



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Family Newsletter



Welcome back everyone

We were delighted to be able to open the school last Thursday and welcome back all our families. We have loved having all the children back in the school, we have really missed them. We are so proud of them and how they are coping with the changes. We would especially like to welcome the families of our new children in Nursery, Foundation Two and in Key Stage Two.

There are noticeable differences for each class, but the children have adapted amazingly and have been so sensible. They are a credit to you so thank you for preparing them so well. We are all adapting and finding our way through these strange times. I would like to thank you all for your wonderful support and embracing our new routines and systems.

There have been a number of queries regarding procedures in place regarding symptoms and testing. I have attached the information on the back of the newsletter. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Brás, Mr Hall or myself via the school office on 0151 652 8454.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Clare Higgins

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Mr Christopher Hall who has been appointed as our Assistant Head Teacher and Miss Nicola Dunne who has been appointed as our year three teacher. They are both looking forward to working with you all.

We said goodbye to Mrs Wilson who retired at the end of the summer term. I would like to thank her for her contribution to the children and their families at Holy Cross and for the many wonderful residential she led to Oaklands.

I would also like to inform you that from this term Ms Davies will now be known as Miss Shields.

Every Mind Matters



Most families have experienced upheaval in their daily lives during the pandemic. With children and young people now back at school or college, the new Public Health England (PHE) Better Health – Every Mind Matters campaign provides NHS-endorsed tips and advice to help children and young people’s mental well-being, and equip parents and carers with the knowledge to support them.

The website enables you to access a wide range of resources for children, young people and their families. Please google Every Mind Matters website <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

NHS’s Top 5 Tips for supporting children and young people’s mental wellbeing as they go back out into the world (please view all tips on [Every Mind Matters website](#)):

1. Be there to listen
2. Stay involved in their life
3. Support positive routines.
4. Encourage their interests
5. Take what they say seriously

The website also encourages parents and carers to complete a personal ‘Mind Plan’, a quick and free interactive tool offering adults tailored mental wellbeing advice.

If you have any concerns about your child, please contact your child’s class teacher via the school office. Messages can be left with the Office team and your child’s class teacher will contact you. **Further information on supporting your child’s mental health and well-being, can be found on the Covid-19 tab on our website.**

Coronavirus Symptom and testing information for parents and carers

The advice and guidance below is based on the DfE document ‘Guidance for full opening of schools’ (updated 7 August 2020). NHS England lists the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID 19) as a high temperature, a new continuous cough, loss or change to sense of taste or smell. Please also go wirral.gov.uk page where there are lots of useful information and frequently asked questions answered.

What should I do if my child develops symptoms of coronavirus when not in school?

Any child who develops symptoms of coronavirus must stay at home and not attend school. Absence should be reported as soon as possible on the usual school office number, 0151 652 8454 and the child must be tested for coronavirus. Parents/carers are responsible for arranging a test and informing us of the outcome as detailed below. Tests must be undertaken within the first 5 days of developing symptoms and if the result is positive your child will need to self-isolate for at least 10 days and the rest of the household will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

If any member of your household develops symptoms of coronavirus your child must stay at home and not attend school. The household member should obtain a test. Your child can return to school only if the result of the test is negative. If it is positive, they must self-isolate for 14 days from the onset of the household member's symptoms. Your child's absence should be reported to the school office number 0151 652 8454.

What happens if a child develops symptoms of coronavirus at school?

When a child develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. The child will be separated from their group and asked to wait in a private ventilated room whilst a parent/carer is contacted to collect them. They will be supervised from a safe social distance until they are collected.

All children must be tested if they display symptoms of coronavirus. Parents are responsible for arranging child-testing, within the first 5 days of developing symptoms and parents must inform school of the result as soon as it is received by telephone to the school office on 0151 652 8454.

What should I do to request a test?

To request a test please visit: www.wirral.gov.uk/testing or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and follow the steps. This site also contains additional information regarding Coronavirus symptoms, Self-isolating and information on the NHS Test and Trace Service and is updated on a regular basis. **If you do not have access to the internet you can order a test by telephone via the COVID19 Helpline 0151 666 5050 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) or NHS 119.**

What should I do when I receive the results of the test?

You are asked to contact school on 0151 652 8454 and inform us of the outcome as soon as possible. If the result is negative your child does not need to self-isolate as long as everybody else they live with who has symptoms tests negative, everybody in their bubble with symptoms tests negative, they have not been told by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate for 14 days and they feel well and no longer have a temperature.

If the result is positive, your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days and the rest of the household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Children can return to school, after the end of their 10 day self-isolation, only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of smell/taste. If they still have a high temperature they should stay at home until this returns to normal.

Coronavirus Symptom and testing information for parents and carers

In accordance with Government and Public Health England advice, we will be required to ask anybody in your child's class to self-isolate for 14 days, however we will endeavour to treat the information provided in the strictest of confidence. You will also be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace Service, further information regarding this can be found on the link above.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in my child's school?

Where we are informed of a positive result, the school will contact the local Health Protection Team who will instruct us on the appropriate steps to take. We will assess who has been in close contact with the person who has tested positive and ensure they are asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

School will send home anybody who has been in close contact with a person who tests positive and parents and carers will be contacted. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless your child subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the child's cohort or in the wider education or childcare setting, Public Health England's local Health Protection Teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where schools are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole school will not generally be necessary.

If there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school, parents/carers will be contacted by school and notified as soon as possible. Please be reassured that whilst in school, all public health advice and Department for Education guidance is being followed and there are additional control measures in place e.g. staggered start and finish times for each group, year groups are not mixing within the building and additional hygiene and cleaning procedures are in operation across the school.

What arrangements are in place for my child's education if they are self-isolating?

Similar to the arrangements in place during the school closure, we have established systems for continuing education remotely which are in place on our website under the tab remote learning.

If you or your child test positive then you will be contacted by contact tracers, who will establish who else you might have passed on the infection to.

More information can be found on our website under the Covid-19 tab. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office on 0151 652 8454.