

Holy Cross Newsletter Winter/Spring 2019

Our new term is well underway and the Christmas holidays are a distant memory! We hope you’ve had a really good Christmas break and you’ve had a great start to the New Year. There are lots of exciting experiences and learning coming up this term for our children.

**Adverse weather conditions**

It’s always sunny inside Holy Cross but sometimes our location proves a challenge during snowy weather. When it is icy underfoot the janitor must clear one path to the school. This will be the path from the front of the building to the main entrance. Once this is complete the janitor will begin to grit other paths if it safe to do so.

If you feel it is too icy/snowy to walk around to the playground please bring your child through the Main Entrance, just before 9am and no earlier than 8.50am. Please remind your child that high standards of behaviour are expected while they wait in the cloakrooms before 9am.

Remember breakfast club starts at 8.15am until 8.50am at a daily cost of £1. This price includes, toast, cereal, milk & fruit juice.

In the event of closure due to adverse weather North Lanarkshire’s website will be updated from 7am onwards. Where possible and practical we will send out a text to the first named contact to inform them of a school closure as soon as possible. We will also tweet out information regarding any closure. Twitter is probably the most effective ways of letting you know quickly about closures so please follow us @HolyCrossNLC and ensure notifications are turned on for school tweets. Please be aware that sometimes Management staff are also stuck/walking en route to school which can cause unavoidable delays to communication.

Should there be issues with the bus companies service they will in the first instance contact the school to inform us and we will then let those affected know.

In the coming weeks the school website will have a list of activities and learning opportunities the children can complete during the closure.

If you feel that it is unsafe for your child to travel to school during significant snowfalls please contact us to inform us of your decision.

**Top Tips**

Check NLC website

Check our Twitter Feed

Check our website for ‘Winter weather activities’

If the guidance from Police Scotland is not to travel, don’t travel.

**Glasgow Gurdwara**

Letters will soon be issued to P5s regarding the visit to the Sikh Temple in Glasgow. This promises to be a great day and super opportunity to learn about Sikhism and the importance of community. P5s were made so welcome over the last couple of years, Mrs Shaw and I also received a fantastic reception when we visited too.

**Football**

Primary 7 footballers will take part in the February Football Tournament at Broadwood. We wish the children good luck and thank Mr John Mellon and Daniel Comrie for volunteering every week to train the children.

**Chess Champs**

Our super successful Chess club are off again to the next round of competition on the 31st of January, good luck everyone. We couldn’t run this club without the dedication of Mr McAteer and the support of Mrs Wallace, thank you so much.

**School Improvement Priorities**

As part of this year’s School Improvement Plan we are further developing our approaches to learning and teaching by providing high quality learning experiences*.* As part of this exciting journey we are delighted to work with the renowned Educationalist, Lynda Keith on the 7th and 8th of February.

Lynda will present a Parental workshop on the 7th of February for our P1-2 parents/carers which will focus on the importance of play to develop skills across both maths and literacy which will last our children a life time. This workshop will also provide some insight for parents into how their children are learning and the teaching approaches we are continuing to develop.

The workshop on the 8th is for parents/carers of children in P3 and P4 and will explore skills development which encourages independence, creativity and produces high quality learning experiences for children.

**Communication with Parents/Carers**

Our online booking service for parents’ nights has proved very successful and any teething problems were quickly addressed by our office staff.

Our noticeboards outside the nursery and in the P1-3 playground are regularly updated so keep an eye on these if you are waiting to collect your wee ones.

We are now sending newsletters and general information via govdelivery which anyone can sign up for from <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/>, and follow the instruction. We also send this information via onecall, a system which allows us to ‘push’ out emails if we have the correct email details from parents. Information can also be sourced on our website at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holycrossblog>

**For instant updates @HolyCroyNLC on Twitter**

**Inservice**

School will be closed on Monday and Tuesday the 11th and 12th of February for the February mid term break. School will also be closed to pupils on Wednesday the 13th for Staff Inservice training.

On the 13th Staff will be involved in Self Evaluation activities and development work.

**Lent**

Ash Wednesday is also the 6th of March this year. Children will join Holy Cross parish at 10am to receive their ashes. Please join us if you’re free.

During Lent our senior pupils also have opportunity to read and take the Offertory at the Morning Masses before school. A great way to start the day, and for those who enjoy our Breakfast Club there is always time for a piece of toast before school.

**Sacramental Preparation Meeting for Parents/Carers**

Meetings for Parents/Carers with children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation was held on Monday the 21st January. These meetings were very well attended. Please remember the children receiving the Sacraments in your prayers.

**P6 Enterprise day**

On the 22nd of March P6 will hold their all day enterprise event. This is a great opportunity for pupils to learn collaboratively and to raise funds for the school.

**Mini Vinnies**

The St Vincent De Paul group have purchased sleeping bags with the funds raised from their Christmas Fayre staff.

**Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) Week**

We’ve moved STEM into the last term. The snowy weather last year disrupted STEM so we don’t want a repeat of that! In the final term it will be full *STE****A****M* ahead as we look to incorporate the Arts into our ‘STEM’. Again, your support in making this a fantastic week is very much appreciated.

**NLC Financial Education Team**

Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves, not always as simple nowadays! Our P4-P7 pupils will have a great learning opportunity to learn about finances and how to balance budgets. This visit will further enhance the money and finance education pupils already undertake.

**Reconciliation**

This will take place on Thursday 7th March at 7pm in Holy Cross Church. The children have been preparing in class and further details will be distributed nearer the time.

**Confirmation**

This will take place on Thursday the 21st of March at 7pm. Pupils have started the preparation for this important sacrament in class. We look forward to sharing this special evening with our children and their families.

**Easter Holidays**

The school closes at 2.30pm on Friday, 29th March for two weeks and re-open on Monday 15th April. We then have the Easter weekend holiday where the school will be closed for Good Friday on the 19th of April and Easter Monday the 22nd of April. School will reopen on Tuesday the 23rd of April at 9am, 8.15am for the Breakfast Club.

**Parent/Carer Consultations**

These will take place on Thursday the 28th of March from 3.15pm until 8.30pm. Information regarding these will be sent out in March.

**Fairtrade Easter Bonnet Parade**

On Friday 29th of March, at 1.30pm we look forward to seeing the spectacular bonnet creations of our P1-3! We will be welcoming parents/carers to the parade and there will be a chance to enjoy some Fairtrade tea/coffee and biscuits. There will be no charge for this event.

**Eggstravaganza!**

This year our P4-7s will be invited to enter our egg design competition. The competition entries will have a Movie theme. Children will be given further information at assembly.

**Parking**

As always parking in and around the school can be congested at peak pick up and collection times, made more challenging by the part closure of the station carpark. Thank you to everyone who ensures that they drive with extra care and attention in and around the school. A reminder too that parking for Nursery parents/carers should only be in the marked bays and should not block the turning circle. It’s been getting very congested and we may have to think again about allowing access to the school carpark.

Anyone with medical issues including parent, carer or child please contact the school office if you require support with parking.

Please remember, if you are not there to collect your child at 3pm we will hold onto the infants and upper school pupils should be advised to come back to the school. Take your time and park safely.

**Uniform**

We are delighted that the high standards of uniform are maintained throughout the year. A reminder that **black clothing or hooded tops are not part of the uniform**. We can contact Cumbernauld and Kilsyth uniform bank should you require any support with uniform. All discussions are in complete confidence.

**P.E kit**

We have noticed an increase in the number of children forgetting their P.E. Can you please remind and support your child with this.

**School Blogs and Reporting to Parents/Carers**

Our class blogs are a great way for you to keep up to date with the learning taking place in your child’s class. Following feedback we have changed the frequency of these blogs. They will now be posted fortnightly. Remember, these blogs form part of our ‘Reporting to Parents/Carers’ strategy.

Information in the blogs will include current information regarding Literacy, Maths and Health and Wellbeing learning as well as information about the current ‘Topic’ work.

**Parent/Carer Consultation on Reporting.**

Letters went out yesterday inviting parents/carers to attend a focus group regarding the Final Report Card in June. The final report forms part of our Reporting to Parents/Carers across the school year. We are keen not to duplicate information which has already been reported through the blogs, parents nights etc. Further information is available on the school website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holycrossblog>

And finally…

If there is any aspect of your children education or wellbeing that you are concerned about please contact us on 01236 632124.

Looking forward to another great term at Holy Cross.

Best wishes

Marie Murphy

Head Teacher