



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

5 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome back to the new academic year! I hope you have enjoyed your family summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our children back to school and supporting them in their new class year group school routines.

Staffing updates

Mrs Tipton has returned from maternity leave to continue full-time in her role as Deputy Headteacher and school Special Educational Needs co-ordinator. We are grateful to Mrs Bruce and Miss Duong for their additional leadership commitments during the time of Mrs Tipton's maternity leave.

Forest Schools

Mrs Hudson will be continuing to lead our children's Forest Schools sessions fortnightly. Mrs Hudson will continue to share information linked to Forest Schools on the class pages of Dojo.

PE Lessons

We will continue to have Mr Woolley teaching our Year 5 and 6 children PE lessons. Mr Woolley will then continue with the after schools sports club and specific year groups will receive an information letter regarding this.

New class information

Your child's class teacher will be sharing a welcome video with you this week. This will be a short video to introduce themselves to you and to share some key information that you will need for the start of the new term. If you have any follow up questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher via Class Dojo.

Class Dojo communication

We will aim to only communicate with families via Class Dojo between the working hours of the school day. It should only be in emergency situations or short notice messages if you receive any communication after 6pm or during the weekend.

If you contact a member of staff after 6pm, please do not expect a response until at least the following working day.

You are always welcome to Dojo myself or Mrs Tipton if there is a more urgent or Safeguarding concerns.

Jewellery

Please could you note that we request no jewellery is to be worn for PE lessons. If your child is unable to independently take their earrings out, please can parents take their child's earrings out the morning of PE.

Please ensure your child does not come to school wearing any other jewellery including bracelets, necklaces, etc. We would prefer small studs for school and will accept small hooped earrings.

Nail polish and tattoos

Towards the end of last term, we noticed an increase in children coming to school with tattoos and nail polish. We understand that children attend parties during the weekends, but please could parents ensure any tattoos and nail polish have been removed for Monday.

Hair accessories

Please ensure that any hair accessories your child is wearing are school colours – blue, black or white.

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.

Catholic Life

Father Richard will be celebrating Mass for the Feast of the Holy Cross at Church on **Wednesday 14th September at 10am**. Parents and family members are welcome to join us and attend Mass on this date. It will be for our children in Year 1 – Year 6. Our children in Class 4 will be starting their swimming lessons on this day, so they will not be attending Mass on this occasion.

Summer Reading Challenge

If your child managed to complete the summer reading challenge, please ask them to bring in their certificate for their class teacher to see. We always like to promote and encourage our children to take part in the reading challenge to ensure they continue to read regularly throughout the school holidays.

Class Page of School Website

The teachers will be adding information for parents and resources for children over the next few days on the Class Page of the school website.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be taking children's individual photographs on Tuesday 3rd October.

Diary dates

The school office will add the diary dates for the year on the electronic school calendar on the school website. Class teachers will also share key dates with parents on class newsletters.

PE uniform

Please ensure your child is only wearing PE items, such as school hoodies, when it is their PE day.

Harvest Liturgy

Our Harvest Liturgy will be led by Class 5 this year on Friday 6th October at 9:30am. Parents of children in Class 5 are invited to join us on this day.

Our Diocesan theme this first term is **Encounter**. Bishop Patrick encourages schools across the Diocese to support the vulnerable and the homeless. Therefore, our food collections for the Harvest Liturgy will be taken to Under One Roof to support the Foodbank. Please could parents send any food donations for the Foodbank into school from Wednesday 5th October – Friday 7th October.

With the growing anxieties families are facing regarding the cost of living, we are more passionate than ever about supporting those in our school community and the wider Hucknall community who may need additional support from the Foodbank and *Under one Roof* at this time.

Termly Learning Meetings (Parents' evenings)

Our termly learning meetings will be offered using a hybrid approach as either face to face or online using Microsoft Teams for meetings this term. Parents will be able to book appointment times in the next couple of weeks. These will be held the week beginning Monday 16th October.

Children's reading books

We are always happy to accept used, good quality children's reading books to update our class libraries with, as our well-used books can become rather tatty fairly quickly. If you are ever sorting out reading books at home that your child may no longer read, please consider a book donation to the school, which would be gratefully received. Thank you.

Phonics and Early Reading

Mrs Bruce will be leading Phonics and Early Reading workshops for parents of children in Reception and Year 1. The dates for these will be:

- Reception – Thursday 28th September at 9am
- Year 1 – Thursday 21st September at 9am

Autumn Fair

As we missed our Summer Fair last term, we will be hosting an Autumn Fair on Friday 20th October at 2pm. We will be having two non-school uniforms in preparation for this:

- Friday 22nd September – bring a chocolate item for the chocolate raffle
- Friday 13th October – bring a bottle item for the bottle stall

Macmillan Coffee afternoon

We will be hosting the Macmillan coffee and cake afternoon on **Friday 29th September** at 2:30pm and parents will be invited to attend. Cake donations will be requested closer to the time for this fundraising event.

We are looking forward to all the important learning this term will bring and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with all of our families.

*God bless,
Mrs McNamara*

Diary dates September - December 2023 Advent Term 2023

Date	Event	Who is involved?
Wednesday 6 th September	Welcome all children back to school!	All classes
Thursday 14 th September	Holy Cross Feast Day Mass at Church – 10am	Classes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6
Thursday 21 st September	Class 1 Phonics and Early Reading Parents' workshop – 9am	Class 1 Parents
Friday 22 nd September	Non-uniform day – Bring a chocolate item for the chocolate raffle	All classes
Monday 25 th September	Class 2 Maths Parents' workshop – led by Mrs Tipton – 9am	Class 1 parents
Monday 25 th September	Christ the King Secondary School Open morning for Holy Cross pupils	Class 6 pupils and families
Thursday 28 th September	Reception Phonics and Early Reading Parents' workshop – 9am	Reception class parents
Friday 29 th September	Macmillan coffee and cake afternoon – 2:30pm	All parents welcome to attend
Tuesday 3 rd October	Individual school photographs	All children
Friday 6 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly – led by Class 5 – 9:30am	Parents of children in Class 5

Tuesday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day	All classes
Friday 13 th October	Non-uniform day – bring a bottle for the bottle stall	All classes
Monday 16 th October	Termly Learning Meetings	All classes
Tuesday 17 th October	Flu immunisations	Reception – Class 6 (optional)
Friday 20 th October	Autumn School Fair – 2pm	All welcome
Monday 23 rd October – Friday 3 rd November	HALF TERM	All classes
Monday 6 th November	Return to school	All classes
Friday 10 th November	Remembrance Liturgy	All classes
Monday 13 th November	Anti-bullying week	All classes
Tuesday 14 th November	Open afternoon – 1:30pm – 3pm	All new parents welcome
Tuesday 14 th November	Open evening – 6pm – 7pm	All new parents welcome
Tuesday 12 th December	Class 1 Christingle with Father Richard – 2:15pm	All Class 1 Parents welcome to attend
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day	All classes
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Pantomime – in school	All classes
Tuesday 19 th December	Class 2 Nativity – 2:30pm	Class 2 Parents welcome to attend
Tuesday 19 th December	Class 2 Nativity – 6:30pm	Class 2 Parents welcome to attend
Wednesday 20 th December	Nursery and Reception class Carol Singing – 2:30pm	Nursery and Reception class Parents welcome to attend
Thursday 21 st December	Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One Christmas party – afternoon	Nursery, Reception and KS1 children
Thursday 21 st December	KS2 Christmas Disco – 6:30pm	Children from Class 3 – Class 6
Friday 22 nd December	Carol Concert – 2pm	KS2 Parents welcome to attend
Friday 22 nd December	Break up for Christmas holidays	All classes
Monday 25 th December	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	All classes
Monday 8 th January	Return to school	All classes

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

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

INSET Days for 2023 – 2024

- *Monday 4th September 2023*
- *Tuesday 5th September 2023*
- *Thursday 4th January 2024*
- *Friday 5th January 2024*
- *Friday 9th February 2024*