



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs.J.Kingston

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sure you as excited as us that all children are returning to school on Monday, and it is one more step towards returning to normal life. For those children returning to school since December, please help them feel fully prepared by discussing any questions or anxieties they may have during this weekend, and communicate them with your child's class teacher through class dojo.

Also, a key way to help with successful transition back into school is to make sure that your child arrives at school on time, especially on Monday. Being late to school can cause additional anxiety for children and can mean they find it harder to settle. As it may have been a while since the children have had to be somewhere for an exact time, it may be helpful if they make sure they have their uniform (including school shoes!) and their school bags laid out ready the night before. Please remember that due to the increased number of pupils coming to school, the correct start and finish times must be followed. Ideally, I would like to avoid large queues of parents outside the school gates.

In order to help the children settle back into school, we will be following a specially planned whole school adapted curriculum, whilst completing assessments to see where the children are so we can plan their individual catch up programmes appropriately. Also, it would be beneficial if all parents could ensure they have read the information letter sent out on Tuesday of this week. This has all the information you will need. For next week, please stick to the same PE days as Term 2. If the PE days change, your child's class teacher will let you know by class dojo or tapestry.

### **Staffing update:**

Mrs Sanchez will continue to work from home until her maternity leave begins, which should be at the end of this term. Mr Tim Gibbard, who has been covering on Thursdays and Fridays since January, will continue to do so for the remainder of this term. Mrs Sanchez will still be involved in the teaching and learning in Year 4 until the end of this term.

During this term, Mr Tom Evans has joined our Learning Support team and is currently based in Year 3. We wish him a happy association with our school. As the year develops he will work with different year groups on planned catch up activities.



Unfortunately, Miss Foster is currently unwell and unable to return to work at the moment. Until Miss Foster's return, they will be taught by Mrs Esther Mortimer, ably supported by Mrs Beach and Mr Evans.

Mr Hobbs is also still unwell and unable to return to work at the moment. I am sure you will join in wishing Miss Foster and Mr Hobbs a full and speedy recovery.

### **Hello and Goodbye:**

During this lockdown period, we have welcomed some pupils to our school: Samuel in Y1, Isabella and Celestine in Y2, Eshann in Y3, and Evelyn and Cerafin in Y4. We are delighted to have new members of our school community and wish them a happy time here with us.

Sadly though, we have also said goodbye to some families during this time. Deepsahas in Y3 and Hasini in Y6 have returned to India, as their grandmother is seriously unwell. We pray for her full recovery and wish the family well in all their future endeavours.

### **Coronavirus update:**

Although rates of infections and deaths from coronavirus are finally falling, it is still vitally important for all our safety that you do not send your child into school if they are unwell with any symptoms of Covid. Please inform us immediately if your child has any of the 3 symptoms of coronavirus and arrange a test. We also need to be informed of the result as soon as possible.

The staff continue to take part in the rapid COVID home testing scheme for school staff, introduced by the NHS and the DFE. All staff test themselves for Covid twice a week before coming into school. This is to help identify any people who currently have the virus but have no symptoms. A small number of staff have been vaccinated but the majority of us are still waiting to be called for a vaccination, so it is important that we still follow government guidelines.

We are very lucky at Holy Cross that we are also part of the COMMINS testing scheme which means those parents who wish can sign their child up to be tested once a month in school. As parents of pupils in a primary school you are also able to order Lateral Flow tests for you to use at home. Please see the link below for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

### **World Book Day:**

Thank you to all those children (and parents) who participated in our World book day activities yesterday. There were lots of wonderful costumes on show and such artistic book character potatoes!

### **KS2 Cricket:**

This term KS2 will take part in Cricket sessions every Wednesday and will need to wear their PE kits into school.



### **Travelling to school safely:**

- If you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- Avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- If you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
- When you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:
- Wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
- Social distance where possible
- Wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- Be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

As always, thank you for your understanding and support. Please take care of yourselves and your families.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YuWAZmD0aU>



Mrs Kingston

### **Key Dates:**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Full reopening of school to all pupils

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – International Women's Day

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Science week

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick's Day: Children wear green

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – End of Term 4

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Good Friday

