



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

Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

Loved, Valued, Challenged

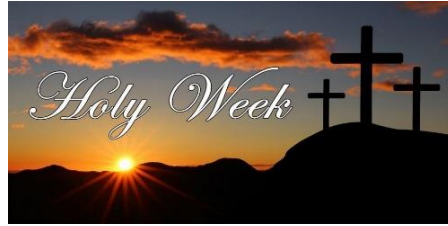


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25 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

NEWSLETTER



Catholic Life

Holy Week is the most significant week in the Catholic Liturgical calendar. Spanning from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, it marks the final stretch before Easter Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. During this sacred week Catholics pray and reflect on the profound journey of Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, and victory over death. It starts on Palm Sunday, a day that commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Holy Thursday celebrates the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist while Good Friday reflects on Jesus' death by crucifixion. Throughout this week, Catholics reflect on the emotional intensity of Jesus' Passion, contemplate His boundless love and mercy, and anticipate the joyous hope of His Resurrection. An intentional Holy Week can serve as a spiritual pilgrimage that deepens our faith.

Chrism Mass – St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham

Many dioceses celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, or the morning of Holy Thursday. Chrism refers to one of the oils used during different Sacraments. During the Chrism Mass, the Oil of the Sick (used during the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick), the Oil of Catechumens (used during the Sacrament of Baptism), and the Chrism oil are consecrated by the Bishop. Large vessels of oils are carried to the altar for the blessings and consecration of Chrism, which is a mixture of oil and balsam. After Mass the oils are distributed to representatives of each parish. The oils are taken back to the parishes and used for the Sacraments throughout the year. **This year, a small group of our Class 4 singers have been invited to join with children from other schools across our Trust to celebrate this Mass on Wednesday this week.**

Easter Play

Our Class 3 and 4 children have been working hard on preparing their Easter play. They will perform this for the children in Class 5 and 6 on Tuesday and again for their families this Wednesday 27th March at 2:30pm. Family members of the children in Class 3 and 4 are welcome to join us for a 2:30pm start.

The Big Lent Walk

Thank you so much to families who have donated to the CAFOD Big Lent Walk. We have currently raised £250! There is still an opportunity to donate to this charity if you have not yet had the opportunity to do so and sponsor your child. The children have enjoyed taking part in their Lent walk every Friday! Well done to all involved and thank you to staff who have organised music for the children to enjoy on their way around the playground! Please click the link for any further donations: <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/holy-cross-primary-hucknall>



School Chaplain

One of our school Chaplains, Charles Archer, will be leaving our family of schools at the end of this week. Charles is going to work with the adult formation team within the Nottingham Diocese. We thank Charles for his support with our children's prayer life during his time working at Holy Cross. We will continue to have chaplaincy support from Vicky, who will continue to cover for Lucy's maternity leave.

First Holy Communion

Please continue to pray for our children in Class 3 who are currently working hard on their preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. We thank the leaders who volunteer and give up their own time each week to support with preparing the children on their faith journey.

Road Safety/Safeguarding

I have got a follow up meeting with the Highways council and Mark Spencer MP on Friday 19th April. The Headteacher from Leen Mills will also join this meeting. This is to discuss the ongoing concerns we have as a school community for the safety of our children crossing the roads around school, respect for our neighbours, as well as the frequent hazardous parking. The council camera car often comes around the school taking photographs of any illegal parking. We also have residents and members of the public photographing illegal parking on the zig zag lines and sending these on to Highways. I would love to gather some parent views in preparation for the meeting, regarding your suggestions for how the council could help make the roads around the school site safer for everyone. Please ensure your views are shared with us before Friday 19th April following the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZSbacAYJrp>

Holiday Club

We are pleased to be able to offer families the option of Holiday Club childcare during the Easter holidays. Leaflets are available in the main reception to give further details about this. Please note the 'Bring a Friend for Free week' that is available. When you book your child just and bring a friend along on the day. Medical information and contact details will be required for the 'friend' when you drop off. Please click this link for further information and prices. <https://ha4k.co.uk/Camps>

Nursery

We are looking forward to welcoming our new intake of Nursery children after Easter. It has been lovely to have the children and their families visit school last week. After Easter, our Nursery will be at full capacity. Please ask for an application pack if you would like your child to start in September 2024. Your child can start in Nursery the term after they are three.

School Dinner Prices

We have been very fortunate in the last few years to keep our school meals prices at a lower cost than what the County Council currently charge for school meals. There has been a slight increase to cover the rising costs of providing good quality school meals. Our Trust also provide a small subsidy for school meals, which helps keep the costs below the County Council costs and they will be continuing to do so. The cost for our school meals is £2.60.

First Aid Communication

We have started to record any First Aid incidents electronically on Arbor. This is to help ensure effective communication between school and home if your child has had an accident and received first aid that day. It will also prevent the paper records getting lost and not making it home. The electronically recorded incidents will be emailed to parents shortly after the event. Please be assured that if your child has a more serious accident at school, a head injury or any other incident that requires further medical attention, you will still receive a phone call.

Parent Consents

The office staff have added several new parental consents to Arbor. This has included administration of First Aid, Intimate Care and Permission to Walk Home Alone (Year 6). Please make time to read and check these consents as soon as possible.

Parents and Friends Cake Sale

A huge thank you to our families for making and donating cakes for the cake sale last week. The Parents and Friends raised £312.40.

School Shoes/Trainers

Please ensure your child is wearing black school shoes every day, unless they have Forest schools or PE. Your child should only wear 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 when it is not their PE days. 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.

School Uniform

After the Easter holidays, the children should return in their **summer school uniform**. Please visit our website to ensure your child is coming to school in the correct school uniform.

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

We have noticed that a growing number of children have not been wearing their school ties recently, with the main reason being they have lost their tie. The school office are currently looking in to keeping a stock of school ties. Then when we return to the winter uniform in September, if your child comes to school without their tie, the office staff can remind parents that we have ties available to purchase at school that day.

Used Uniform

Please let the school office know if you are in need of any school uniform and would like to access the used uniform. We do have parents who generously donate unwanted uniform items. We are always happy to receive good quality used uniform items that can be donated to other families.

Termly Learning Meetings (Parents' Evenings) and SEND Reviews

Thank you to families who have attended their child's termly learning meeting and SEND reviews this half term. It is always a joy for teachers to share your child's progress with you. If you have still not spoken to your child's class teacher this term about your child's academic progress, please ensure you do so before the end of term.

School Places

We currently have spaces available in our reception class. If you have any family members or friends who would be interested in joining our Holy Cross school family for either the Nursery (from September 2024) or current Reception class, please contact the school office on office@holycross.notts.sch.uk. We also have a few spaces left in our Reception class for September 2024. So please also share this information with any family members who might like to consider joining our Holy Cross school family.

Sport Events

Thank you to the children who have represented the school at various sporting events this term. We are incredibly lucky to have many talented children at different sports at Holy Cross. The events have included the swimming gala, boys' football, and girls' football. We are also grateful to the staff who volunteer and give up their time to attend these out of school events. We look forward to the upcoming sporting events next term and staff will keep parents updated of these events. It is important for parents to be aware that children are only selected for these events if they have shown good behaviour in school.

Attendance

Our current whole school attendance is at 96%. Thank you to families who always try their best to ensure their child has good attendance at school. Attendance letters will be issued after the Easter holidays for any pupils whose attendance has fallen below the national average, has fallen below 90% or if their attendance has not improved since last term. Please be aware that it is part of our procedures to monitor pupils' attendance and punctuality and issue attendance letters, but we appreciate some pupils were frequently unwell last term and understand why certain pupil's absence has declined. We will also take personal circumstances into account when attendance is monitored.

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

Headteacher

Diary Dates March-May 2024

Date	Event	Who is involved?
24/03/24	Palm Sunday	-
26/03/24	Class 3 and 4 lead Stations of the Cross for Class 5 and 6 – 2:45pm	Class 5 and 6
27/03/24	Class 3 and 4 lead Stations of the Cross for Parents and Carers – 2:30pm	Parents and Carers welcome to attend for children in Class 3 and 4.
28/03/24	Maundy Thursday	-
28/03/24	BREAK UP FOR EASTER	WHOLE SCHOOL
29/03/24	Good Friday	-
31/03/24	Easter Sunday	-
	PENTECOST TERM	
15/04/24	Return to school	Whole school
15/04/24	Other Faiths week – Islam	Whole school
19/04/24	Mental Health Team – Body image workshop for Year 5 and 6	Class 5 and 6
19/04/24	Class 4 Mass – 9:30am	Class 4 and parents welcome to attend.
22/04/24	Earth Day Class 5 Conservation curriculum theme Assembly – 2:45pm	Whole school Class 5 parents welcome to attend the Assembly at 2:45pm.
23/04/24	Islam Workshops – Key Stage Two	Class 3, 4, 5 and 6
26/04/24	Class 3 Mass – 9:30am	Class 3 and parents welcome to attend.
29/04/24	Seven Trent Water Assembly Class 4 – Water Workshop	Whole school
03/05/24	Class 2 Mass – 9:30am	Class 2 and parents welcome to attend
06/05/24	BANK HOLIDAY	Whole school
07/05/24	Year 2 – Assessment Week	Class 2
07/05/24	Aspens – Make a meal for £5 (Class 3)	Class 3 (more details to follow)
08/05/24 – 10/05/24	PGL Residential	Class 5
09/05/24	Ascension Day Mass – 1:30pm	Reception – Class 6
13/05/24	Year 6 SATS week	Class 6
14/05/24	Parent Anxiety workshop - 1pm – 3pm	All parents welcome to attend.
17/05/24	Class 1 Mass – 9:30am	Class 1 and parents welcome to attend.
20/05/24	Class 6 – Road safety workshop	Class 6
24/05/24	Whole school Mass – The Crowning of Mary – 9:30am	Whole school All family members welcome to attend.
24/05/24	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM	WHOLE SCHOOL