



Holy Cross School Newsletter

Friday 25 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week at Holy Cross rushes by. The children are all working hard and showing us what it is to be Holy Cross children! We place a great emphasis on manners and behaviour and our children know that they are expected to be polite to everyone showing kindness and consideration. We feel strongly that children benefit from positivity and praise and our wealth of rewards show this; Headteacher Awards, Hot Chocolate Friday, stickers and house points, the list is endless!

Headteacher Awards

The children who were awarded a headteacher's award this week were:

Roman Joseph in Year 4 for his fantastic effort with reading.

Dillon U in Year 4 for his beautiful manners – when I ask him how he is he always politely replies and asks me how I am too. What a gentleman!

Hot Chocolate Friday

You will remember that I explained in last week's newsletter that whilst I am not holding Hot Chocolate Friday's due to bursting bubbles I am awarding a certificate and sweet treat to those children who would have enjoyed a mug of hot chocolate and marshmallows with me. The children chosen for this treat this week have gone above and beyond with behaviour, attitudes and effort. These children are:

Reception: Kymani, Year 1: Zara, Year 2: Caoimhe, Year 3: Sean, Year 4: Benedict, Year 5: Rio, Year 6: Ada

I have reminded them they must give their teeth an extra good clean this weekend!

Colder weather

As the summer fades and the colder weather comes our way please ensure that your child comes to School with their jumper or cardigan and a warm coat. We need to keep the School ventilated to protect ourselves against Covid 19 and so we have doors and windows open throughout the day. The School can therefore feel a little colder than usual and so we must make sure that our children are well wrapped up.

Planners

The lovely personalised planners we have each year have unfortunately had to be collected in as it was noticed that some of them had some very sharp edges. We have been in touch with the company who supplied them and this is being put right. Your child will bring their planner home shortly with lovely smooth edges!

Black History Month

Next week sees the 1st October and the start of Black History Month. We are looking forward to celebrating this with our children and only wish we could involve more parents and carers but the restrictions prevent this at present – next year we will have lots of people in! Miss Nola has organised a number of events for each class. Please do speak to your child about what they are learning throughout the month.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Our parent teacher meetings this term will take a different format from usual due to social distancing rules. We will conduct phone conversations and each parent/carer will have a ten minute call from their child's class teacher. This discussion will focus on how your child has settled into class and their effort, application and achievement. You will be able to enjoy the delights of their work books later in the year. The dates for these phone calls are Monday 19 and Wednesday

21 October. Times will be sent to you via text next week. All calls will be to the mobile number listed on your child's records and will be the one you receive the text on.

Music Tuition – Autumn Term 2020

Brass, Guitar and Violin lessons start next week for Key Stage 2 children (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6). There are still some spaces available for all instruments. Please note that children may only learn one instrument. All payments, whether your child is continuing from last year or are signing up to learn now, please use ParentPay.

Jeans for Genes

Thank you to everyone who everyone who donated to this wonderful charity. We will be sending them a cheque for £160.50

Walk to School Month

October is Walk to School Month and throughout the month we will be sending home quizzes and activities for the children to take part in. All returned entries will receive a small prize. Next week we are sending home poster competition entry forms. The theme for the competition is My Healthy walk to School, to highlight the benefits that walking brings to our minds and our bodies. All entries will be displayed in School and prizes awarded to the best entries at the end of the month. During October please do try to leave the car at home and walk to school or park further away from School than normal and enjoy the benefits of walking.

Social Distancing

With enhanced restrictions on daily life being introduced by the government this week we are all aware of the rise of Covid 19 cases across the country. Therefore we must all be aware of the need for extra care to be taken in School and within our community. Please can I repeat my plea for all parents to social distance when dropping off and picking up at the start and end of the School day. Please see the attached Track and Trace letter as a separate attachment.

Parent Governor

I have received three expressions of interest for the role of parent governor. An introduction from these three parents is attached to the end of this newsletter. Please read through them and decide who you would like to be your representative on our board of governors. Ballot papers will be sent home with the children on Monday, one per parent. Please return these to the School Office by midday on Friday 2 October where they will be placed into the ballot box before being counted. If you wish to keep your vote confidential then please put it in an envelope clearly marked Ballot Paper. We will announce the result in next week's newsletter.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Collins

“We must always walk in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, always trying to live in an irreprehensible way.” – Pope Francis

Parent Governor Applications

Alison Cresswell

My family has been a member of the Holy Cross School community for the last six years since my eldest son Benedict joined the Nursery. Benedict was joined by Jude a few years later and I love our school community and try to join in as much as possible with PTA activities, school trips and other enrichment activities. Last year I organised a uniform swap to try and pass on uniform in good condition and to keep it from landfill, it was very popular and this year I have found a way of running it again virtually using Facebook and Whats App.

My background is in Higher Education where I was responsible for all aspects of student welfare and I also have spent time in Further Education working specifically with young people with additional needs . I have experience of Safeguarding and enrichment within an educational background . More recently I have been working as a childminder and as a social media manager , very different roles that have given me a whole new set of transferable skills.

I currently volunteer for the Lewisham Local card scheme and also with Friends of Forster Park as well as our local residents association but I feel I have the capacity to offer a little more of my time to the school .

The staff and governors have steered a very steady ship through funding cuts and periods of change and have done amazing things in the light of this pandemic and I would be delighted to have the opportunity to join them and represent the parents views .

Marie Gabriel

My daughter is in Year 5 and over the years I have witnessed the passion and dedication the school upholds.

I wish to contribute and assist both Schools by offering my professional skill set and enthusiasm. We were all faced with the most unfamiliar challenge of lockdown. The schools had to action and revert to online learning. Yes it was hard for the parents, but we had our weekly call from our teacher, who brought comfort, assistance to homework and more importantly checking in on my daughter's well-being.

The teachers and support staff all rose to the challenge to ensure our children could continue to learn despite the lockdown.

The parents and carers are wonderful and I wish for this to continue by offering my support to all. I will work to keep the standard of education high and ensure good relations are kept and assist with the future vision of the schools.

Edel Fallon

Hello All

My name is Edel Fallon, and I am Mum to Sidney (Year 5), Caoimhe (Year 2) and Eireann who is two. My husband, John and I are very proud that our family are part of the Holy Cross community. Our girls are so happy at Holy Cross and I would very much love to be able to give something back to the school in return for this. I would be honoured if you would choose me to be your representative and voice on the school governing body.

As an experienced Primary School Teacher, I have many skills which can be used to support and challenge Holy Cross and St. Augustine's during this exciting time of embedding the federation and well into the future. Teaching and learning, pastoral care, behaviour management and an understanding of assessments are all skills I can confidently bring to this role. I also have governance experience as I have held the role of staff governor in previous schools. The Parent Governor is a position I feel requires honesty, energy, commitment and enthusiasm and along with being ready to learn new skills I would like to be given a chance to help develop our schools further. If selected, I assure you I will give this role my all.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the other applicants the best of luck.

Thank you for your time.