



Leen Mills Lane, Hucknall
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Headteacher: Mrs Tammie McNamara

Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

Loved, Valued, Challenged



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23rd January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers



Catholic Life

Father Richard continues to be in school most Fridays for Class Mass. This allows our children to get to know Father Richard and for them to start building a positive relationship with their Parish Priest. Each class is on a rota for celebrating Mass in their classroom and parents will be informed of when their child's Mass will be, as parents and parishioners are welcome to attend. Our school Chaplain, Lucy Trealar, comes to school every Thursday afternoon to support our children with their Liturgical Prayer. Lucy spends time supporting our children with either a class retreat, Mass preparation, Faith in Action with our Year 6 pupils and leads our Chaplaincy team. All Class Masses have been added to the calendar section on the school website under the News tab.

First Holy Communion

Thank you to our families for your patience whilst we have been waiting for the parish to set a date for First Holy Communion. First Holy Communion will be on **Saturday 17th June at 11am** at Holy Cross Church.

Staffing update

This term, we have welcomed Miss Rachel Bowen to Holy Cross and she is working as a teaching assistant in our Nursery. Miss Bowen has joined us from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, where she has previous experience in PE and Sports, as well as being a qualified teaching assistant.

Buildings update

The building work extension project to have our new Nursery and upgraded EYFS unit and KS1 classrooms is on track for completion at the end of the February half term 2023. This is fantastic news and I am extremely pleased with the progress the builders are making and how well our youngest children in school and staff have adapted to working in different learning environments this academic year.

Teacher Strike Action

A letter for parents was shared on the whole school Class Dojo school story outlining information for teacher strike action. This outlines four dates that might affect classes being open on these dates. These are:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Wednesday 1 March 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

Please be prepared for short notice on possible class closures.

School uniform (Forest Schools)

I have received several requests from parents asking if we could review the uniform policy for Forest Schools from a white t-shirt to a darker coloured t-shirt. This parent feedback has been taken into consideration and discussed with school governors and has been agreed that we will be changing the Forest School day t-shirt to either a navy blue or black t-shirt. Your child will no longer be expected to wear a white t-shirt for Forest School day. This uniform change will come in to effect starting after the February half term 2023. The office will liaise with *Price*

and Buckland, our uniform provider, to request if t-shirts with the school logo on can be supplied in navy blue and black. PE t-shirt will continue to be a white t-shirt.

School shoes/trainers

Please ensure your child is wearing black school shoes and trainers for PE days. We expect children to wear either black, navy or white trainers. Please do not send children to school in expensive branded or brightly coloured trainers. We have a few children who have been coming into school wearing trainers. If you are waiting for new school shoes to arrive, please inform the office or your child's class teacher, as your child will be asked why they are wearing trainers if it is not a PE day.

Used uniform

I am very grateful to our school governors who have collected in used uniform that can be distributed to other families. Please let the school office know if you are in need of any school uniform and would like to access the used uniform.

Termly Learning Meetings (Parents' evenings) and SEND reviews

Our termly learning meetings will take place at the end of this half term. We are offering our online meetings on Monday 6th February and face to face meetings on Wednesday 8th February. It is really important that parents are kept up to date with their children's academic progress at school and we value the learning partnership between school and home. Information about your child's attendance, behaviour, homework, achievements and next steps are always shared with parents during these meetings. If your child has Special Educational Needs, Mrs Bruce is organising a separate timetable for parent meetings. If you are attending a SEND review, you **do not** need to also book a Termly Learning meeting. These meetings can be booked via your child's Arbor account.

Book Fair

Thank you to Mrs Fitzpatrick who has organised the book fair to visit Holy Cross from the 7th – 9th February. Details about when your child can visit the book fair has been shared on whole Class Dojo.

Storytelling week

Our children will be taking part in Storytelling week on 30th January 2023. This will include a story writing competition and a book swap event. Details have been shared on Class Dojo explaining that your child can bring a good quality book to school for the book swap event on Tuesday 31st January.

Home achievements – Friday Achievement Assembly

We love to celebrate our children's gifts and talents at Holy Cross, in school, as well as their out of school achievements. Your child is always very welcome to bring in any home achievements to school to share with everyone during our Friday Achievement Assembly.

School places

We currently have one space available in our Year 2 class and one space available in our Year 1 class. We also have spaces available in our Nursery. All of our other classes are currently full. If you have any family members or friends who would be interested in joining our Holy Cross school family for either the Nursery or Reception places for September 2023, please contact the school office on office@holycross.notts.sch.uk.

Diary dates

The school office will add any new diary dates for the year on the electronic school calendar on the school website. Class teachers continue to share key dates with parents on class newsletters and Class Dojo.

Thank you to our families for your ongoing support.

God bless,

Mrs McNamara