



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs.J.Kingston

22nd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are now halfway through this term: 3 weeks down and 3 left to go. This term has been so full of change and anxiety for many that it certainly feels like much longer. The Year 6 pupils and I were only discussing this morning how it feels like about 10 weeks since Christmas!

Thank you to those who managed to join us for our first live streamed Assembly this morning. It was lovely to see the children at home. The aim is that the "Word on Wednesday Assembly" and a Friday "Celebration Assembly" will be live streamed each week for the remainder of the term. We think it is really important to recognise those pupils who are working from home as well as those pupils who are adjusting to a very different school environment, and so there will be 2 "Best Learners of the Week" awards for each class for the remainder of this term.

Remote learning:

We are continuing to see very successful home learning for all pupils who are unable to attend school due to the current government restrictions. Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure a broad range of learning opportunities for pupils that are accessible to all. We have had some lovely feedback about children enjoying the live lessons that teachers are providing as well as using the White Rose Maths Videos to support Maths.

As part of the duty to provide remote learning provision, we are also required to record levels of engagement in learning. We recognise that families are facing a range of pressures and challenges at the moment and it is not always possible to complete all of the work all of the time. That said, it is helpful for us to have some indication each day that work has been undertaken. This could be simply a picture uploaded to class dojo or a comment on Google Classroom. We also urge you to join the Google Live Lessons wherever possible. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to see their teachers and their peers, and also be guided on the work being completed. For those children in EYFS and Y1, you can show us you are engaging in the work with your child by liking the post the class teacher puts on.

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. Please be aware that if we get to the end of the week and a child has not engaged in any learning at all, you may receive an email or phone call from a member of the Senior Leadership team.



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.

Alongside the online activities being provided teachers are being given time to call those pupils who are not in school to speak to them. If they have not managed to speak to your child and haven't seen them engaging with the work, you will be sent a text from the Office to contact us so we know you are ok.

We have now distributed our full allocation of laptops/i-pads from the DFE to those families who requested one. We are very fortunate that one of the parishioners very kindly donated nearly £900 pounds to the school to buy extra laptops and they are now on order. If you still need help with technology at home, please contact Miss Sims and we will add your name to the waiting list.

If you have any further suggestions of good remote learning practice, please do not hesitate to ring me to discuss.

Reading books:

As things are settling in school, we are now in a position to offer the opportunity for you to collect reading books for your child from school, if you wish. Each class will be allocated a day and time when you will be able to visit school to collect them. Unfortunately, given the current lockdown situation, children will not be 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 book, by class dojo, Tapestry or Google Classroom. All books will need to be returned the following, and the books will then be quarantined for 72 hours before we can give them to other children.

Reception - Friday - 09.30am - 10.00am

Year 1 - Friday - 10.00am - 10.30am

Year 2 – Friday - 11.00am - 11.30am

Year 3 - Thursday - 09.30am - 10.00am

Year 4 - Thursday - 10.00am - 10.30am

Year 5 - Thursday - 11.00am - 11.30am

Year 6 - Thursday - 11.30am - 12.00pm

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. We currently have 5 members of staff unavailable to work on site due self-isolation or shielding reasons. We currently only have 1 cleaner available, so class teachers and LSAs are also cleaning their own classrooms at the end of each day as well as planning, teaching and marking work for those pupils at home and in school. I am reminded every day how fortunate we are to have such a strong dedicated staff team here at Holy Cross. I am sure you are as grateful as I am for all their hard work.

From Monday we are beginning the rapid COVID home testing scheme 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.

As always, thank you for your understanding and support. Please take care of yourselves and your families. You are doing a wonderful job in very trying circumstances.

In school we are following the motto for this term which is "One day at a time." I hope when you find home schooling or being in a national lockdown difficult this helps you get through the day.



Mrs Kingston

