



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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5 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you all have had a lovely summer, whether you went on holiday or just spent time with your family. It has been wonderful to welcome all of the children back into School today. They are looking so smart in their uniforms and they all seem to have grown over the last six weeks!

I wanted to share with you the staffing for each class, including support staff, for the year. Each member of staff has been best placed for our lovely children, there has been some movement and a few new faces, however we are very fortunate that we have stable staff team who know our children extremely well. We also welcome Mr Djemal onto our staff team who is our new Premises Officer. I am sure you will get to know him very quickly and he is very pleased to be working with us at Holy Cross.

Class	Teacher	Support Staff
Nursery	Miss Panchoo	Mrs Lee and Miss Goumidi
Reception	Mrs Asamoah	Miss Baptiste, Mrs Warren, Mrs Chang Wai Ling and Mrs Osman
Year 1	Mrs Wilson	Mrs Downton and Miss Churchill
Year 2	Mrs Parr (2 days) and Mrs Byrne (3 days)	Mrs Durand and Mr Paterson
Year 3	Mr Cook	Mrs Power
Year 4	Miss Honore	Mrs Shaw (3 days) and Mrs Howell (2 days)
Year 5	Mrs Mole (4 days) and Miss Ziarek (1 day)	Mrs Howell (3 days)
Year 6	Mr Foster (4 days) and Mrs Spencer (1 day)	Mrs Quinn

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in the parent questionnaires before the summer break. Your responses are so important to help us as a School, enabling us to make it even more wonderful for our fabulous children. Below are some of the comments and suggestions that we received:

Want went well:

- Friendly, welcoming staff
- Year 6 buddy system
- School trips
- Sports day
- Class assemblies
- The variety of learning the children are offered
- The chicks!
- The new phonics scheme

- Wonderful range of afterschool activities
- Wonderful connection with the Parish
- Composer of the Week
- Fabulous teaching of PE
- Class Masses in the classrooms
- The open-door policy
- Year 6 week of trips
- PSA summer party
- Fantastic communication between staff and home
- Music lessons
- Scooter training
- Children really understand what they have been learning in school

Even better if:

- Parents dangerous parking and driving!
- School trips could be spread across the year
- Children in the younger years had physical books
- Clearer communication about what is being taught each term
- Increase the number of parent's meetings and make them longer
- Having the Rosary explained during morning prayers
- The current Year 6 class could be offered swimming lessons
- There were fewer last-minute cancellations
- Chromebooks were not used as much
- Computing curriculum could be more evident
- Gates being opened on time
- Theatre trips to be vetted beforehand
- Children having a retreat day

Any other comments:

- A brilliant year!
- Thank you to all the staff for the hard work they have been doing
- The whole school is very positive!

I have responded to some of your comments below and I hope this goes some way to answering them. Remember that if you have any queries at any time please speak to either myself or another member of staff.

- Parents parking and driving! – it would be a fabulous start to the new School year if all Parents and Carers could be respectful and safe when parking and driving, we want all of our lovely children to be safe coming to School.
- School trips could be spread across the year – last year we had to be mindful of the Covid situation and therefore many trips were not able to take place or only in the Summer term, the good news is that we have already begun booking trips for this term and they will be spread out across the year.
- Children in the younger years had physical books – we have been trialing a new phonics scheme and currently the phonics books are all online. The children are still bringing home other books that can be shared at home and the online books will have been read three times in School so the children are confident reading them at home. More information will be given to the relevant classes at the Meet the Teacher meetings on the 21st September.
- Clearer communication about what is being taught each term – the curriculum for each class is on our website and an overview of what is being taught in each class in under each classes' individual tab.
- Increase the number of parent's meetings and make them longer – we hold a parents' meeting in the Autumn and Spring terms, with a written report in the Summer, you are able to speak to the class teachers around these times as well, either at the end of the day or you can make an appointment through the office.
- Morning prayers is a wonderful time for families to gather at the start of each day. Children are taught about the Rosary in an age appropriate way across the School and we would also encourage Parents and Carers to do this at home. To address the concern about introducing the Rosary I will be sending home a short leaflet about this which I hope is helpful.
- The current Year 6 class could be offered swimming lessons – this is something that we are looking into, as we are aware that Year 6 missed swimming because of Covid, we will try our best to work out a solution.
- There were fewer last-minute cancellations – last year we had a few cancellations because of Covid and the extreme weather. These cancellations are never taken lightly but sometimes have to be last minute in case the situation changes. Thank you to you all for being so understanding.

- Chromebooks were not used as much – children use Chromebooks to support their learning in appropriate ways, to improve their technology skills and help the environment.
- Computing curriculum could be more evident – the computer curriculum is embedded across the School; the overview is on the website for more information
- Gates being opened on time – We will work really hard to ensure that gates are opened on time.
- Theatre trips to be vetted beforehand – all future trips will be carefully vetted before they are booked.
- Children having a retreat day – last year the children from Year 5 had the opportunity for a retreat day, because of Covid we were unable to offer any other classes this, however we will be looking at more retreat days for our children.

I hope that these responses have answered your questions. Thank you for all of the support that you give to us a School community. I am looking forward to wonderful year with you and your amazing children,

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Mahony
Head of School



not to have more but to be more
saint oscar romero

