



Holy Cross Update 08.09.22



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Dear Parents and Carers,

September is here already and the children have settled very well and continue to demonstrate great kindness and care of each other. From now on, at the top of each update/newsletter we'll include an outline of what the newsletter contains. We are aware that not everyone has time to read through the full update but hopefully this way everyone can access the info most relevant to them and their children.

- **School Bus**

Initial difficulties with the service appear to have resolved themselves. We are however awaiting a response to a number of complaints submitted to SPT and will be let you know when we hear back.

- **Bus arrangements**

When the school bus arrives at Holy Cross a member of staff brings the P1-3 children into the school building, where they remain until 9am at which point they go to class. On arrival P4-7 children walk up the hill and go straight into the big playground, if it's raining, they can come into the school building and wait in the gym hall until 9am.

At the end of the day P1-3 children are collected from class by a member of staff and walked down to the bus by the member of staff. P4-7 make their way to the gym hall and are then walked down to the bus by another member of staff.

A register of all children leaving is taken.

We encourage younger children to sit to the front of the bus and older children to the back.

- **Breakfast club**

This starts at 8.15am each day, there is no need to book in advance. The service is free for all P1-5 children and costs £1 for P6-7 children. It is extremely popular and busy.

It is especially useful in snowy or rainy weather as children can access the club from 8.15am.

- **Speaking to the class teacher before and after school P1-3**

It is very important that the teachers can bring in the lines and settle their classes to learning without distraction; with between 25-30 children to manage teaching staff need to ensure the safety and care of every child. If you have an urgent message to pass on regarding your child please do so through the school office, either by popping round to the Main entrance or telephoning in.

At the end of the day teachers must ensure every child is handed over to the correct adult, as you know it is extremely busy. Again, if you need to speak to your child's teacher or pass on a message we ask that you do so through the school office.

- **Arriving at school P4-7**

We encourage everyone who is not using the breakfast club to arrive close to 9am. Where possible there is a member of school staff in the playground from 8.50pm. On very wet/snowy days we will open the doors after 8.50am and the management team will supervise the children until 9am.

We also encourage P4-7 children arriving not to congregate at the entrance to the big playground as this makes it difficult to parents and carers dropping off P1-3 to get passed.

- **Curry and Curriculum**

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone to our first 'Curry and Curriculum' evening next Thursday 15th. Please complete the online form to ensure we have enough curry 'tasters' for everyone. As well as the world-famous chicken curry there is also a vegetarian option. The evening kicks off at 6.15-6.45pm with a chance to sample the curry, a brief talk from Mrs Murphy about our school curriculum and improvements planned for this year then it's off to classrooms to chat to staff and have a look around. Our Open evenings are always really busy and informal, and we are so happy we can have everyone in the building again.

A reminder to new parents, this is an informal evening and because of its busy nature teaching staff will not be able to discuss any specific learning or classroom issues. This can be arranged for a different time.

At the evening, the NLC Social Inclusion and Wealth team will be on hand with information about their free service which can advise and signpost you to a variety of financial resources.

The Parent Council will also be available to chat about their role in supporting the school.

- **Digital Schools Award**

<https://www.digitalschoolsawards.co.uk/region/scotland>

Holy Cross has signed up to achieve this National Award, we are already well under way to achieve this with our current practice but hope that being involved in this scheme to support us will further enhance our digital provision.

- **Class charters**

Class charters in Holy Cross support our Positive Relationships policy (available to read on our school website) <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holycrossblog/> . It's not about rules or regulations but about working together, learning about our Rights and how we respect the Rights of others. Please ask you child about their class charter.

- **Attendance**

In addition to Covid absences last session a number of children missed school days as a result of delayed family holidays and events, completely understandable under the circumstances. This session we are urging you to take holidays/plan events during school holidays to ensure children can maximise their learning in school and to ensure children are in school right up until the last day of each term. The learning will still take place but where high numbers of children are absent, it is extremely challenging to move forward and make effective progress.

- **Pokemon card and other trading cards**

We've never been a school for 'banning' cards, children enjoying playing with them. We do however, encourage children not to trade cards with others or trade cards belonging to older siblings etc, especially older children who know the value of some of the gold ones 😊. The children also know and accept if cards are lost or a bad trade happens staff won't get involved. We hope we can continue in this way.

- **Feast Day Fun**

We will celebrate our Holy Cross feast Day on 14th September with Mass at Holy Cross Church so please join us if you are free or you can also watch online via the parish Facebook or website.

There will be a bouncy castle and assault course which we are sure the staff and children will enjoy! Lunch on the day will include hot dogs and other treats.

- **Annual data checks/photo permission**

Thank you for completing the annual forms so quickly and returning them to school. If you have yet to complete them, please do so as a matter of urgency. If you've misplaced the forms give us a call and we'll print them for you.

- **Parent Council**

Parent Council will meet on Monday 19th of September for their AGM in the Parish hall from 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome, many hands make light work!

- **Parent Portal and Online learning**

A huge thank you to everyone who has managed to sign up to our NLC Parents' Portal and to everyone who called or attended our drop-in help sessions. If you've yet to sign up it is very important that you do, so please give us a call and we will do our best to help you.

And finally...

If you have any concerns or issues regarding your child's learning or wellbeing please contact us.

Best wishes

Marie Murphy

Head Teacher