

**Holy Cross Catholic Primary School**

**Family Newsletter**

September 2021

Dear families,

Welcome back to school after what we hope has been a wonderful summer holiday for all. We hope everyone is feeling refreshed and raring to go! I would also like to say a huge welcome to our new families.

It has been lovely to see the children looking so wonderful and smart in their school uniforms and I have loved hearing all their news in assembly.

I hope that this is a more settled year compared to the last 2 years we have had. There will be some notable changes to the way school will operate this year compared to last. Schools have been informed that ‘Bubbles’ are no longer necessary and we are no longer responsible for contact tracing from within school if a child tests positive. Whilst this is welcome news, we are still aware that the virus has not disappeared and like other schools on Wirral we are taking a cautious approach initially before returning to full normality. It will now be a personal choice if you wish to wear a face covering on the school site.

Our play and lunch times will continue to be staggered but children will not be kept explicitly in set areas of the playground. We will continue to actively practise good hygiene and children will still regularly wash their hands and sanitise.

If your child is poorly and displaying Covid symptoms you will still be expected to keep them off school and take them for a PCR test. We have updated our RISK ASSESSMENT in line with current National Guidance. This can be found on the ‘Covid’ page on our website. You will also find a CONTINGENCY PLAN which is also requested by the DFE in the event of a local outbreak.

Thank you for all your support.

Mrs Higgins



**Attendance**

We will be closely monitoring attendance this year. I am sure that we all recognise that over the last 2 years, our children have missed far too much school time which means now more than ever, ‘everyday counts’. If children are genuinely ill you must telephone the school office on the morning of absence otherwise your child’s absence will be registered as unauthorised.

This year Ms Shields will oversee attendance, offer support to our families and will work closely with Mrs Patrick and Graeme Halewood as part of our Attendance Team. Ms Shields sends out a weekly attendance newsletter to offer support and help. This week she has included support on establishing sleep routines for your children. If you need any support with your child’s attendance, please contact Ms Shields through the school office.

We will be holding regular Attendance Panel meetings when a child’s attendance falls below 92%. A child is classed as PERSISTANTLY ABSENT from school if their attendance falls below 90%. If your child needs a medical appointment, we ask that you make this outside of school hours. If it is an emergency and this is not possible, we will now ask to see medical appointment letters/cards of children are collected from school for appointments before the end of the school day.



**Parent App**

Please could you make sure you have downloaded our parent app, it is free to download and use. We will be sending out our messages and letters through the app. If you have not got the app currently, then please contact the school office who will send you a link so that you can download it.



**SCHOOL DATES 2021-22**

Please be aware of our term dates which are available on the school website and have been sent out We will NOT authorise any holidays during term time and any holidays taken will result in a penalty notice. They have missed so much learning time over the last 2 years so every day in school is precious this year!



Harvest Donations

We will be holding our Harvest Celebration Mass on Friday 1st October in school. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions and guidelines parents/carers/parishioners will not be able to attend. Any donations of food would be gratefully received next week and will be donated to the Charles Thompson Mission and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society

We have spaces in our main Nursery for any child who is 3 or 4. If your child requires a space in Nursery please make sure you have completed an application form and we have their name down. We offer 15 hours funded places, alongside 30 hours funded places for parents who are eligible. We also offer ‘pay as you go’ places, were parents and carers are able to pay for additional nursery sessions as they need them.

Please contact Mrs Brás through the school office for more information.