



Leen Mills Lane, Hucknall
Nottinghamshire, NG15 8BZ
Headteacher: Mrs Tammie McNamara

Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

Loved, Valued, Challenged



e: office@holycross.notts.sch.uk
t: 0115 953 4577
www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com

17th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



Catholic Life

Lasting fifty days, the season of Easter, also known as Eastertide, is a time for celebrating new life. After journeying with discipline and devotion through our own desert-places during Lent and walking alongside Christ through the difficult days, uncertainty, and betrayal evoked during Holy Week and the Triduum, the light of Easter morning brings the assurance of resurrection and redemption.

As the earth bursts with new life around us and the day grows longer than the night, we are reminded of the significance of the process of our spiritual journey. We must surrender what is old so that we might be made new. Without it, there would be no transformation. It is this truth that we savour and celebrate during the fifty days of Easter from Easter Sunday to Pentecost.

"Risen Lord Jesus, fill everyone I know and love with your resurrection light and joy. Give new life to those who are struggling to survive. Give hope to those who most need it. Bless us all this Easter. Amen"

Class Masses

We continue with our Class Masses on a Friday morning, where each class leads their Mass and Father Richard joins us in school. Our parents and other family members are most welcome to join your child in class for the celebration of Mass.

Altar servers

We currently have two children who are now altar servers at school. If your child is still interested in training to be an altar server, they can either speak to Michael at Holy Cross Church on Sunday or can speak with Father Richard when he is in school. Please let Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mrs Bruce or I know if your child is interested.

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion classes will continue on **Thursday evenings** at Holy Cross church. The children will make their First Holy Communion on **Saturday 17th 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.

Holy Cross Church and Parish Links

The latest Holy Cross Church newsletter can be accessed here:

<https://www.holycrosshucknall.org.uk/files/Newsletter%20April%2016th%202023.pdf>

You can find information about Holy Cross Church here:

<https://www.holycrosshucknall.org.uk/>

New payment system

Thank you to parents for your patience with transferring over to the new payment system on Arbor, as I am aware there have been some challenges with this and please be assured we have fed this back to our IT team, who are leading with the transition to this new system.

If you are still having any difficulties booking dinners or wrap around care please call in to the school office where Paula and Teresa will endeavour to help you navigate the new system.

Holy Cross Garden Project

Voting is now open in the local Tesco store. Please ask for tokens as apparently the token jars at the top of the voting booth are not always full. We are hoping to raise funds to put towards continuing to improve our gardens around school to support our children's well-being and mental health. Thank you.

Road safety and parking

Just an ongoing polite reminder to ask our parents to park considerately on the roads around our school. I have had a couple of parents raise concerns about cars parking on the grass verges on the corner of Ethel Avenue. The neighbours have raised concerns that the tyre marks from the cars are damaging the grass verges.

Can I also ask parents to ensure our children arrive safely into school by ensuring that children are not crossing the road by themselves. There have still been a couple of incidents where parents are stopping their car on the other side of the road and allowing children to get out of the car and cross the road unsupervised. This is not safe and could parents kindly get out of the car to see your child safely across the road and into school. Some parents have expressed their concerns to me when witnessing other parents doing this. Thank you for your co-operation with trying to keep all of our children safe.

Just a reminder that there is still an open vacancy for a school crossing patrol person that has yet to be filled.

Nursery

Our new Nursery is steadily starting to increase in numbers. Please spread the word to any family and friends who are looking for Nursery places that we now have a Nursery at Holy Cross and there are spaces available. We can offer wrap around care for our Nursery children for any parents who need that additional childcare support before and after school.

If you would like further information about the Nursery, please see the school office or arrange to speak with Mrs Khalil or Mrs Bruce, who would be glad to provide you with further information.

School places available

We currently have school places available in:

Year 1 – 1 place

Year 2 – 1 place

We also have spaces available in our Nursery.

If you know anyone who is looking to transfer to Holy Cross School, please share this information with them. 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.

Staffing update:

We were pleased to welcome Miss Lloyd back to school towards the end of last half term. Miss Lloyd will be initially teaching groups across upper Key Stage Two.

We have also made a new midday supervisor appointment in our Nursery and we are pleased to welcome Samantha Walker to the position.

We are also pleased to welcome Grace Law to the position of Special Education Needs teaching assistant.

Assessment arrangements

This term, we have several children who will be completing their statutory assessments in Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6. Below are the dates for parents to be aware of:

- **Year 6 KS2 SATS – Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May**
- **Year 2 KS1 SATS – Monday 15th May (Completed over 2 weeks)**
- **Year 1 Phonics Screening Check – Monday 12th June – Friday 16th June**
- **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check – Monday 5th June – Friday 16th June**

Please ensure you try to avoid making any appointments during the school day during your child's assessment weeks.

Class teachers will continue to keep parents informed of how you can be supporting your child at home for completing their statutory assessments.

End of year school reports

Your child's school report will be shared on **Friday 7th July**. During the week beginning 10th July, there will be an opportunity for you to discuss any concerns from your child's report with the class teacher. This is not a Termly Learning meeting, and **is only if you need to discuss something specific within the report**.

Term-time holidays

Please note that we cannot authorise any absence from school for family holidays during term-time. Further information can be found on our website and in the Attendance Policy. If you are planning to take your children out of school during term-time, please complete the absence of leave request form.

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/parents/term-and-school-diary-dates/>

If your child's holiday absence amounts to a certain number of days, we are required to pass this information to the Education Welfare Officer at the Local Authority and you may be issued with a penalty notice.

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/02/Pupil-Attendance-Policy.pdf>

Mobile Phones in school (Parents)

Before the first COVID lockdown, and as part of our Safeguarding procedures, we had a 'no mobile phones' policy in school when parents came in for events, such as assemblies, workshops, etc. We would like to return to this expectation and politely ask that once any parents come in to school through main Reception, that mobile phones are not out on show.

We used to also request that parents did not collect their child from the playground whilst talking on their mobile phone. Again, this is something we would like to return to (unless it is an emergency call you are receiving). We will arrange for signage around school to remind parents of this.

Holiday Club update

Thank you to those families who used the holiday club at Holy Cross during the Easter break. We would like to gather some feedback from our families who accessed this service. We would appreciate you completing a short questionnaire to allow us to gather your views.

Teacher Strike Action

There are two further proposed dates scheduled for teacher strike days:

- Thursday 27th April 2023
- Tuesday 2nd May 2023

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

School Uniform (Summer)

We are now in the term where our school uniform for children in Year 1 – 6 changes to the summer uniform. This includes a blue polo shirt, grey shorts and blue gingham dress. The uniform remains the same for our children in the Early Years, other than they can wear navy/black shorts on warm days. We appreciate that on cooler days,

children will still need to wear their winter uniform. Please use your own discretion on when to allow your child to wear summer clothing.

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/parents/school-uniform/>

School Uniform (Forest Schools)

Just a reminder that we changed the Forest School day T-shirt to either a navy blue or black T-shirt. Your child is no longer expected to wear a white T-shirt for Forest School day.

Price and Buckland 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.

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.

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 April – July 2023 Pentecost Term 2023

Date	Event	Who is involved?
Monday 17 th April	Year 2 Parents' Workshop – Maths 8:45am – 9:30am	Class 2 Parents
Friday 21 st April	Earth Day 'Restore our Earth' Mass 9:30am (Year 2 Mass) (Linked to Conservation curriculum theme)	All classes
Monday 24 th April	Other Faiths week	All classes
Monday 24 th April	Year 1 Parents' Workshop – Maths 8:45am – 9:30am	Class 1 Parents
Thursday 27 th April	NEU Teacher Strike Day	To be confirmed
Friday 28 th April	Class 3 Mass 9:30am	All children and parents

	Parents and Friends Cake Sale - Afternoon	
Monday 1 st May	BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED	All classes
Tuesday 2 nd May	NEU Teacher Strike Day	To be confirmed
Wednesday 3 rd May	Year 2 Class trip – Pizza Express	Year 2
	Class 5 Curriculum Assembly – Conservation – 2:45pm	Class 5 parents invited to attend
Friday 5 th May	King's Coronation Day activities	All classes
Monday 8 th May	BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED (King's coronation)	All classes
Tuesday 9 th May – Friday 12 th May	Year 6 SATS (Morning)	Year 6 children
Wednesday 10 th May	Class 3 Curriculum Assembly – Cultural Similarities and Differences – 2:45pm	Class 3 parents invited to attend
Friday 12 th May	Whole school Mass led by Class 1	All welcome
Monday 15 th May – Friday 26 th May	Year 2 SATS	Year 2 children
Monday 15 th May	Year 3 Parents' Workshop – Maths 8:45am – 9:30am	Class 3 Parents
Thursday 18 th May	Ascension Day – Holy day of obligation	All children
Friday 19 th May	Year 4 Class Mass	All welcome
Monday 22 nd May – Friday 26 th May	EYFS – Year 5 – History week Year 6 – Geography week	All classes
Friday 26 th May	EYFS class Mass Break up for half term	All welcome All classes
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	HALF TERM	All classes
Monday 5 th June – Wednesday 7 th June	Year 6 Residential – Mount Cook	Class 6 children
Friday 9 th June	Class 6 Mass	All welcome
Wednesday 14 th June	Class photographs	All classes
Thursday 15 th June	EYFS – Curriculum Assembly – Keeping Safe and Healthy – 2:15pm for refreshments	Nursery and Reception children and parents
Friday 16 th June	Year 2 Class Mass Year 4 school trip – Jorvik Centre, York	All welcome Class 4
Saturday 17 th June	First Holy Communion – Holy Cross Church 11am	All welcome
Monday 19 th June	International Food week Refugee week	All classes
Thursday 22 nd June	Year 4 Class assembly	Year 4 parents welcome.
Friday 23 rd June	Year 3 Mass	All welcome
Wednesday 28 th June	Sports day	All welcome
Monday 3 rd July	Blessing of new school building – Bishop Patrick to attend 2pm	All classes Parents and family members welcome to attend.
Thursday 6 th July	Year 6 Curriculum Assembly – Social Justice 2:45pm	Class 6 parents welcome to attend.
Friday 7 th July	Summer Fair 2pm	All families welcome to attend.

Monday 10 th July – Wednesday 12 th July	Year 5 Residential - Mount Cook	Class 5 children
Monday 10 th July – Tuesday 11 th July	Year 6 Christ the King secondary school Transition visits	Class 6 children who are going to CTK secondary school.
Thursday 13 th July	KS2 Summer Disco 6:30pm – 8pm	Children from Class 3 - 6
Wednesday 19 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Holy Cross Church – 1:30pm	Class 6 parents welcome to attend at Church.
Friday 21 st July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly at School - 2:30pm	Class 6 parents welcome to attend.

Please check the school calendar regularly to keep up to date with any events.

[Calendar | \(holycrossschoolhucknall.com\)](http://holycrossschoolhucknall.com)

