



31st August 2026



NUACHT NA CROISE NAOFA

Off to a Great Start in Holy Cross Céad míle fáilte romhaibh ar ais ar scoil!

We are up and running again in Holy Cross for the 2026-27 school year having enjoyed a very smooth start last Thursday morning. It was wonderful to see the smiling faces of the children light up the corridors, excited to see their friends and meet their new teachers and SNAs. It was particularly lovely to see Ms. Smith and Ms. Kearns' new Junior Infants settling so well on their first day in "big school"!

We have some new members of staff who we would like to offer a very warm welcome to. Ms. Ruth Kearns re-joins our staff as one of our Junior Infants teachers having enjoyed a number of years teaching abroad. Ms. Laura Leslie joins our Special Education Team and Ms. Katie Walker joins our wonderful team of SNAs.

We have included some helpful reminders on the next few pages. Please take the time to read through these with your child.

If at any stage you would like to get in touch, please feel free to get in contact via the office via email or Aladdin.

Míle Buíochas,

John McGrath

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Despite the wet weather last week Junior Infants had a lovely start, playing with their friends and getting to explore their new school! Ms. Smith and Ms. Kearns' classes stopped for a photo in front of Paul's fabulous new mural in the Rang 2 yard!



School start and finishing times for 2026-27



Arrive at the assigned doors between 8:50 am & 9:00am.

External doors will close at 9:00am when formal instruction will begin.

Collection from the assigned doors at 1:30pm (for Junior & Senior Infants) and 2:30pm for all other classes.

Please note that for this week and next week, Junior Infants will go home at 12:00pm.



Punctuality - Our school arrival time gives greater flexibility to families. We hope that will mean less pressure in the mornings and that there will be no unaccompanied children in the school yards. If you are dropping your child to school late please bring him/her to the Main Entrance Door (Blue Door) or to the Main Office Door and a member of staff will take him/her to the class.



School Access - The pedestrian gate at the rear of the school / County council car park will be locked during the school day (access to the school will be via the Kilmacud Rd. entrance only during the school day). The gate at the rear will be open for parents at school collection times. We are asked by our insurance company to remind parents that the school cannot be responsible for children in the school yard outside of school times of 8.50am - 1.30pm/2.30pm. Please do not leave your children unattended in the yard.



Traffic Warden - As many of you will know, we are lucky to have Mr. Gerry Barry working as our school traffic warden. Due to the improvements to the Upper Kilmacud Road last year under the Safe Routes to School Initiative, Gerry's crossing point has moved slightly down the hill toward Dundrum crossroads. We ask that all parents and children continue to use Gerry's crossing for obvious safety reasons. This may mean some families, who approach the school on the Garda station side may have further down the hill to walk to reach Gerry but of course this detour will be worth it in terms of safety.



Bicycle/scooter parking

All families are encouraged, where possible, to avail of public transport or to walk, cycle or scoot to school as part of our Green Flag initiatives. For safety reasons we would ask that all cyclists and scooters dismount at the school gates and walk to the shed.



Parking and Car Parks - Please use the car park at the rear of the school if you are driving. The Staff Car Park is for the use of staff only during school hours. Please use the pedestrian gate if you are walking or cycling in the front of the school. **Pedestrians/cyclists should under no circumstances use the staff car park entrance.**



Aladdin - School/Home Communication App

Parents can communicate via the Aladdin App directly with the school in the following situations:

- ✓ If your child is absent, please mark an explanation on Aladdin. The explanation can be put up once the roll has been taken in school.
- ✓ Parents can notify school up to seven days in advance of absences, late arrivals or early leavings.
- ✓ For more general messages, parents can send a message from Aladdin Connect to the class teacher and / or the school office. Please note that teachers may not be able to reply until the end of the school day or the following morning if messages are sent after 4pm. For urgent messages please contact the office.



Communication

If there is any matter causing you concern as a parent/guardian please call the office to make an appointment.

01 298 5493 or email: admin@holycrossschool.ie



School Uniform - It is very important that the children learn the importance of how to present themselves for school. Please ensure that the children are in the correct uniform every day. Black shoes (i.e. shoes which can be polished - not black runners) should be worn and all hair should be kept out of the eyes with a simple hair band or clips. Please remember when cold or wet weather arrives, children must wear the School Jacket. The teachers will let the children know on what day they will have PE lessons and will need to wear their track suit.

MEABHRÚCHÁIN THÁBHACHTACHA/IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Healthy Lunches - Hot lunches are provided by Nourish + Green. If you are having trouble with your order you can contact them directly @ info@nourishandgreen.ie. A small snack will be required for little break (e.g. some fruit / a small sandwich). Please note that the school's healthy eating policy still remains in place. A good guide for lunches is if it's healthy it's in - if it's not, it's out. **Please also be mindful of our request that nuts (and spreads containing traces of nuts including SESAME SEEDS) should not be used in lunches.** Heavily marketed products like Frubes/Dairylea Dunkers are packed with sugar and should not be included in lunch boxes.



Collecting Children - If for whatever reason your child must be collected by someone other than yourself or their regular collector, please let the school know in advance. Teachers will not hand over a child to someone we do not know. If you are happy for your child to walk home with their sibling or on their own, please write a short message to the class teachers on Aladdin to let them know.



Label everything - books, uniforms, lunchboxes, coats, etc. Please take the time this evening to ensure that all of your child's belongings including uniforms and jackets are labelled clearly. We cannot return uniform items with no name.



Party Invitations - As you can understand we are not in a position to help with the distribution of party invitations here at the school. All party invites must be distributed somewhere other than the classroom.

Dogs / Pets - We ask that no dogs be brought on to the school premises at any stage (with the exception of guide dogs).

Parents Association Uniform Sale



Each year, our Parents Association organise a number of uniform sales to help families source some pre-loved uniform items which can be very handy throughout the school year. The first sale will take place a little earlier than usual on Friday, 11th September in the school hall at 9am.



In advance of this date, we would welcome the donation of any pre-loved uniform items that are in good condition. Any uniform items for the sale can be dropped into the office at any stage. Mile Buíochas!

Extra Curricular Activities

The following activities are run by external organisations in Holy Cross School. These usually take place in the afternoon in the school halla or the Senior Yard.

Monday: Irish Dancing 1.30 – 2.30 Junior/Senior Infants
Irish Dancing 2.30 – 3.30 1st – 6th Classes

Football Academy 2:30 – 3:30 Rang 1 – Rang 4

Tuesday: Drama 1.30 – 2.30 Junior/Senior Infants
Drama 2.30 – 3.30 1st – 6th Classes

Wednesday: Multi-Sports 1.30 – 2.30 Junior/Senior Infants
Multi-Sports 2.30 – 3.30 1st to 2nd

Thursday: Tennis 1.30 – 2.30 Junior/Senior Infants
Tennis 2.30 – 3.30 1st – 6th Classes
Hockey 2:30 – 3:30 3rd – 6th Classes

Friday: Chess 2.30 – 3.30 2nd – 6th Classes

To make signing up for these activities easier, in next week's Nuachtlitir we will have contact details for each provider, prices for the term and further info on how you can sign up. After school activities will begin the week of 14th September.



GAA



The GAA season for our Girls and Boys teams will begin shortly. Keep an eye on next week's Nuachtlitir as we await fixture details. Mark, the Naomh Olaf Club Coach will begin taking Junior Infants to Rang 1 for GAA sessions on Wednesday mornings in the school. The Naomh Olaf academy is also back open for children aged 4-7. The Academy provides boys and girls with a fun, safe, and welcoming introduction to Gaelic Football, Hurling and Camogie through games-based activities delivered by qualified coaches and mentors. Why not go along and give it a try at the weekend! More details on the next page!



NAOMH ÓLAF GAA CLUB

Holly Avenue, Sandyford, A94 PF75.

www.naomholaf.ie



FOOTBALL & HURLING/CAMOGIE ACADEMIES 2026



FOR ALL GIRLS & BOYS AGED 4 - 7

(born 2019 - 2022)

Boys, Saturday Mornings

Girls, Sunday Mornings



Come along any weekend for a try out

For further details email naomholafacademy@gmail.com

Or check out our club website @ naomholaf.ie

Our Annual Academy Includes ...

- ☒ A full year of training and dedicated games
- ☒ Safe and supervised.
- ☒ Dedicated, fully trained Mentors.



ACADEMY BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

Open to boys and girls aged 4 - 7.

Booking is regarded as acceptance of academy membership conditions.

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