**Holy Cross Newsletter**

A warm welcome back to everyone. I hope you have all had a happy summer, the children certainly look fantastic and well rested.

**Newsletters available online**

Newsletters and updates are be available via the school website at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holycrossblog/> or <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/> to sign up for Holy Cross newsletters and updates which will go straight to your email address. This is a great way of ensuring that you don’t miss anything; the paper copies have a habit of disappearing into school bags, never to be seen again! It will also greatly reduce the amount of paper we use and will reduce our carbon footprint.

Paper copies will only be sent to parents/carers who do not have access online.

**Uniform**

The children look fantastic in their uniforms and are all turned out like new pins! A huge thank you for this, the beautiful presentation of our children encourages a sense of community and pride in themselves and Holy Cross.

A reminder that **black clothing** **is not** part of our school uniform. Support with uniform can come from a Clothing Grant and Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Uniform bank. We also have some jumpers and cardigans available which were lost property. These have been washed and ironed and are in very good condition. Should you require support with uniform please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Shaw in confidence.

**False Nails & Make Up**

We are blessed with beautiful children none of whom need false nails or make up. False nails pose a risk of injury to self and others during playtimes and PE. Any pupil wearing false nails will not be permitted to take part in PE to ensure the safety of others.

**Open Evening Wednesday 6th September 7-8pm**

Now in its third year this event is extremely well attended and is a clear indication of the commitment placed by families to our children’s education. This year there will be a very brief presentation on our School Improvement Priorities and an update on the ‘F.A.B’ time that was introduced last session. There will then be an opportunity to visit your child’s class, including nursery, have a walk around the rest of the school to visit classrooms and chat with staff. Tea, coffee and juice will be available.

**Primary 1 Parent/Carer Workshop Thursday 21st September, 1.45pm.**

This workshop will walk you through some of the learning taking place in Primary 1 and the different methods we use when teaching. There is also a chance to work with your child and have a closer look at the resources we are using. If you are unable to attend, a family member or friend is welcome to come along.

**Data Checks and Medical Information**

Please ensure that all Data checks and Medical Information forms are up to date and handed back as soon as possible. It is extremely important that the records we hold are current should we need to contact you quickly.

**ICT and Photo Permissions**

ICT contracts and photo permission letters have been given out. Please ensure these are returned quickly. Once we have photo permissions we will begin to include photos on our Twitter feed, Holy Cross website and Class learning Blogs.

**Online Safety**

Keeping our children safe is our priority. The websites below have great advice for parents/carers to ensure we can protect our children from potential abuse online.

[**https://www.nspcc.org.uk/**](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/) **&** [**https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/**](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/)

**Class Learning Blogs**

Shortly, each class in the school will begin their Friday ‘blog’ describing some of their learning in class that week. This is a great way for you to keep up to date with your child’s learning and an opportunity to chat to them about what they have learned. In addition to this, individual classes may ‘blog’ at different times regarding specific topics or visits etc. Please visit:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holycrossblog/>

Then click on the link which will take you to the individual classes. You can also comment on the post.

This is a great way to engage your child in a discussion regarding their learning.

The success of the ‘blogs’ varied greatly from class to class last year and we will review how well used they are this year.

This year we will shortly be piloting ‘Class Twitter’ in some classes. This will be a closed Twitter group for parents/carers and is intended to provide a conversation starter for you to talk to your child about their learning. You can also comment on posts.

**Staffing**

We are delighted that Mr Woods has returned to us this year and look forward to some Gaelic Football trophies heading our way!

We welcome Miss McAuley and Mr Brosnan to our staff for this year and hope they enjoy their time with us.

We also welcome new support staff; Ms McGylnn, Mrs Imran and Mrs O’Donnell we hope they will be happy in their new roles.

We have a new Janitor! Mr McGill. There have been several changes in staff in recent years and we now hope Mr McGill will be with us for a long time to come.

Welcome back to Mrs Lalley! Baby Theo is getting big and we are delighted Mrs Lalley has returned to Holy Cross following her maternity leave.

**Telephoning the School**

We are currently waiting on all the clerical hours being filled. Where possible and practical please inform your child’s class teacher about changes to 3pm pick up arrangements via a short note. Our answer machine is up and running and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

**Complaints & Compliments**

If you have a compliment tell everyone! If you have a complaint tell us!

We aim to foster positive relationships at Holy Cross and have a fantastically supportive parent body who recognise that staff go above and beyond to support our children. This support is greatly appreciated.

Should you wish to make a complaint please contact the school by telephone and a member of the management team will be in touch to discuss the issue over the phone or to arrange an appointment.

A reminder that North Lanarkshire Council policy is clear that violence, abuse or threat towards employees will not be tolerated in any form.

**Primary 1**

A super start for our new Primary 1s. They have settled extremely well and are definitely ready for school. We also welcomed parents and families to the hall on the first day for tea once the little ones were safely dropped off. No tissues required!

**Social Media**

Social media is a great way to share information. We respectfully remind parents that sharing any information regarding children’s education is done in a way which does not affect your child’s right to privacy.

**Car Parking**

As many of you will be aware parking around school grounds is extremely limited we would ask again that you park with care and attention, particularly just before 9am and at 3pm.

Please **NEVER** park in the box junction or in the area where the buses park.

**The School Car Park**

The school car park is for staff. Currently, Nursery parents/carers can use this to drop off and collect children from Nursery. If you have an appointment with a member of the school staff or are the owner of a ‘Blue Badge’ you may use the car park. However, if the car park is full we would ask that you park out with the school. Fr Sullivan allows parents/carers to park in the Church car park unless there is a special event (wedding, Funeral etc) being held in the Church.

To ensure emergency access to the school is maintained we will continue to review our parking arrangements across the year.

DO NOT park in undesignated bays, even for a short time.

**Dogs in the playground**

North Lanarkshire Policy is that no dogs are permitted on school grounds. Thank you for your continuing support in this matter.

**Parent Teacher Group and Parent Council Meetings**

The first meetings of this session will take place on Monday the 4th of September. The PTG meeting will be 6-7pm followed directly after by the Parent Council at 7-8pm. Both Meetings will be in the Church Hall. Thank you to Fr Sullivan for letting us use the Hall saving us a cost of letting the school in the evening.

**Permanent pens/markers**

A reminder that pupils should not use permanent ‘sharpie’ type pens in class. The smell of the ink when several are in use at one time is extremely strong and when the pens accidentally seep through paper they mark the furniture permanently.

**School Lunches**

Primary 1 to 3s are entitled to a free school lunch to the value of £2. Pupils can purchase additional items by ‘topping up’ their dinner cards.

An online facility to allow parents to make payments and add funds is in operation.

**Breakfast Club**

Our Breakfast Club runs every day from 8.15am until 8.45am. When the weather is wet Breakfast Club children wait in the dining hall until the bell rings at 9am.

**Access to the School Building During Wet Weather**

We will open the doors at 8.50am on days when the weather is very wet and pupils will be supervised in their cloakrooms by support Staff and the Management team. Should our staffing levels change we will of course advise you of any changes.

**Trim Trail**

Our trim trail is up and running for P4-7. The children are enjoying using it during playtimes and lunch times. Please ensure if you allow your child to use this after 3pm it is your responsibility to supervise your child.

**Our Feast Day**

We celebrate our Feast day on Thursday the 14th of September. You are most welcome to join us at Holy Mass in the Church at 10am.

If you have any concerns regarding any aspect of your child’s education please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Marie Murphy

Head Teacher

**Dates for the Diary – September/October**

**7pm 06.09.17 Open Evening**

**10am 14.09.17 Feast Day Holy Mass**

**All day 15.09.17 Smile!!! School Photographer**

**1.45pm 21.09.17 P1 Parent/carer workshop**

**22 - 25.09.17 School closed. Holiday weekend**

**26.09.17 School reopens**

**05.10.17 Parent/Carer Consultations (Parents’ night)**

**16- 20.10.17 School closed. Holiday week**

**23.10.17 School reopens**