

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 2 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a lovely summer break and managed to get some rest and relaxation. We are very excited to have the children back in School. They looked gorgeous this morning as they smartly and enthusiastically came into their new classes.

At the end of the summer term we sent out our usual termly questionnaire asking for your opinions on what the School had done well over the term and what could be improved. As always, your views were interesting and inciteful and I am grateful to all of you who took the time to complete and return a questionnaire. We are very aware that we can continue to make our fabulous School even more wonderful if we work together. Below I have compiled your comments and suggestions as well as our intended actions as a response.

## What went well:

- Online learning during the lockdown
- The provision for children of key workers during lockdown
- Staff being welcoming and friendly especially on the gates at the start and end of each day
- Pastoral support for children
- The wide, varied and engaging curriculum
- Any concerns are resolved immediately by School Office or teachers
- The excellent ethos of the School
- Support systems for individual children
- The continued focus on outdoor activities and sports to keep children fit
- Sports Week – including the ice cream van visit!
- Cycling and scooter training

## Even better if:

- There was a longer time for children to eat their lunches
- After School clubs returned
- KS2 homework was celebrated more
- The School Street was enforced sufficiently – much illegal parking still occurs
- We could have morning prayers back in School
- We had celebrated children's mental health week

- There were more hands on activities and visitors to the School such as paramedics and fire fighters
- There was wrap around care for working parents, a suggestion made is that children could help with cleaning the School
- It must be recorded that a number of people wrote in this section "I can't think of anything!"

In response to your comments, firstly, thank you for all the positive remarks. We are all aware that the pandemic has caused difficulties in every area of life but the Holy Cross community really made it as stress free as possible for our School. Staff worked exceptionally hard, parents were cooperative and supportive and children were their usual fabulous selves, resilient and brilliant!

The School day has returned to a near pre pandemic timetable from today. All children will need to be in School by 8:55am each day with both gates opening at 8:45am. Children in Years 1-6 will go directly to their classroom from the gate, children in Reception can be escorted by their parent or carer. Children in Reception to Year 6 will finish their School day at 3:15pm and be collected from the classroom door. Children in Nursery have separate start and finish times of 9-12, 12-3 or 9-3. Our return to pre pandemic timetables will allow children to have longer in the lunch hall each day as classes can now overlap where as previously we needed all of one class out before the next could come in – the days of bubbles have gone!

As a result of the bubble system changing we are now able to offer a wide range of after school clubs. Mrs Slattery will be sending out information regarding this in the next few days.

Morning prayers have returned and we welcome any children or parents and carers to join us in the School Hall at 8:45am each morning to say a decade of the Rosary.

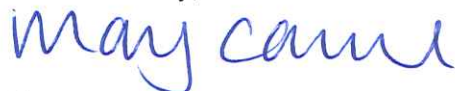
I have spoken with teachers regarding homework and each teacher will make their expectations clear to children this week. I am sure we will see lots of celebration of the phenomenal efforts our children regularly make with their home learning.

The School Street on Culverley Road is operated by the local authority but I do implore parents and carers who drive to School each day to drop children to park legally and considerately. We are trying to lead by example and help make our children safer. We do not want any of our precious children being hurt.

With the lifting of restrictions we will begin to welcome visitors back to our School gradually. We are fully aware of the positive impact visitors and class visits can make on our children. This is a part of our curriculum we have missed enormously during the last eighteen months.

I look forward to another wonderful year at Holy Cross, we are blessed with a fantastic community and the most precious children. I know that Mrs Mahony is looking forward to her role as Head of School and I would like to thank you in advance for your welcome and support for her in this new and important role. Mrs Mahony and I will together ensure that Holy Cross remains as happy and successful as it always has been.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Mary Collins

Executive Headteacher of Aspire London

