

**HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019**

Welcome back to a busy final term at Holy Cross. So far, this term, we’ve had great success with our team winning the Lanarkshire League Chess Championships, our footballers in P6 and P7 have been to a host of tournaments and friendlies, our Gaelic football team are also doing very well and look great in their new kits and we had several children who enjoyed the cross country races too. Our children have also been very successful outwith school and taken part in lots of different competitions, learning to ride bikes and tying shoe laces! The list is endless ☺

**STEM week**

Today is the final day of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week. The events have gone from strength to strength each year. Take a minute to look on Twitter to see some fantastic photos. Mr McKenna also won a very prestigious award for his work in developing STEM learning at Holy Cross. As this develops we’ll be looking to make STEM our STE’**A**’M week and include further opportunities to demonstrate how the creativity of the **A**rts further enhances learning.

 **Rights Respecting Schools Award –Going for Gold**

In the next couple of weeks the children will be bring home a survey regarding children’s rights, this will help us plan our next steps as we head for Gold Level status having achieved Silver Level already. Please take a couple of minutes to answer the short survey.

**First Holy Communion**

Our P4 children receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion during the month of May, please keep them in your prayers. Thank you to Miss McDonald and Mrs Doherty for preparing the children so beautifully during this special time. P4 have also visited Schoenstatt and had a fantastic day there. Many thanks to the parish for their contribution to this very special retreat and to Fr. Sullivan for his continued support.

**Sports Day**

Sports day is Friday the 31st of May. Start practising, weather permitting we’ll have a parent/carer race! In the morning we will have potted sports and in the afternoon we will have flat races. Start praying for sunshine☺

**The Wizard of Oz, 6th June at 7pm**

Lights! Camera! Action! Upper school classes have been hard at work learning their songs for this year’s Wizard of Oz production. Mrs Shaw and Mr McKenna have been working hard with our cast of fantastic actors and Toto. Tickets will go on sale shortly.

**Raising a Child in the 21st Century 17th June at 6pm**

We are delighted to welcome Gerry Shields, a highly regarded Educationalist who specialises in inclusion and behaviour management, to present this very interesting and informative talk. The talk will focus on children’s use and exposure to social media along with a variety of other significant issues facing our children today. Given the level of support and time spent addressing issues which start on social media we are expecting a very high turnout for this event.

**Corpus Christi Procession**

This year’s procession will take place on Sunday the 23rd of June at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to join this procession which sees our Holy Communicants follow the Blessed Sacrament through Croy. Bishop, of Argyll and Isles will need this special procession this year.

**Improvement Planning:**

**Pupil Equity Funding**

We are delighted that Mrs Leucci and Mr O’Donnell will be working with us each week until the end of term. Both teachers will be providing Maths learning boosts for lots of different groups of children. Their work will support children’s attainment and confidence in Maths. Mrs Maclean is delivering the Read, Write, Inc programme which has been very successful in raising pupil attainment and confidence in literacy.

**Staff Development**

Staff continue to work together to ensure our practice and teaching is current and supports pupil attainment. We have been working with world renowned Educationalist Lynda Keith looking at assessment and progression, play, active and independent approaches to learning.

**Transition to St Maurice’s High School**

Our P7s transferring to St Maurice’s after the summer will visit the high school on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th of June. Children should report to Holy Cross as normal as buses have been arranged for all pupils for this two day visit.

**P1 Induction Day**

This will take place from 10am on Tuesday the 11th of June. There will also be an opportunity for parents and children to sample our delicious school dinners (your child and one parent receive a free meal, additional meals can be paid for at a cost of £2). Parents should have received their letters about this already.

**Kilsyth Civic Week 9th-15th June**

A host of different events for our children to be involved in from swimming to talent shows and poetry and art competitions. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children and families to get involved in their local community and have great fun at the same time.

**P7 Leavers’ Mass and Ten Pin Bowling night.**

This year’s Mass will be held on the 18th of June. This is an extremely important celebration to mark P7s’ transition to High School and to give thanks for their 7 years at Holy Cross. Please ensure you keep this date free to attend.

The Bowling night will be the following night at the Bowling in Coatbridge. P7s will receive letters regarding these events.

**Communication**

To keep up to date with the latest developments at Holy Cross, here are the ways we communicate with parents/carers and the whole wide world!

Twitter, follow us as at @HolyCrossNLC for regular messages, photos and updates. 1,872 following so far!

Govdelivery, we send out over 1000 emails for each newsletter. You can sign up for this on the North Lanarkshire website <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=27397>

From this site you can also sign up for email alerts regarding a huge range of council services.

**Onecall**, this new system will allow us to email parents directly using the email address you give us when you complete the Annual Pupil Data checks. As always, please make sure we are informed of any changes to contact numbers/emails/addresses.

**Texts** we send out texts when we need to make contact with parents/carers quickly, eg when we have had no message regarding your child’s absence from school.

**By phone**, our number is **01236** **632124**. We have had issues with the school number appearing as an 01698 number on mobiles but this problem should now be rectified. If our number is still displaying incorrectly could you please let us know.

**Class** **blogs**, these are updated fortnightly and will give you a great starting point when talking to your child about what they’ve been learning at school.

**Just ask!** The Management team are regularly in the playground and down at the buses. If you have any questions, just ask.

**Drop in**, if you have an urgent enquiry please drop in. The Management team will help, if they are unavailable our Clerical staff will take your number and either arrange an appointment or arrange for someone to call you.

**Communication with teachers**

We are very fortunate to have extremely accommodating teaching staff who are happy to address issues and listen to concerns outwith the planned parent/carer events.

To ensure the children can settle quickly and be dismissed safely, we would respectfully ask if teaching staff can bring the children in and dismiss them at 3pm without interruption. If you have an important message please come round to the Main entrance and our Clerical staff will be happy to pass on the information. At the end of the school day please wait until all the children in the class have been collected before approaching the teacher.

**Feedback**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire at Parent/Carer’s Night before the Easter Break. We are delighted with the positive response. A full copy of the results is available on our website at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holycrossblog/>

Highlighted was the point that there was scope for further after school clubs. We are currently working with our Active Schools coordinator to further develop clubs for next session.

**Term Time Holidays**

Unlike English schools parents are not fined for taking their children on holiday during term time. However, to ensure progression; good attendance and good time keeping are key. Before the holiday children are naturally excited and following the holiday they need a few days to re-adjust to school life. This can affect the learning and teaching for the whole class. It is always advisable that holidays are booked during school holidays.

**PE Kits**

We respectful and repeatedly ask the North Lanarkshire’s Policy of **no football kits** for PE is adhered to. We will be consulting parents/carers, children and staff about the reintroduction of a PE kit in the near future.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Election closure (pupils) Thursday 23rd May

May holiday Friday 24th –Monday 27th May inclusive

Sports Day Friday 31st May (AM potted sports, PM flat races)

Ascension Thursday 30th May (Holy Mass, Holy Cross Parish, all welcome)

P7s to St Maurice’s Monday 10th & Friday 11th of June

P1 **Induction** Tuesday 11th June 10am

**Raising a child in the 21st Century Presentation to Parents** Monday 17th June 6pm, school hall.

P7 Leavers’ Mass Tuesday 18th June

Corpus Christi Sunday 23rd June at 4pm, leaves from church car park.

Last Day Thursday 28th June (school closes at 1.00pm)

**Staffing & School Roll for next session**

Once we have our staffing confirmed we will update you on teachers for next session, this may be very late in the term. Our P7s leaving us this term are 61 in total. The P1 intake is considerably lower (TBC). However, the longer term roll forecast shows an increase in school roll. Many of you with older children in school will be aware that changes in school roll affect the total number of teaching staff we have and will affect class structures.

**Classes for next session**

We have over 390 children across the school and nursery with 13 class teachers. A great deal of time and care is given when configuring and allocating teaching and support staff. We consider where each child is on their learning journey; academically, socially and emotionally to come to our decisions. Once made, classes are set for the year.

**Finally**

Should you have any concerns regarding your child’s education or wellbeing please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Marie Murphy