



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs.J.Kingston

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year!

Here we are again... It is with great sadness that we are once again faced with so many of our wonderful pupils learning remotely, whilst we provide places for only those identified by the government as being able to attend school.

We are pleased that so far we have been able to offer places to all critical worker children who have requested spaces, as well a small number of children who are able to attend under the category of vulnerable learners.

At the time of writing, all the available spaces have been taken, except in 1 class. If we have any more requests from critical worker children we will have to reassess some cases under the vulnerable criteria as well as any pupils where only one parent is a critical worker. This is so we can ensure the best ratios to keep the pupils, staff and their families safe.

Remote learning:

The children who are in school have been amazing this week, as have the children working from home. Work continues to be uploaded onto the school website and Class Dojo on each individual class page weekly.

We are also introducing Google Classroom in the majority of year groups and details on how your child can upload their work this way will be sent out by the teacher. We have trialled live streaming some lessons this week in different year groups using Google Meets and have been very pleased with the results. We plan to do this more regularly each week as the term progresses. Class teachers will share information on how you can join these sessions on Class Dojo or Tapestry. Some of you may feel uneasy about this way of learning and so it is a personal decision whether your child joins in or not.

It is working well with the older children and again we are hoping to hold more online sessions for the younger children to see how it works. We are very aware that what works for the older pupils may not be so effective for the younger ones. If you have any further suggestions of good remote learning practice, please do not hesitate to ring me to discuss.



If you require paper copies, please contact Miss Sims in the Office and she can arrange a convenient collection time with you. We are awaiting delivery of further laptops/i-pads from the DFE for any pupils who do not have access to sufficient technology at home. Once the devices arrive, more information will follow on how to apply for one, if necessary.

You may have heard the education secretary's announcement that if you have any concerns about our remote learning offer you can report them directly to OFSTED. Please remember although, of course you can do this, I would ask that you speak to your child's teacher and/or me in the first instance.

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.

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.

Masses:

Over the Christmas holiday, we were delighted to hear from Fr Rupert and the Diocese of Clifton that plans are in place to re start Mass in the School Hall. I will be able to give you more information once a full risk assessment has been carried out by the Diocese.

This means that we will also be able to celebrate the First Communion Masses for those children who were prepared last year. More information will follow.

Free school meals provision:

Food boxes will be available from Tuesday next week for those pupils entitled to FSM who are not currently attending school. To limit the number of people on site, Miss Sims will contact you with an allocated time slot to collect the parcel.

If you are not eligible for free school meals but are in need of support with food, please speak to Miss Sims as we have food parcels available for any family who need them.

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



Mrs Kingston

