



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

9th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all parents who sent food for their child to share with their classmates today to round off our International week. Our children are so lucky and they all had a lovely day.

This year, the focus has been on countries taking part in the Euro football tournament - as, as we all know, the majority of the country has been gripped by England's performance. A number of parents have asked if I am delaying the start of school on Monday morning for those families who may allow their children to stay up and watch the match. The answer is no. All children (and staff!) are expected to be in school at the usual time on Monday morning – no matter what time they stay up on Sunday evening!

As well as taking part in a range of fun Arts and Craft activities arranged by all class teachers throughout the week, the children were invited to come to school today dressed in clothes which reflected an important country to them. Countries from 6 of the 7 continents were represented. There was such a range of wonderful outfits which the children were very proud of. They also tasted food from all around the world (in a Covid safe and hygienic way) this afternoon and enjoyed teaching their classmates why the food they had brought in was important to their family or in their culture.

Please see the photos on Class Dojo.

End of year reports:

Your child has come home today with an end of year report. Please enjoy reading how well your child has done this year in school with them over the weekend. It has been a pleasure reading your children's reports this week and I am very proud of them all.

Coronavirus update:

Please do not send your child/ren to school if they are unwell. If they have any coronavirus symptoms, please isolate and get a test to keep us all safe. We have had to send a number of children home this week with coughs or high temperatures to be tested. Thankfully the ones from earlier in the week have all come back negative, but as I write this we are still waiting for 3 more results to be returned. It is especially important if your child is unwell on Monday morning they do not come to school as, if they then went on to test positive, their whole class would not be able to return for the rest of the year.



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.

Staffing update:

All classes will take part in a shuffle up afternoon session on Monday 12th July where they get the chance to spend some time with their teacher for next year and do some getting to know you activities with them. The children were told today who their next teacher and teaching assistant will be. Year 6 will go to the forest, so please send in some wellies or old shoes.

I am very sad to inform you that Mrs Douglas has decided to have a change of career and will be leaving Holy Cross this Summer. Mrs Douglas has worked at Holy Cross for 18 years and had had a huge positive impact on the lives of our children during that time. We are very sorry to see her go but are equally excited for her and wish her all the best in her new career. She will be a loss to the education system. She is currently working with her replacement to ensure a smooth transition for the children she works with.

Classes for next year:

Year group:	Class teacher:	LSA:
Reception	Miss Stroud	Ms Merrifield & Mrs Matthews
Year 1	Miss Ormsby	Mrs Tamlin
Year 2	Mrs James & Mrs Edwards	Mrs Davies
Year 3	Miss Foster	Mr Smart
Year 4	Miss Fairbairn	Ms Butler
Year 5	Mr Toogood	Miss Dallimore
Year 6	Miss Fitzgerald	Mr Evans

Mrs Kzrysiak will take on the role of the ELSA and will be based in the ELSA hub.

Sports Days:

Each class will have their own sports day this year which parents will be invited to watch (in a closed bubble of 1 parent per child). Please see the dates and times in the key dates' section below. The children will need a T-shirt in the colour of their houses. If you do not know your child's house colour, please speak to Miss Sims. If the weather is against us, the children will still have a mini sports day for their class in the Hall but parents will not be able to attend. Pray for good weather next week.



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.

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

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:

Class	Weekly Attendance
Reception	96.7%
Year 1	92.4%
Year 2	93.3%
Year 3	98.2%
Year 4	96.1%
Year 5	94.4%
Year	97.9%
Total	95.6%

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:

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| Monday 12 th July | - | Reception sports day 10am
Shuffle up afternoon PM |
| Tuesday 13 th July | - | Year 1 sports day 9.30am
Year 2 sports day 1.45pm |
| Wednesday 14 th July | - | Year 3 sports day 9.45am
Year 4 sports day 1.45pm |
| Thursday 15 th July | - | Year 5 sports day 9.30am
Year 6 sports day 1.45pm |
| Friday 16 th July | - | Leavers Mass 9.15am |
| Monday 19 th July | - | Celebration Assembly end of year 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 |

