Holy Cross

August 2019

 Newsletter

A big welcome to Holy Cross to everyone; especially our new children and their families. We are delighted to be working with you all. All the children are beautifully turned out and ready to learn. So here’s to another great Holy Cross year!

We are currently working on our Whole School Charter with a focus on the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) and how we can show respect for the rights of others and how we can ensure our school is a happy place for everyone☺. We will post the Charter on our website when it’s complete. A copy of the UNCRC Articles will all be posted.

A warm welcome to Miss Moran who joins us this year on a permanent basis and to Miss McColl who will be with us this year and hopefully longer!

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**Communication**

Our newsletters and updates are available via the school website at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holycrossblog/> . To make this even easier you can visit <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/> and sign up for Holy Cross newsletters and updates which will go straight to your email address. We will also send out information via our Onecall system so please ensure we have up to date email addresses on your child’s Annual Data check form. Email 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! This method also helps us reduce the paper we use.

Twitter @HolyCrossNLC please follow us. This is probably the best and most effective tool we have for sharing information and we can provide links to our website.

Text messages; the school is charged 12p for every message we send so it’s really important that you let us know if your child is absent as soon as possible. We use texts as little as possible, last year the bill for texts was over £200. This money could be better spent on resources for our children.

**Uniform**

The children look fantastic and our uniform helps us create a sense of community and equality. Our uniform is grey skirt/trousers with a white shirt, school tie and a jumper or cardigan. Black, burgundy or tartan are not part of our uniform. If you have any difficulty providing your child with uniform now or as garments wear out please do not hesitate to contact us and we will help.

By the end of every school year we could open a clothes shop with the amount of lost property we have. Could you please, please check that all your child’s uniform, lunch box, shoes etc are labelled ☺

**PE kits**

In accordance with North Lanarkshire Policy, team colours i.e football, Gaelic football strips are not permitted under any circumstances. We will soon be consulting with parents/carers as to whether we move to a plain white t shirt and black shorts kits.

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**Lunches**

Remember, P1-3 are provided with free school **LUNCH AND BREAKFAST CLUB**. Our catering staff are fantastic and look after all the children so well, so please use this service. In the winter it is a great way of ensuring children have a hot lunch or soup and sandwich.

If you think your child may be entitled to a free school meal or a clothing grant and you are not sure how to apply just drop in and we’ll help.

NUT ALLERGIES

Please do not send your child to school with nuts or products containing nuts such as Nutella type spreads, chocolate bars containing nuts etc. Contact with nuts could make some of our children very ill or potentially worse.

**Readiness to Learn**

Snacks- Many children come with enough food to keep a small village going for a week. A small snack and/or a small drink are sufficient.

Sugar- sugar fuelled children find it difficult to learn and take longer to settle in class and inevitably have to come back down following a sugar spike in their bloodstream.

Coffee/energy drinks- Last year, some older children stopped at the kiosk at the train station on the way to school and bought coffee. Caffeine is a stimulant drug which affects children readiness to learn. Unfortunately the staff at the kiosk were unable to help when asked to stop selling coffee to our children because of the potential damage to their concentration and readiness to learn.

To ensure the safety of our children we would respectfully ask that your children do not go near the train station buildings on route to school.

**Meet the Teacher Thursday 6th September**

This a great chance to say ‘hello’ to your child/ren’s new teacher and has a wander around the class and the school.

We meet in the hall of a brief welcome and information about our school improvement priorities then they you can visit you child/ren’s class/es. Nursery families can head over to the Nursery for a short information session.

**Safe Routes to School**

Please double check the route your child takes to school. Last year some older children were taking a short cut along the station platform to get home. This is extremely dangerous given the speed of the trains passing through.

**Car Parking**

Please remember, parking is not permitted in the staff car park. Drop off and drive for Breakfast is allowed from 8-8.20am. We respectfully ask that Nursery parents/carers do not park in the car park for drop off or collection. The additional cars, many of which are parking in unmarked bays pose a risk to the health and safety of everyone using our building. The incident of cars trying to squeeze past a Fire Appliance as it tried to reach our building highlights the potential danger.

Please contact the head teacher if you have any queries regarding this.

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**Dates for your Diary**

****Please find attached ‘Diary dates’, this gives a brief outline of different events across the year. We’ll do our best to minimise changes. We will tweet any changes with as much notice as possible and we will ensure the online version is kept up to date.

**Photo day**

Cheeessse! Big smiles for the 10th of September when Tempest Photographers will be in school. Slips regarding this will be given to children next week.

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**NASA visit**

Two Astronauts from NASA and will be rocketing in to visit our senior assembly on the 30th of August. Our P7 pupils will then work with the Astronauts during a Space workshop. A big thank you to Scottish Enterprise and Mrs Doogan for organising this brilliant opportunity.

**Parenting in the 21st Century**

We had a fantastic response to our presentation and question and answer session from Gerry Shields, Educational Consultant in June. Gerry is back with us on the 19th of September (1pm-3pm) to continue this work. Gerry’s presentation will include many of the issues facing our children including; social media use, sleep & relationships. More details to follow.

**National Maths Week wkb 30th September**

Mr McKenna is working hard to put together lots of Maths fun for this special week. More details nearer the time.

**Parents’/Carers’ Night**

This is planned for the 10th of October for both afternoon and evening appointments. Guidance on how to book via our online system will be sent out when this goes live towards the end of September.

**Sky Academy**

Our P7s will be visiting the Sky TV studios at the beginning of October. Always a brilliant day and great end to the learning the children have been undertaking in the classroom. This year’s theme will be Space exploration.

**Our Feast Day**

We will celebrate with Mass at 10am on Friday the 13th of September. Last year, thanks to a very generous donation we were able to have a free Bouncy Assault Course. This year we have asked the children for their suggestion. We will let you know what they’d like (within reason and budget!)

**Wasps in the playground**

At this time of year, wasps are left to die by their Queen so seek food from other sources. Sugar snacks at break time can attract wasps to the playground. Over the next few weeks it may be necessary for children to have their snacks indoors before going out to play. Please be assured that our ‘swat’ team of playground staff are on hand to look after the children☺

**And Finally,**

Should you have any concerns regarding your child during their time at Holy Cross please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Marie Murphy

Head Teacher