



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs.J.Kingston

12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you managed to stay warm this week despite the temperature plummeting outside.

The children in school were very excited to be breaking up today for a week's rest as they have all worked really this term, as have the children working from home.

I hope you will be able to get some down time in the half term holiday. Schools are not open to any pupils over the half term holiday and remote learning will not be set during this time. We also have an INSET day booked for Monday 22nd February as staff are completing training on strategies for improving the attainment of pupils with specific SENDs. We look forward to seeing the children in real life or virtually on Tuesday 23rd February.

This week in school we celebrated Chinese New Year and the children enjoyed a range of activities linked to this special festival.

Schools full re-opening update:

The good news is that infection and death rates continue to fall across the country but last week we were also informed of a new Bristol variant of Coronavirus. If you live, work or are in a support bubble in any of the postcodes where this strain has been found, please ensure you take part in the surge testing so Public Health England can track to spread of this new variant and put in place any measures needed to keep us all safe. The hope continues to be able to begin reopening schools **from 8th March**.

There has been no update on how school will re-open. For example, we do not know if all schools will open at once or if particular year groups will be prioritised. I will let you know as soon as we have any further information. We expect to receive a further update on Monday 22nd February.

The current system of remote learning will continue for those working at home after the February half term until all pupils are able to return to school.

Free school meal vouchers will continue to be provided for those who are entitled to them. If you need any further support with food parcels, please contact Miss Sims.



Remote learning:

Thank you to all those who completed the remote learning survey last week and for all the positive feedback regarding our remote learning offer.

We are continuing to see very high levels of engagement across the whole school and appreciate all you are doing to support your child's learning at home.

If you need some additional support to enable your child to access the remote learning, please contact either your child's class teacher or Miss Sims at the school office and we will do what we can to help.

As well as the majority of children accessing their work through Google classroom, work will continue to be uploaded onto each class webpage and paper copies made available from the Office. All work for EYFS and Y1 will continue to be uploaded to Tapestry, until school re-opens fully. All the work is uploaded onto all 3 platforms from Year 2 to Year 6, as feedback from parents is that all 3 platforms are used. Parents should not have to use all 3 to access the work, so if this is the case then please let me know.

We are expecting a new delivery of laptops/chrome books either during or after the holiday so if you require more help with technology, please let us know after the holiday.

Reading books:

It has been good to see parents and children collecting reading books from school this week. Each class has been allocated a day and time to collect them. Unfortunately, given the current lockdown situation, children are not able to browse through the books at the moment. Class teachers will arrange for 2/3 books for you to collect. You will need to inform your child's teacher in advance, if you require books, by Class Dojo, Tapestry or Google Classroom. All books will need to be returned the following week, and the books will then be quarantined for 72 hours before we can give them to other children.

Please see the times below:

Year 6 - Friday - 09.30am - 10.00am

Year 5 - Friday - 10.00am - 10.30am

Year 4 – Friday - 10.30am - 11.00am

Year 3 – Friday – 11.00am – 11.30am

Year 2 – Friday – 1.00pm – 1.30pm

Year 1 – Friday 1.30pm – 2.00pm

Reception – Friday – 2.00pm – 2.30pm

If you cannot make the allocated time, please contact Miss Sims.



Coronavirus update:

For those pupils attending school, it is vitally important that you do not send your child into school if they are unwell. This is as many children in each bubble have parents who are critical workers and they would not be able to attend work if their child developed symptoms after contact with someone who was unwell and later tested positive for coronavirus.

As the weather continues to be cold, please do not send your child into school with a cough, even if you think it is because of a cold. They will need to have a negative test result to be able to return to school.

We are very lucky that, so far, we have been able to keep all the bubbles open but are aware that this may change at any moment.

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, who wish, will 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. The government currently estimate this 1 in every 3 people. As you can imagine, this has its pros and cons! It is a very welcome step for us working in school as we are able to protect your children, each other and both sets of families by not coming into work and unknowingly spreading the virus. However, it may mean that staffing levels are such that it would not be safe to open some or all classes if a large number of staff test positive as a result.

At times when the rooms are being ventilated, your child may feel colder than usual in school and so they are able to wear an extra layer on top, such as a zip up hoodie/cardigan/sleeveless jacket that does not have to be school uniform.

World Book Day :

World book day is fast approaching, this takes place on Thursday 4th March 2021. Unfortunately, we will still be providing remote learning at this time. However, we are planning lots of fun activities during the day that both children at home and in school can join in with. We are still inviting children to dress up as their favourite book character if they would like to. We are organising a 'masked reader' event during the day and also running a potato book character competition.

Further details of the day will come home after half term, each class already has the information relating to book character potato on their remote learning portal so you can start to plan ahead! We cannot wait to see all the wonderful designs.



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

Be kind to yourselves and stay safe,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I11mUSu7aeA&list=RD111mUSu7aeA&start_radio=1&safe=active



Mrs Kingston

Key Dates:

Monday 22nd February – Inset Day

Tuesday 23rd February – Start of Term 4

Monday 1st March – Secondary School Offer Day

Thursday 4th March – World Book Day

Thursday 1st April – End of Term 4

