



29<sup>th</sup> August 2024



# NUAHT NA CROISE NAOFA

## Off to a Great Start in Holy Cross

### Céad míle fáilte romhaibh ar ais ar scoil!

We had a wonderful, smooth start to the 2024-25 school year this morning. It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces coming through the doors eager to meet their teachers and catch up with their friends! A very special welcome to Ms. Hegarty and Ms. Smith's Junior Infants who had great fun on their first day in "big school"!

I would also like to welcome some new members of staff to our team here in Holy Cross. We have Ms. Katherine Smith in Junior Infants, Ms. Gilly O'Shea in Senior Infants and Ms. Rebecca Lane in Rang 5 joining us this year. A very warm welcome back to Ms. Ellen Finnegan and Mr. Cian McDaid, our Rang 4 teachers. We also have Ms. Chloe O'Brien joining our fantastic team of SNAs this year.

We would also like to congratulate Ms. Majella Doyle and Ms. Susan Crosbie on the births of little Charlie and Ellie over the summer months and we wish them all the very best during this special time for their respective families.

I have included a list of helpful reminders on the next few pages. Please take the time to read through these with your children.

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

Míle Buíochas,

John McGrath

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

This week's photo of the week is of our new Junior Infants. Ms. Hegarty and Ms. Smith's classes had a great first day with their friends in Holy Cross - many more to come!



### School start and finishing times for 2024/25



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.



### **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. As you know, due to construction taking place on our grounds, bikes and scooters can be parked in the shed beside the senior yard astro. 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 gate for cars.**

### **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](mailto:admin@holycrossschool.ie)

### 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. For urgent messages please contact the office.

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.



Healthy Lunch - 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) not be used in lunches including **SESAME SEEDS**. 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.



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.