a rush. This is very dangerous and we do not want to see any accidents. Also, I have been asked to remind you to not park in the guesthouse or do a U-turn on the bend outside it.

The double yellow lines and zig zags are there to keep your children safe and parking services can issue fines to anyone parked on them.

There are often plenty of parking spaces outside the doctor's surgery further up the road both in the mornings and afternoons.

Please turn around by carrying on up Dean Lane past school and using Southville Road (the right turning by the doctors/St Paul's Church) and come back down Acramans or Alpha Road.

I would also like to politely remind you that the speed limit around school is 20 mph and that I am concerned that the "little parking people" have been damaged by cars hitting them.

Please do not leave your engines running when dropping off or collecting your child/ren.



Appropriate gaming/messaging and watching:

Please remember that all primary aged children are too young to be on social media. If your child has a mobile phone, please remember to check it regularly to ensure they are safe. If you see any inappropriate messaging or viewing please inform school and you may also need to inform the police depending on the level of the language and images shared. There are still incidents being reported of children using unkind and unacceptable language in their messages, and that some children are talking to strangers online.

Uniform:

PE kits are allowed to be worn for the full day on your child's PE day. Correct kit is navy bottoms (joggers, shorts, skorts or leggings) and a plain white t shirt (polo shirts may be worn). When it is your child's PE day they may wear trainers of any colour to school. We recommend that the children wear shorts, skorts or lightweight leggings in the hot weather. Year 6 can wear their leaver's hoodies for PE days, if they wish.

As the end of the school year approaches, we are collecting uniform for a uniform swap which will be held in the summer holidays. This will be a financial help for some of our families and will help the planet by recycling.

Parish Sunday Mass:

The planned restart date is now Sunday 25th July. Spaces do not need to be booked in advance. If you are able to help as a volunteer, please e mail Fr Rupert directly.

First Holy Communion:

There is a new date for the children to make their First Holy Communion who prepared last year. Children who wish to make their first holy communion this year are invited to do so on Sunday 22nd August. Classes will continue every Wednesday after school until 4:15pm. Once the children complete the classes, they can make their first communion on any Sunday in September (arranged with Fr Rupert) if they cannot make the 22nd August. As restrictions will be lifted by then, there will be no limit on guests for each child. All the children preparing will make their Reconciliation again on Wednesday 21st July.

Attendance:

Thank you to those who attend regularly. Attendance to school is now mandatory and we are expected to monitor and address Attendance concerns. Please remember to phone the school office if your child is going to be absent. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you and then may also make a home visit if we are unable to contact you. Thank you to those who arrive on time.

It is still the expectation that children do not attend school if they are displaying symptoms, they can return when a negative test has been achieved. We have found that the Coronavirus PCR tests are now taking less than 12 hours in some cases, so children are only needing to be absent for a day or two. If your child has symptoms they have to get a PCR test to be able to return to school, we have been advised by the DFE that a lateral flow test is not sufficient.



We have been asked by our EWO to issue penalty notice fines when a child is absent for more than 4 days within a 10 week period as attendance is mandatory. However, please be aware of waiting 48 hours before your child returns to school if your child has had a tummy bug.

Not long now! Things will get brighter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vqk5uDKepqY>



Mrs Kingston

Key Dates:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Monday 19 th July | - | Celebration Assemblies AM
Year 6 leavers' play 1.30pm |
| Wednesday 21 st July | - | End of term
Leavers' Assembly 9.15am |
| Monday 6 th September | - | Children return to school for Term 1 |

