



28th February 2022



NUAHT NA CROISE NAOFA

A bumper edition of the Holy Cross Nuachtlitir

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope everybody enjoyed the mid-term break. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces this morning. This week's edition of our Nuachtlitir has quite a bit of info. Please take the time to read through all of the various updates listed below:

- 2-3 Updated Covid 19 advice for primary schools.
- 4 GAA arrangements for this week
- 4 Ash Wednesday Arrangements
- 5 Holy Cross Way Nominees

**PHOTO OF
THE WEEK**



This week's photo is of our two winners of the Holy Cross Way Raffle for February. The focus of last month was "Respect" and these two young ladies set a wonderful example for their peers - maith sibh! Please see the full list of the nominees for the month later in the Nuachtlitir.



Updated Covid advice for Primary Schools

As I am sure you have all read, last week the government released new public health advice that comes into effect from today, 28th February. Some of the main points and what effect they will have in Holy Cross school are summarised below.

Staying at home if you have symptoms

The requirement to stay at home if you have symptoms of Covid 19 remains (list of symptoms available here - <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/symptoms-child/>). If your child is displaying symptoms of Covid 19, please do not send them to school until they are 48hours clear of symptoms. We would ask that parents continue to inform the school of positive covid tests. We will continue to notify parents of cases of Covid in the class via text and email. We are awaiting clarity on isolation times for positive cases in pupils and staff and will forward this information as soon as it is available.

Face Coverings / mask wearing

It is no longer a requirement for staff or pupils to wear face coverings in school. Staff and pupils can continue to wear face coverings if they so wish. Any staff member or pupil who wishes to wear face coverings will be treated with the utmost respect at all times in Holy Cross. There is also no requirement for parents to continue to wear face coverings when dropping / collecting their child/children in the school grounds. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our parents for their co-operation with respect to children wearing face coverings in school. This has been a difficult time for children and staff and we count ourselves as very fortunate to have such supportive parents in Holy Cross.

Hand Hygiene

Best practices regarding hand hygiene will continue to be promoted in Holy Cross. The children will hand sanitise throughout the day, before and after eating, and playing in the yard as well as at other relevant stages throughout the day.

Cleaning and Hygiene in Schools

The school's current cleaning arrangements will remain in place for the remainder of the school year. Louise, our school housekeeper will continue to ensure all common touchpoints are sanitised regularly throughout the day as well as carrying out her usual cleaning routine. We are very fortunate to have Louise on our staff as she ensures Holy Cross is kept impeccably clean for our students and staff members. Contract cleaners will continue to clean the classes, corridors and bathrooms each evening.

Physical Distancing

The Department of Education has recognised that physical distancing implemented in schools has impacted teaching and learning and the normal socialising and mixing between class groups. There is no longer a requirement for schools to maintain class pods and bubbles. From a practical point of view, this will allow us to bring back some initiatives over the coming weeks. Some examples include "buddy reading" (where children from a senior class would help children from a junior class with their reading) or reinstating our school Tionól in the Halla each Friday morning.

Updated Covid advice for Primary Schools (contd.)

Morning Time Routine / Afternoon Collection Routine

For the time being, our morning and afternoon routines will stay the same. Children can enter the school through their allotted class door between 8:50am and 9:10am. Children can be collected from their allotted door at the usual times in the afternoons also. Any change to these arrangements will be communicated to all parents well in advance.

Please note: over the last few weeks we have noticed an increase in the amount of children arriving late to school. Please ensure your child arrives to school at the correct time.

Visitors to the school

Although new government guidance states that visitors can now enter the school building we would ask that for the time being, for safety and security purposes, if you need to visit the school for any reason you ring the intercom bell at our main entrances and do not enter the building unless permitted by someone in the office. If you would like to arrange a meeting with your child's teacher please continue to contact them via Aladdin connect or by making contact with the office.

Return to school declaration

The return to school declaration on Aladdin is no longer required. If your child is absent following illness or following school closures, this no longer needs to be filled out.

Ventilation

Best practices surrounding ventilation in classrooms will still be followed in Holy Cross. The windows in the classrooms will still provide a flow of air while each class, including our Special Education Rooms, will have a HEPA filter / air purification device operational throughout the day.

After Schools Activities

We are delighted to announce that we are currently in the process of finalising details with external parties regarding after school activities. We hope to have a "sign up" morning next week where parents can sign up and pay these external teachers for activities for the coming weeks. We will send these details out as soon as times and prices etc. are finalised in the coming days.

I would like to sincerely thank all of our staff, pupils and parents for coming together so effectively throughout this difficult time. Despite Covid 19 still being a significant consideration in school life, we are very happy to be taking so many meaningful steps back towards normality.

GAA this Week

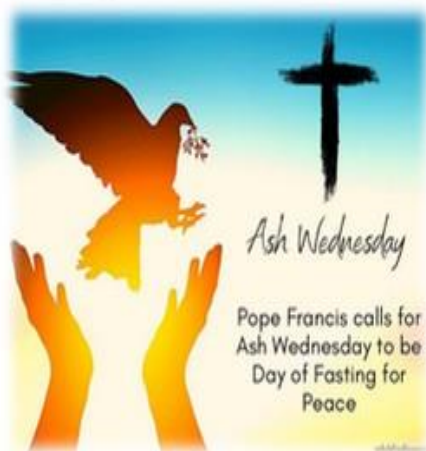
Only one match this week as our girls team have a "bye" week.

- The girls team will train tomorrow, Tuesday 1st March from 2:40-3:30 in the school yard (training is taking place on a Tuesday to accommodate our staff meeting on Wednesday afternoon).
- The boys team will play St. Mary's, Donnybrook on Thursday. The boys will return to school between 3:45-4:00pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY - 2nd March

DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR UKRAINE

Holy Cross Church, Dundrum



Pope Francis calls for Ash Wednesday to be Day of Fasting for Peace



Beginning Lent with a Day of Prayer for Ukraine

➤ Church opens from 7.30am - 8.00pm

- Ashes distributed from 7.30am-9.10am at 10.30am Mass & 1.10pm Prayer Service after school/work 6.30pm - 8pm

faith
hope
love

...My heart is with the people whose lives and land are being torn apart.... in communion with Pope Francis I invite everyone "to make, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day."

Archbishop Dermot Farrell

Ash Wednesday, 2nd March 2022

Fr. John has passed on details for families regarding Ash Wednesday.

Rang 6 will be representing Holy Cross on the day during 10:30 mass with other classes tuning in via the webcam.



Holy Cross Way Nominees

Last month, Respect was the focus of our Holy Cross Way Raffle. All of the children below were selected by their teachers for setting a great example for their classmates by being responsible in school. February marked the last month of our Holy Cross Way Roll of Honour.

Congratulations to all of our pupils who were nominated throughout the school year. For the remainder of the school year we are going to set our students another target to strive towards. Keep an eye on next week's Nuachtlitir for more info.

February's Nominees - Respect

Grace Connon
Yutika Khergamkar
Jonathan Dillon
Elena O'Connell
Olivia King
Ronan Prendiville
Beth Carville
Piotr Cirka
Alfred O'Connor
Julia Henson
Isla Heneghan
Christian Marccone
Nikola Wolna
Cian McCarthy
Alex Coakley
Naoise Taylor
Amy Madden
Dylan Gonzalez Harty
Des Cooney
Aisling McKenna
Pádraig Heneghan
Daniel Gorman

Eleanor King
Harshiv Khergamkar
Olivia King
Poppy Nally
Matthew Mullins
Isaac Glynn
Elise Descloux
Arsen Majabaque
Nadia O'Neill
Emma Pennington
Killian Boyle
Fintan Cooney
Emma McCourt
Adi Pillai
Ciara Loughnane
Sophia O'Neill
Peter King
James McLaughlin
Conor Brady
Gracia Govorcinovic
Charlie Mannion
Sophie Rochford

Leon McGovern
Lisa Egan
Erik Waldron
Olivia Fernandez
Juliette Long
Ryan McIntyre
Maia Whelan
Shane McIntyre
Aiden Wang
Jack Browne
Sophia O'Neill
Alba Socca
Doran Browne
Ava Trischler
Finn McGrath
Esmé Cady
Helena Comerford
Tom O'Reilly
Grace McLaughlin
James Carroll
De La Ray Marais
Esmé Hatton