



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Interim Executive Headteacher: Ms S Freeley

Head of School: Mrs L Banks

Millfield Avenue

East Cowes

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1st September 2023

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome to the new school year. I hope it's been a wonderful break, despite the distinctly average weather!

Please find below some helpful information to ensure the school year starts smoothly.

School Day

Procedures for the beginning of the school day

- All children to enter school through the Carpark and West Gate between 8:30 and 8:45am.
- Children will enter the school building from 8:30am to settle quickly to their early morning work. The Register will be taken at 8:45am.
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be greeted by members of staff at The Annexe gate, and will say goodbye to parents there.
- Years 3-6 will enter the main building via the school hall.
- Children in Years 4-6 may come into school unaccompanied.

Procedures for the end of the school day

- School finishes at 3:10pm, and parents come on to the school site to collect their child.
 - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 from The Annexe.
 - Year 3 from the back of the school, by the library steps.
 - Year 4 from their classroom door.
 - Years 5 and 6 from the hall door.
- Children in Years 5 and 6 may also walk home alone if you have given permission. Consent forms will be sent out to parents.
- Please remember to notify the school office if you would like to collect your child from the West Gate.

School Meals & Packed Lunches

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to **Universal Infant FREE School Meal (UIFSM)** served with milk or water.

If you have a child in Years 3-6, and are eligible, they will also receive a Free School Meal. If you are not entitled to Free School Meals then dinners may also be purchased for children in Years 3-6, at a cost of £2.75 per day.

Children in all year groups may choose to bring a packed lunch, rather than having a school meal.

Most schools have adopted healthier lunchbox policies, which have been put in place to encourage healthy eating in school. At this time, we do not want to adopt a separate policy; however, we would draw your attention to the guidance below:

- Chocolate bars, fizzy drinks and sweets are not allowed
- Chocolate covered biscuits e.g. KitKat should be small and limited to one bar per day
- **Nuts are banned to protect children in school with severe allergies**

Breaktime Snacks

We will continue with our Tuck Boxes, this is excellent value at 30p a day for a healthy snack! We offer a great selection of snacks, such as biscuits, bread sticks, wraps, breakfast bars, fruit and brioche rolls. Please pay online on your Scopay account, if this is not possible we can take cash in the office.

Alternatively, children may bring a small healthy snack from home, such as sliced fruit or vegetable sticks. Chocolate biscuits and crisps are not allowed at break time.

School Uniform

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps enable pupils to feel pride in their school. It ensures pupils are not put under any pressure because of the type of clothes they wear and promotes equality. We wear our uniform with pride and thank you for ensuring your children are properly equipped for the school day.

Please ensure that your child has the correct uniform at all times, information can be found on our website:

http://www.holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk/web/school_uniform/591997

An addition to our uniform list, as an alternative to black school shoes, is that children may wear flat, black, short ankle boots. **'Ugg' style boots, boots with coloured patterns, boots higher than the ankle, boots with fur trims, and boots with heels are all unsuitable for school wear and are not allowed.**

Breakfast Club

We continue to offer early-morning provision from 7:45-8:30am, providing a range of quiet early morning activities, indoor games and outdoor sports. We also provide a healthy breakfast option as part of our breakfast club, such as cereal, toast, pancakes or crumpets. Last entry if requiring breakfast is 8:05am.

The Breakfast Club costs £2.50 a day. Please book places through the school office. Payments are made through Scopay.

Seashells

If you require after-school provision with Seashells (based in East Cowes), please contact Mandy Thorne on 01983 290575. Booking is essential.

Term Dates

School starts on Tuesday 5th September. Please check the calendar on school website for term dates and other events.

<http://www.holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk/web/calendar/591781>

PE Days

Children will continue to come to school in their PE kit on PE days. School jumpers or cardigans will need to be worn over PE kits. Please send your child with their PE jumper to change into.

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit at all times:

http://www.holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk/web/school_uniform/591997

Reception	Tuesday
Year 1 & 2	Thursday
Year 3	Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 4	Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 5	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 6	Wednesday & Thursday

Children with PE on a Tuesday will need to come in their PE kits on Tuesday 5th September.

Reception PE will start on Tuesday 12th September.

Forest School

All Holy Cross pupils will be experiencing Forest School over the year. Mrs Downey, who runs our Forest School provision, will contact families with further details and kit lists.

Teaching Staff

Over the summer, staff have been busy getting classrooms ready and they are looking forward to welcoming the children back next week!

I am delighted to inform you that we have four new members of staff joining us. We welcome Mrs Frances Smith, our new, very experienced, SENDCO. We also welcome Learning Support Assistants Mrs Emma Wood, Miss Megan Sharpe and Miss Jenny Taylor. We are very much looking forward to them joining our happy team.

Reception	-	Mrs Wild, supported by Mrs Rayner
Year 1 & 2	-	Mrs Downer & Mrs Downey, supported by Mrs Wood & Miss Sharpe
Year 3	-	Mrs Bennett & Mrs Banks
Year 4	-	Miss Sprake, supported by Miss Taylor
Year 5	-	Miss Austin, supported by Mrs Long
Year 6	-	Miss Mac

Social Media

Please like and follow our social media pages. These are open pages so that we can showcase and share the fabulous learning, and exciting extra-curricular activities and sports, going on at Holy Cross with our friends, family and our local community. Permission is always sought before placing any pictures of children's faces on these accounts.

www.instagram.com/holycrossprimary

www.facebook.com/holycrosscatholicprimaryschoolleastcoves

School newsletters will come out on a Friday, and will contain dates and key information and messages.

Contact

If you have queries or concerns that you would like to share with your child's class teacher, please contact them via the school office admin@holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk

All of the staff at Holy Cross are enthusiastic and excited to build on the successes of the last academic year, and we look forward to working in partnership with our families.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Best wishes,



Mrs Lucie Banks
Head of School