**Holy Cross** **Primary **

**December Update 2019**

**Christmas Fayre**

A huge thank you to all the pupils, staff, helpers, supporters and donors who made Saturday’s Fayre so successful. We raised over £2800 on the day for the school/nursery. We also raised £256.10 for the St Vincent De Paul charity with our brilliant Mini Vinnies Pupil Group Baking Stall.

**Christmas CD**

Our P2 and P4/3 classes have been hard at work recording a Christmas song. The children worked with singer/songwriter, Elaine Lennon and had the amazing opportunity of recording their song in a real life recording studio at New College Lanarkshire, Cumbernauld Campus. A huge thank you to Elaine and to the staff at the college who gave their time for free to organise and arrange this opportunity. CDs are available to pre order from today, order forms in school bags.

We also had a CD cover design competition, winners will receive a free CD, certificate and selection box. The winners will be announced shortly.

The CDs will be sold at £3 each and would make a fantastic Christmas gift for friends and family. All profits will go to the School. They will be available to collect from the school during the last week.

**Adverse Weather Conditions**

It’s always sunny inside Holy Cross but sometimes our location proves a challenge during snowy/icy weather. When it is icy underfoot the Janitor, now newly named the Facility Support Manager must clear one path to the school. This will be the path from the front gate to the main entrance. Once this has been completed, the Facility Support Manager will begin to grit other paths if it safe to do so. He will also make the decision not to open the playground & back stair entrances if conditions are dangerous.

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, the North Lanarkshire 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 way of letting you know quickly about access changes/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 service, LA Travel, they will, in the first instance contact the school to inform us and we will then let those affected know as soon as possible. LA travel also have their own page on Facebook.

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

**Top Tips**

Check NLC website

Check our Twitter Feed @HolyCrossNLC and @nlcwinter

Check our website for ‘Winter weather activities’

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

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.

I’d also like to thank our Facility Support Manager, Mr McGill, he’s a brilliant ‘janitor’ and goes above and beyond when clearing snow and gritting. He really looks after the school and sometimes his hard work goes unrecognised.

**Communication with the School**

Please be aware our office is not fully staffed Thursday and Fridays, we appreciate your patience but would kindly ask that if there are changes to your child’s collection at 3pm or you need to arrange an early pick up for a child’s appointment you let us know as soon as possible in the form of a note to the teacher in the morning or a call to the school early in the day.

A reminder too that contact should be made by phoning the school office or popping in. Staff emails are not monitored every day.

**Christmas Lunch**

This will take place Wednesday, 4th December. It’s always a fun time and this year our Nursery morning children will also get a chance to join in.

**Christmas Shows**

Our Christmas Nativity/Show this year will involve the whole school and will take place at 1.15pm on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th of December. The changes have been made as the school will be used as a Polling Station for the General Election.

**Christmas Parties**

The fun never stops at Holy Cross!

The Christmas party Days are as follows:

Monday 16th P4 and 5 pupils

Tuesday 17th P1 to p3 pupils

Wednesday 18th P6 and P7 pupils

Pupils can come dressed in their party clothes to school. If however the children are wearing ‘party shoes’ they will need their usual footwear for playtime and lunch time to avoid the party shoes getting ruined before Christmas! A winter jacket is also needed.

**Christmas Service Thursday 19th at 1pm**

Mrs Lalley’s class will lead the Christmas Service at Holy Cross Parish Church on the last day of term. This is a beautiful way to end the term. Please join us if you can. There will be no First Friday Mass for December.

**Yorkshire Building Society**

A very big thank you to staff from the Yorkshire Building Society who presented workshops to several classes during November. The children learned lots and we are hoping the remaining classes in the school will benefit from this learning in the following terms.

**Volunteers**

The green areas are looking better than ever thanks to our green fingered volunteers and the joinery skills of a parent. Our Gardening afterschool club children are looking forward to Spring to see the fruits of their labours too.

The list is endless but from helpers on trips to helpers in class, from Chess club volunteers to Football coaches we really are blessed by the support our children receive. A big Christmas thank you!

We also appreciate those who might not be in a position to help practically, but who always keep our school Community in their prayers;

***‘More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of’ (Alfred Tennyson)***

**Panto, Sleeping Beauty Thursday 5th December**

This is a **free** event for all pupils. The cost is covered by the School Fund and by a generous donation from the Holy Cross Parish Acoustic Night. We really appreciate their support. The panto in school is a great event that all the children can enjoy.

**The cost of Christmas**

Christmas is an expensive time and January is a six week month! NLC Financial Inclusion Team are our local authority advice and financial guidance service. You can email them on fit@northlan.gov.uk for any financial enquires.

The best present we can receive as a school, is your continuing support and prayers. Please remember this when finances can be tight.

**Christmas Closure**

We close for Christmas holidays at 2.30pm on Thursday the 19th of December.

School reopens on Monday the 6th of January at 9am, breakfast club 8.15am.

**Finally,**

On behalf of the Holy Cross School community may I wish you all a peaceful Christmas with your amazing children. They are the most precious gift at Christmas and time spent with them creates happy memories that last longer than any toys will.

A very Happy Christmas and a great New Year when it comes.

Marie Murphy

Head Teacher