



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Telephone/Fax 01752 225420  
Website: <https://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web>  
Email: [holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs F Gill  
Newsletter No. 1: 10th September 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of a brand new school year! It has been lovely to see all the children back at school, looking so smart in their new uniforms and shiny shoes! Thank you for making the effort to send them in wearing their proper school PE kit on PE days also and for labelling all jumpers/cardigans and kit.

It has been a different kind of week in many ways. On Monday we had a KS2 Liturgy with six classes in the hall - our first face to face large group assembly since I arrived at Holy Cross this time last year. We are looking forward to next Monday when we will have KS1 in the hall. We also had a KS2 Prayer and Praise and again, it was a joy to be able to join together in song - it had been a long time since the children had sung together and some found it a little strange but I know that, over time, they will find it easier to be the enthusiastic singers we know them to be. They have wonderful voices!

Our new children all settled in beautifully and had their first full day today - well done to all the Foundation Stage stars; and their teachers!

I am sorry to have to bring up the parking issue again but PLEASE follow the parking restrictions in the area as we need to be mindful that the residents who live here need to be able to park, access their properties, receive deliveries etc. Please read my DOJO message posted on Wednesday evening if you haven't yet seen it.

In addition to the above, please can you not block the pavement outside school when waiting for your children to come out. We open the gates at 3.05pm to avoid parents crowding outside the school. Children who walk home and parents collecting small children are being forced to walk on the road. If queuing to collect your Foundation Stage child from the church doors, please stay in single file so people can pass by without stepping out into the road. The last thing we want is for someone to have an accident.

Thank you for the lovely words of welcome we received from so many of you and to the Holy Cross team for ensuring such a positive start to the year. Have a good weekend.

Mrs F Gill  
Headteacher



### 14th September

EYFS/KS1 Class Meetings 'Meet the Teacher' 3.30pm and 4.15pm

### 16th September

KS2 Class Meetings 'Meet the Teacher' 3.30pm and 4.15pm

### 16th September

Beginning of Term Mass

### 18th-26th September

Plymouth Schools Big Green Week

### 20th September

SEND Information/Coffee Afternoon for Parents at 2pm

### 27th September

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

### 27th September-15th October

Year 5 Swimming details to follow



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### *Our Catholic Life*

***In this week's Gospel, Jesus confounded the expectations of His disciples. Following Jesus involves expecting the unexpected but we have the assurance that Jesus is with us every step of the way.***

***To find out more about our collective worship this term please follow the link <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>***

***We welcome Father Victor Agbaka to Holy Cross as our Priest Chaplain. He will be celebrating the first Mass of the new school year on Thursday next week.***



**Dear God,**  
**As we start this new term, we**  
**renew our commitment to you.**  
**Open our ears to hear your**  
**voice of truth guiding us.**  
**Open our mouths to share of**  
**your love for us.**  
**Amen**

### *Wonders of the Week*

*Here are this week's winners of the Wonder of the Week award.*



**Julia Donaldson: Gabriela S - for having a great first week at school, always listening and doing the right thing.**

**Allan Ahlberg: Tommy - for amazing effort with writing this week.**

**Simon James: Ruby-Rahyn - for putting huge effort in to all her learning in the first week back**

**Judith Kerr: Sonia- for settling so beautifully into Year One and trying her best at all she does.**

**David Walliams: Phoebe for showing independence and positivity in her learning.**

**Cressida Cowell: Savio- for making a great start to the year and having a wonderful attitude to school.**



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Roald Dahl: Wiktor for working independently and his wonderful attitude to learning.

Louis Sachar: Yuhan for demonstrating absolutely amazing place value, addition and subtraction knowledge and understanding.

Emma Carroll: Ruslan for making confident contributions in class and working his socks off!

Malorie Blackman: Xander - For working hard on his writing and his maths this week, and settling well into his new class!

***Gospel Values Awards:*** This week we have all been trying to show kindness

Julia Donaldson: Monty - for helping his friends during choosing time.

Allan Ahlberg: Dawson - for helping Mrs Thompson find her way around school.

Simon James: Lizzie - for constantly looking to help her classmates and her new teacher.

Judith Kerr: Seth- for showing kindness when his friend was upset and getting them a tissue.

David Walliams: Sadie for always showing calm kindness to others.

Cressida Cowell: Ziva for being noticed by her friends for her kindness.

Roald Dahl: Nikola for her constant thought and consideration of others.

Louis Sachar: Tiago For not only showing kindness to the children on his table but also how helpful and supportive he has been for his 'new' teacher.

Emma Carroll: Atene for being very helpful around the class and being kind to others.

Malorie Blackman: Emily J - For being so kind, smiley and helpful to everyone around her, and for helping our new members of Malorie Blackman class.





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We are pleased to be able to offer a range of After-School clubs this term. The following clubs are on offer:

### **Monday**

KS1 Spanish run by Kidslingo. Please book directly with them

KS1 booking link:

Class Registration ([thinksmartsoftwareuk.com](https://www.thinksmartsoftwareuk.com))

[https://www.thinksmartsoftwareuk.com/ocr/lesson\\_booking.php?t=om%2BfCSEVc5N5YPyKwbLdiw%3D%3D&u=L3qDI8J7MABeE59obquzZQ%3D%3D&c=753&p\\_id=1](https://www.thinksmartsoftwareuk.com/ocr/lesson_booking.php?t=om%2BfCSEVc5N5YPyKwbLdiw%3D%3D&u=L3qDI8J7MABeE59obquzZQ%3D%3D&c=753&p_id=1)

Year 5 and 6 Coding Club with Mrs. Chantler 3.30-4.30pm **until half term**

### **Wednesday**

KS1 Football run by Plymouth Argyle (booking details to follow)

Year 5 and 6 Chess club 3.30-4.30pm **after half term**

### **Thursday**

Year 3 and 4 Handball run by Premier Education (booking details to follow)

KS2 Spanish run by Kidslingo. Please book directly with them

KS2 booking link:

Class Registration ([thinksmartsoftwareuk.com](https://www.thinksmartsoftwareuk.com))

[https://www.thinksmartsoftwareuk.com/ocr/lesson\\_booking.php?t=om%2BfCSEVc5N5YPyKwbLdiw%3D%3D&u=L3qDI8J7MABeE59obquzZQ%3D%3D&c=754&p\\_id=1](https://www.thinksmartsoftwareuk.com/ocr/lesson_booking.php?t=om%2BfCSEVc5N5YPyKwbLdiw%3D%3D&u=L3qDI8J7MABeE59obquzZQ%3D%3D&c=754&p_id=1)

### **Friday**

KS2 Football run by Plymouth Argyle (booking details to follow) 3.30-4.30pm

Year 5 and 6 Ultimate Frisbee run by Premier Education (booking details to follow)



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At Holy Cross we are committed to meeting the needs of every child in our care. Every child is unique and special, and all have the right to experience a rich curriculum where they can have fun, succeed and make progress.

If you have any concerns or would like to talk about your child please contact me via email, phone or class dojo. My email is [sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk)

Support and encouragement of parents is often the crucial factor in children achieving success. On Monday 20th September at 2pm there is an opportunity for parents to come into school to find out more about the ways we can support you and your child, enjoy some coffee and cake and have time to talk to me and each other.

**Susan Buscombe**

**SEND CO**



On **Tuesday 14th** EYFS and Key Stage 1 will be holding a meet the teacher meeting for each class at 3.30pm and 4.15pm.

On **Thursday 16th** Key Stage 2 will be holding their meetings.

As we are in an 'enhanced response area' we need to minimise numbers and ask that only 1 parent attends and wears a mask whilst inside. Please contact your child's class teacher via dojo to confirm your attendance and the time as we need to limit numbers to 15 at each session. Children are unable to be with you at the session so if you are unable to make other arrangements there will be a film in the school hall where they will be supervised by school staff.



### **PARENT SUPPORT ADVISOR**

Many of you will already know Rachel Confue, our Parent Support Advisor. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet her, keep an eye out at the gate every morning. She would be delighted to meet you. Rachel is here to help you access the information and support you need to make your child's time here at Holy Cross as smooth as possible. So if you have any concerns, do have a chat

and Rachel will do her best to help and to signpost you to the person you need to speak to. For queries around your child's learning or concerns you might have about their day to day, the class teacher is of course your first port of call.





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On **Monday 27th September** at 2pm we will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Afternoon to raise money for this worthwhile cause. One in two of us will face cancer, and the money we raise will help everyone with cancer to live life as fully as they can.

We would welcome donations of cakes on the morning of 27th September and for as many of you to come along as possible. We look forward to seeing you all.



As a parent at Holy Cross you are all members of our PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association). The hard work of the team ensures that we can provide events and fundraise which benefits all the children. We need your help and are looking for volunteers to support us and the children. Any time that you are able to offer will be greatly appreciated and many hands make light work.

If you are interested in finding out more come to our coffee afternoon on 27th September where Justine and Andrew will be happy to tell you more about what this might involve or email [ptfa@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk) or [sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:sbuscombe@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk)



Are you articulate and interested in making positive changes in our school, for our community and world-wide?

Would you listen to the constituents in your class and represent their ideas at the School Parliament meetings?

If the answer is yes? Then try out for this year's **School Parliament**.

Write your manifesto and present it to your class on Wednesday 15th September when members of our School Parliament will be elected.



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## Secondary School Open Evenings

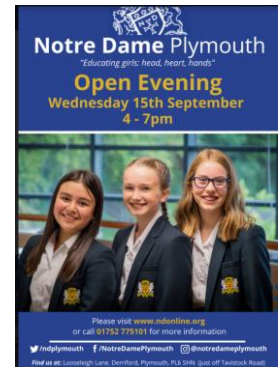
### Notre Dame School OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>  
September, 4pm – 7pm

For Year 4, 5 and Year 6 girls and a parent / carer considering admission to the school

Further information can be found at our website at

[www.ndonline.org](http://www.ndonline.org) or by telephoning 01752 775101



### St Boniface's Catholic College

#### OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
September, 4pm – 7pm

For Year 4, 5 and Year 6 boys and their parent / carer considering admission to the school

Further information can be found  
by telephoning 01752 779051



Dear Parents,

This year your child will be offered a free **flu vaccination** in school and we will shortly be sending communication via the school with regards to consent for this. However, we are aware there are some children that due to an underlying medical condition are at increased risk from the flu virus – if you believe that your child is in the category and you would like

the opportunity to book them into an early community clinic, please contact our single point of access (SPA) on 0300 247 0082 or email at [vcl.immunisations@nhs.net](mailto:vcl.immunisations@nhs.net). Please note this is an extremely busy time for our phones and therefore if you are struggling to get through, please don't hesitate to contact us via e-mail and someone will return your call.

Best wishes,

**School Age Immunisations Team**  
**Virgin Care Services Limited**  
**Telephone: 0300 247 0082**  
**e: [vcl.immunisations@nhs.net](mailto:vcl.immunisations@nhs.net)**  
**w: [www.virgincare.co.uk](http://www.virgincare.co.uk)**



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### COVID19 Information

As Lateral Flow Testing continues in schools and homes, could we remind you to report any positive results to [covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk) or to **ring the school office immediately**, with self-isolation taking place until a confirmatory PCR test result is received. If the PCR comes back negative, your child can return to school. If the PCR is positive, your child will need to isolate for the full ten days from the onset of symptoms or the date of the test is asymptomatic. Any positive PCR tests should also be shared with us along with the date of the positive test.

*See flowchart for further explanation.*

#### The guidance has now changed.

If a child or member of staff tests positive, NHS track and Trace will carry out contact tracing.

Close contacts will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace and advised appropriately.

If there is a positive case in school, we will inform the parents of the affected class **but** we will not do contact tracing or send whole classes home.

If not contacted by NHS Track and Trace, you can assume that your child has not been identified by them as a close contact.

**However**, we all know how closely children interact within the classroom so we would advise you to book a PCR test for your child when informed of a positive case in their class. They can continue to attend school whilst waiting for either the test or the result. If the PCR is positive, then they should isolate.

We would also advise you to be vigilant and to monitor your child for symptoms if informed of a positive case within their class. They should not attend school if they develop symptoms and should book a PCR test immediately.

Use this link to book: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

You should not take a **Lateral Flow Device** (LFD) test if you are symptomatic even if LFD testing is part of your routine. **LFD tests are for people who are asymptomatic** – i.e. not showing any symptoms. If you are not sure whether you have one or more of the symptoms then book a **PCR** test.

Please note that this applies to anyone in your household as well.

For further information on testing go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

If your child presents with a new continuous cough, a fever or is experiencing any loss of or change in their taste/smell, please do not send them to school.

If your child presents with any of these symptoms while at school, we will call you immediately. You should have your child tested and the whole household should self-isolate until you get the result.

Further action will depend on the result of the test.



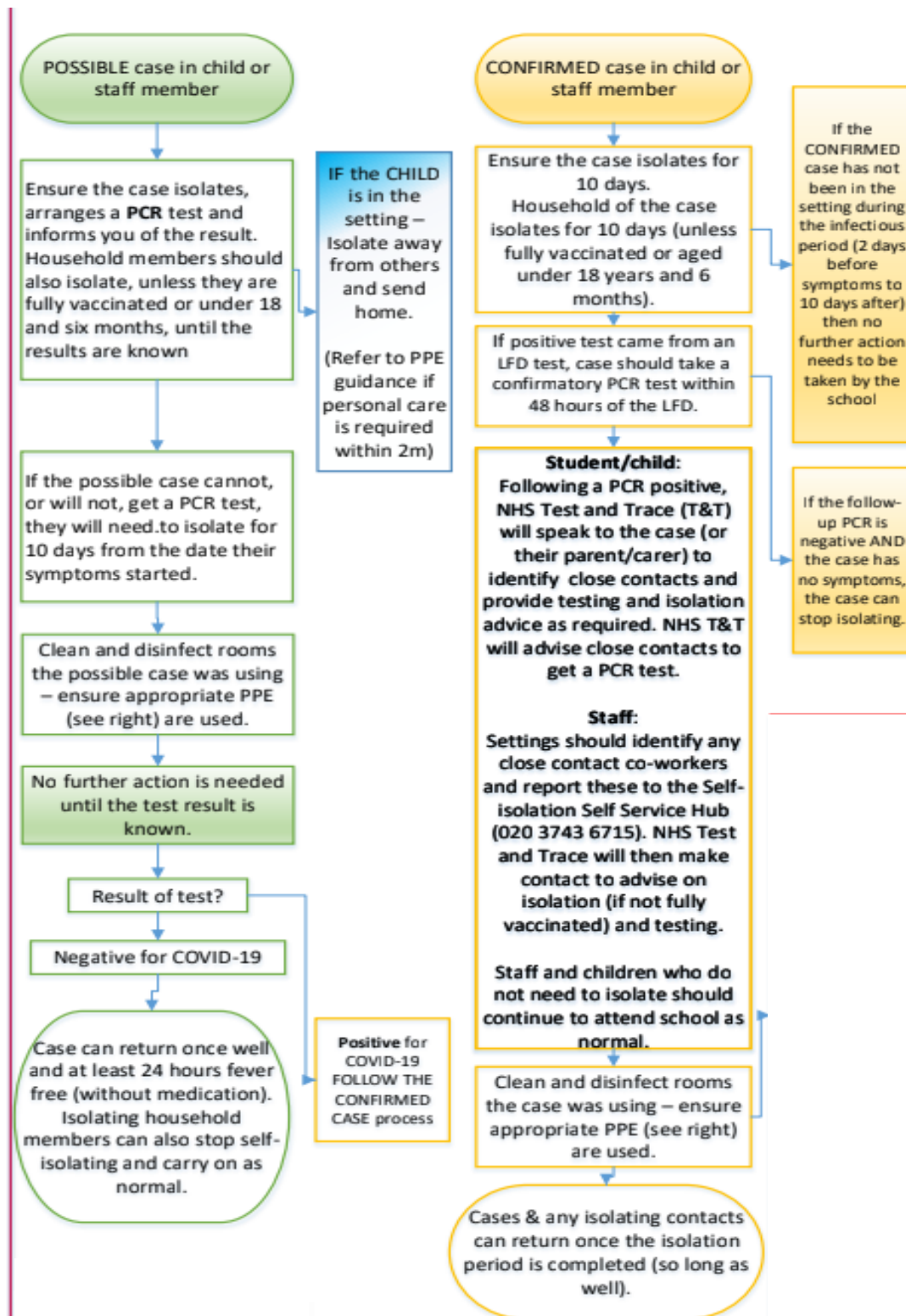
**EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ANY COVID RELATED COMMUNICATIONS (POSITIVE RESULTS OF TESTS):** [covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk)





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### Breakfast Club/After School Club

30 places available at Breakfast and After School Club.

Please ring or email the office at [holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk) to book places one week in advance.



We cannot take bookings on the day.

Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am and **children need to be in by 8am**. Arrivals after this time will not be admitted.

After School Club finishes at **6pm**.

Please ring **07398477727** when dropping off and picking up.

**Drop off and collection to Breakfast Club/After School Club is at the main red doors to the church.**

***Have a lovely weekend!***