

Holy Cross Newsletter Winter/Spring 2020

It’s great to see everyone back at school and ready to learn. The new term is well underway!

**P1 2020 Enrolment**

Although August is a long way off, planning for our new P1 intake as already started. It is vital that all children starting in August are enrolled as soon as possible to ensure the school is correctly staffed and classes can be set for next session. If you know of a child due to start in August 2020 and they haven’t registered during last week’s Enrolment week then please spread the word and ask them to contact us.

**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 completed 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 way 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 service, LA Travel will in the first instance contact the school to inform us and we will then let those affected know. LA Travel also have their own Facebook page.

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.

In the event of heavy rainfall before 9am, the management team will be on hand from 8.50am and will open doors to allow children to come in and wait in their cloakroom areas. Again, high standards of behaviour are expected to ensure everyone is safe.

**Top Tips**

Check NLC website www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/winter

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.

**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 12th of February.

As we further develop our STEM learning, staff will also be working with Robotical during a twilight development meeting. Staff will also be working on programming and coding.

**Communication with Parents/Carers**

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**

**Reporting Your Child’s Absence**

It is very important that you contact the school as soon as possible when your child is absent. This ensures children are safe and our registers are correct. Until now we have texted out to parents who have not informed us of a child’s absence. Every text we send costs 12p.

From next week we will make contact using our groupcall system. If your child is absent and you haven’t let us know the first named contact will receive an **email** asking them to contact the school to report why your child is absent.

**Sky Academy Visit**

Mrs Lalley’s P7 class will be off to the Sky Academy studios on the 30th of January, we’re looking forward to their news bulletin.

**Sacramental meetings for P3&P4 Parents Tuesday 3rd February, 7pm & 7.45pm.**

Parents’ meeting for our children receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place at 7pm on Tuesday the 3rd of February. This will be followed by the Parents meeting for children receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion at 7.45pm.

**British Transport Police**

Officers from British Transport Police will be joining us during out assemblies on the 7th of February. Children will be learning about keeping safe and staying away for railway lines.

**February Holiday and In-service Days**

School will be closed on Monday and Tuesday the 10th and 11th of February for the mid-term break. School will also be closed to pupils on Wednesday and Thursday the 13th & 14th for Staff In-service training.

**Dental Checks**

P1 and P7 Dental checks will take place on the 24th of February.

**Head Lice**

It’s good practice to check your child’s hair on a regular basis to ensure there are no little visitors. NHS website and local pharmacies can also provide guidance on treatments. Please be vigilant.

**Safeguarding and mobile phones**

**During the school day, children are not permitted to use mobile phones. There is absolutely no need for any child in Holy Cross to access a phone during the day. This ensures everyone can learn in a safe environment.**

**If your child requires a phone before or after school, we ask that the phone is handed in to the school office for safe keeping.**

**Any child using a mobile phone during the school day will be in breach of our school rules and more importantly, could potentially put the health and wellbeing of other children at risk.**

**Your support is essential in ensuring children did not bring phones to Holy Cross.**

**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 26th of February 2020**

Please join us on Ash Wednesday at 10am at Holy Cross Parish Church. During Lent our senior pupils also have opportunity to participate in the liturgy of 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.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Children in P3 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday, 3rd March at 7pm. Specific information regarding the service will be sent out to families involved.

**Health Week**

During week beginning 9th March we will be promoting Health and Wellbeing within the school. Children will participate in various activities including the Heart Start Programme.

**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.

**Parent/Carer Consultations**

These will take place on Thursday the 19th of March from 3.15pm until 8.30pm. Information regarding these will be sent out in March and appointments can be booked using our online system.

**Parking**

As always parking in and around the school can be congested at peak and collection times, made more challenging by train commuters parking the station carpark. Thank you to everyone who ensures that they drive with extra care and attention in and around the school.

Before the Christmas break, 3 cars were towed away by Police Scotland as the cars were parking dangerously; 2 were parked on the box junction and one on the main road through Croy. Holy Cross works very hard to ensure our children are safe. Please make sure you park with due care and attention. As per the highway code, no one should be parking in a box junction.

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. Kit Can you please remind and support your child with this.

**Active Schools**

We are delighted that this term we will again be working with the North Lanarkshire’s Active Schools team. This is a great way of ensuring our children stay fit and healthy, especially during the winter months when many are not out playing as often.

**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.

**Finally**

Everyone at Holy Cross is looking forward to this new term and we have our fingers crossed that this year’s snowfall will be light!

At Holy Cross we do our best to care for and educate our children. If there is any aspect of your children education or wellbeing that you are concerned about please contact me on 01236 632124.

Best wishes

Marie Murphy

Head Teacher