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Headteacher: Mrs Tammie McNamara

## Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

Loved, Valued, Challenged



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20<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



### Catholic Life

This Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Lent is a period of 40 days and reminds us of when Jesus fasted in the desert. It is a time when we remember the love of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death and sacrifice for us.

We will have a whole school Ash Wednesday Liturgy, where all of the children will receive the ashes.

### Altar servers

Before half term, we welcomed Michael Hallam in to school to talk with our Year 4, 5 and 6 children about whether they would be interested in training at Holy Cross Church to become an altar server. Michael explained his role at Holy Cross Church as an altar server and showed the children his gold medal that he received from the Bishop for his 50 years of service as an altar server. If your child does attend Holy Cross Church and is interested in training to be an altar server, please do let Michael or Father Richard know. Father Richard is then also able to support the training of children as altar servers during class Mass at school every Friday morning.

### First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion classes will commence this week. The first meeting will be this **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 6pm** in the little room at the back of church. The children are not required to attend this first meeting. The children will make their First Holy Communion on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 11am** at Holy Cross Church. We are very blessed to have a supportive group of parents in Year 3 who are leading the classes at Holy Cross Church this year.

### Non school uniform day – Response to Emergency Turkey-Syria earthquake appeal

This **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February**, we will be having a non-school uniform day to raise money for CAFOD. We are inviting children to bring £1 in exchange for wearing non-school uniform. Parents and Friends group will be collating this money, as we are now a cashless school, and they operate a separate bank account. The money raised will go towards the Turkey-Syria earthquake appeal where it is now reported around 46,000 people have lost their lives. The CAFOD website provides further information about how all the money raised is offering support:

*We have been amazed by your compassionate response to this emergency and your donations will help local experts in Syria and Türkiye (Turkey) to keep providing:*

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Heating material, blankets and mattresses
- Hygiene kits
- Counselling
- Support to our local experts' staff who have been also directly impacted by the earthquake

<https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/turkey-syria-earthquake-how-your-support-is-helping>

### **Fairtrade fortnight**

We have been awarded the next level Fairtrade Foundation award, so we are now a 'Fair Active school'. This is reflected in our curriculum work linked to Fairtrade fortnight which starts 27<sup>th</sup> February – 12<sup>th</sup> March. Please consider purchasing Fairtrade products during this time to help raise awareness for global farmers receiving a fair trade price for their crops and produce.

### **Staffing update:**

This term, we have welcomed Mr Charles Archer to our Trust schools as a school Chaplain. This means we now have Lucy Trealor and Charles Archer who are both school Chaplains based at Christ the King secondary school, but spend half a day a week in the feeder Catholic primary schools. The children will have the opportunity to work with both Lucy and Charles throughout the academic year.

### **Buildings update**

A separate letter has been sent out on Class Dojo in relation to the update with the building work in our Infant block and exterior areas around school.

### **Holiday Club update**

A separate letter has been sent out on Class Dojo to update parents about arrangements for Holy Cross introducing a new Holiday Club! This was following on from the feedback we received from the parent survey we sent out last academic year. Further details about the new Holiday Club provision are included on the letter.

### **Teacher Strike Action**

There are three further dates scheduled for teacher strike days:

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

Please be prepared for short notice of class closures for all classes again.

### **Wrap Around Care Provision**

As from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, if you require wrap around care provision and haven't booked or forgotten then please do this via email only by **1.00pm** on the date you require this, to our Coordinator Christa Bales, [cbales@holycross.notts.sch.uk](mailto:cbales@holycross.notts.sch.uk). This is to ensure Ms Bales is aware of staffing requirements or if you need to cancel the booking. Please pre-book if you are able to ensure a place. **We will not be able to accept any bookings after 1.00pm to ensure we have the correct staff/children ratio as the after school club is reaching maximum capacity most nights.**

### **School Uniform (Forest Schools)**

It 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 immediate effect starting this week as we return to school.

Price and Buckland now have a Forest school T-shirt with the school logo on of you wish to purchase this for Forest school days. Alternatively, a plain black or navy T-shirt will be accepted too. We do not accept T-shirts that are branded or have other writing on as part of school uniform.

Our PE T-shirt will continue to be a white T-shirt. This is available with the school logo on from Price and Buckland or you can send your child in a plain white unbranded T-shirt. Please do not send your child wearing a T-shirt with writing on, as this is not accepted as part of school uniform.

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/schools/holy-cross-primary-catholic.html>

### **School shoes / Trainers**

Please ensure your child is wearing black school shoes or 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, as these are not part of school uniform.

We have a few children who have been coming in to 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**

Our school governors collected in used uniform that is available to 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. Any lost property that remains in school for more than half a term is taken to the charity shop.

### **Termly Learning Meetings (Parents' evenings) and SEND reviews**

Thank you to parents who have attended their child's termly learning meeting, either via Teams or face to face. It is really important that parents are kept up to date with their children's academic progress at school, as we highly value the learning partnership between school and home.

Mrs Bruce has organised a separate timetable for our children's SEND parent reviews. Information about the dates for the SEND reviews has been shared on Class Dojo. Please ensure you go online and book your appointment.

### **Book Fair**

Thank you to Mrs Fitzpatrick who organised the book fair visit to Holy Cross before half term. Phenomenal success! Total of £1401.90 in sales so we have earned £841.14 in rewards to spend on books. This will be split with each class having some to spend on new books for their reading area, the nurture room, EYFS and then the rest will be spent on updating and refreshing the school library. Any books which were sold out at the fair but have been paid for have been ordered. These will be sent out to children as soon as they arrive in school. A really big thank you for all the support, it's fantastic to see so many children with their heads buried in books!

### **Winners of the story writing competition**

Ollie in Year 6 and Claire in Year 2 were the key stage winners and Abigail in Year 4 was the runner up. It was fantastic to see children getting involved in writing some really imaginative stories and I know teachers were really impressed with the children who entered too. The winners and runner up will have their stories displayed on the wall in the library and Dojo and all the competition entries will be collated into a book to share in the classes.

### **World Book Day**

Instead of dressing up, we would like the children to decorate a plain t shirt with their favourite book. This could be by drawing the front cover with pens, a portrait of one of the characters or a biography of the author. The choice really is up to you. Each class will be decorating a lantern with a book of their choice to brighten up the library areas. They will also be taking part in some other activities throughout the day too. There will be World Book Day tokens coming out soon which give you £1 off a book at local shops and providers. Details will be on the voucher.

### **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](mailto:office@holycross.notts.sch.uk).

### **CALLING CATHOLIC TEACHERS**

Do you know somebody who is a practising Catholic and who is a teacher or senior leader working in a school outside of the Catholic sector? The Diocese of Nottingham along with the Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts is leading a virtual information session about working in a Catholic school on **Wednesday 29 March** from 7.00pm – 8.30pm.

For further information, please contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service ([julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk)).

### Diary dates

The school office will add any new diary dates for the year on the electronic school calendar on the school website. Please do continue to check the school calendar to ensure you are not missing on any key events in school. Class teachers continue to share key dates with parents on class newsletters, Class page on the website and Class Dojo.

*Thank you to our families for your ongoing support.*

*God bless,*

*Mrs McNamara*

### Diary dates February – March Lent 2 2023

Date	Event	Who is involved?
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Sleep workshops to support well-being and mental health	Class 4 and Class 5 children
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Ash Wednesday Liturgy	All classes
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Non-school uniform day – Turkey/Syria CAFOD earthquake appeal	All classes
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 4 Mass – 9:30am	Class 4 parents invites to attend
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Fairtrade Fortnight	All classes
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 2 Curriculum Assembly – Farming – 2:45pm	Class 2 parents invited to attend
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Teacher Strike Action Day	All classes
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day	All classes
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Class 5 Mass – 9:30am	Class 5 parents invited to attend
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 1 Curriculum Assembly – Community – 2:45pm	Class 1 parents invited to attend
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 4 Trip – Chesterfield - Romans focus	Class 4 children
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Class Mass – 9:30am	Reception parents invited to attend
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Road Safety workshops	All classes
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 6 Mass – 9:30am	Class 6 parents invited to attend
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 5 Space Centre Trip	Class 5 children
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Reconciliation in school with Father Richard	Children from Class 4, 5 and 6 who would like to attend Reconciliation during Lent.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	KS2 Disco	All children from KS2 invited to attend
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 1 Mass – 9:30am	Class 1 parents invited to attend
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Adoration led by Father Richard	KS2 classes
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Stations of the Cross performance by Year 3 and 4 (Dress rehearsal)	Perform to Year 5 and 6
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Stations of the Cross performance by Year 3 and 4 (Parents) – 2:30pm	Parents of Class 3 and 4 invited to attend
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Whole school Mass	Parents invited to attend
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	EYFS / KS1 Easter bonnet parade – 2:30pm	Parents of EYFS / KS1 invited to attend
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	KS2 Easter egg hunt	Class 3, 4, 5 and 6
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>BREAK UP FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	