



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs.J.Kingston

18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to see parents from every class come into school to view the RSE resources this week. As you are aware, this term's focus in PSHE is RSE and so being able to view in advance what content your child will be shown will, we hope, ensure conversations at home are as meaningful as possible. Years 4, 5, and 6 will have a Sex Ed focus. If you were not able to come on Tuesday and have questions, please speak to Miss Ormsby or Mrs Kingston.

We have had glorious weather again this week so the children have had lots of opportunities to play and work outside. Please ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle, sun hat and sun cream during this last term.

### **Staffing update:**

Mrs Hunt has increased her hours for this last term and is now teaching Year 4 for 4 days each week. Mrs Douglas, Mrs Krzysiek and Mr Smart will teach the children every Thursday and will lead PE and Forest school as part of the day. Mrs Hunt will be going on maternity leave at the end of this academic year.

I am sad to inform you that Miss Jenkins will be moving to London in the summer holidays to take up a teaching post in a school there from September. We will miss her at Holy Cross, thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the best in her future career.

We have appointed 2 new class teachers to start in September. I am delighted to inform you that Ms Kate Fitzgerald will join our teaching team for next year. Kate is an experienced teacher who has taught in Catholic education in the Diocese for a number of years. You may also know her as a parent of children in the school. We have also appointed Ms Grace Fairburn to cover Mrs Hunt's maternity leave from September 2021 until August 2022. Ms Fairburn is moving to Bristol from Surrey where she is currently teaching.

Miss Middleton from our Reception class has decided to return to college to train to be a teacher from September. We are so pleased for her and know she will make an excellent addition to the teaching profession. We have appointed Ms Emily Merrifield as the new Early Year's Practitioner for the new Reception class from September. Ms Merrifield joins us with many years' experience as an EYP in various early years setting in Bristol and Bath.



We have also appointed Ms Maria Butler to cover Mrs Sanchez' maternity leave for her LSA role from September 2021 to April 2022. Ms Butler has had experience of working as a learning support assistant in a primary school also in Surrey.

This is a very exciting time for us here at Holy Cross, and I am sure you will join me in welcoming these new staff additions to our team from September

### **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.

### **Parent volunteers:**

I would like to say thank you to the parents of Tommy and Zoe, Conrad and Zak who gave up their time last Sunday to help with jobs in the school grounds. We are so grateful for your help and all the children will benefit from the flowers planted.

### **Appropriate gaming/messaging and watching:**

This week I have been informed of inappropriate messages/videos circulating on 'TikTok, 'Instagram' and other social media, made and shared by parents about things that have happened in school. We are trying hard to instil good practice online in our children and so I politely ask that all parents ensure that anything posted about our school and especially staff is respectful at all times.

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.

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.

### **Coronavirus update:**

Unfortunately, following last Monday's announcement that restrictions will remain in place until at least Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, many of our planned events will not be able to happen as planned. Sports Days will take place but parents/carers will not be allowed to attend. The end of year Celebration Assembly will take place class by class and parents will be able to join on Google Meets, if they wish. The planned transition days for our new Reception class have had to be altered so the children attend 1 at a time instead of in groups. Bedminster Down Secondary and Ashton Park Secondary School have informed us that their planned Year 6 transition week has been cancelled. We are awaiting further updates from the other secondary schools. We are still very hopeful, however, that the planned year 6 leavers' events will be able to proceed in the final week of term.

### **Parish Sunday Mass:**

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, Fr Rupert has shared with the parish that Mass will not restart in the school Hall on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June. The planned restart date is now Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Unfortunately, this means that there needs to be a new date for the children to make their First Holy Communion who prepared last year. Fr Rupert has suggested Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> August as an alternative. Please let Miss Sims know which of these dates are the most convenient. Classes restarted last week and will continue from Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June every Sunday until the First Holy Communion weekend at 11 am in the Peace Garden.

### **Attendance:**

Class	Weekly Attendance
Reception	96.7%
Year 1	89.5%
Year 2	95.7%
Year 3	95.5%
Year 4	94.8%
Year 5	94.6%



Year	97.2%
Total	94.8%

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.

Our motto for this term is:

“Don’t be discouraged.” It may seem harder over the next 4 weeks as we thought all restrictions would be lifted but it will pass. We need to keep going.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOooelyA9Ws&list=RDMMUVb8OJEQGIQ&index=2>



Mrs Kingston

### **Key Dates:**

Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	-	New reception children meeting 6pm
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	-	Year 6 camp day
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	-	Year 6 camp day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	-	New reception Group A session PM
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	-	Summer Fair
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	-	KS1 sports day
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	-	KS2 sports day
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Reports out
		New reception Group B session PM
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Back up KS1 sports day
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Back up KS2 sports day
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Parents open evening
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Leavers Mass 9.15am
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	-	First Holy Communion Mass
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Year 6 leavers play 1.30pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	-	End of term
		Leavers assembly 9.15am

