



15th December 25



NUACHT NA CROISE NAOFA

Reminder - the school will close at **12:15pm** for **ALL CLASSES** this Friday 19th December.

The school will re-open on Monday 5th January at 8:50AM.

This week sees our very busy first term come to a close. I would like to thank all of our parents and guardians for your support and partnership throughout the last few months. Our fantastic pupils also deserve a special mention for working so hard and always trying their best. I would like to especially thank our fantastic staff team who work so diligently and collaboratively to provide such rich learning opportunities for our pupils. We are lucky to have such a special team here in Holy Cross.

On behalf of us all here in Holy Cross, we wish all of our families a very happy Christmas and a pleasant and peaceful New Year!

Nollaig Shona,

John McGrath

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



We are so proud of all of our Rang 5, Rang 6 and Naíonáin Mhóra pupils who performed wonderfully at our Carol Service last Thursday in the Church. They are a credit to their school and their families!

Parents Association Raffle

Many thanks to all of our Holy Cross families for supporting the Parents Association Raffle over the last two weeks. The draw for the amazing prizes gathered below will take place on Thursday of this week in the school and all lucky winners will be contacted to make arrangements to collect their prizes.

Please have all tickets and monies returned to the office by Wednesday of this week. There are still a few extra books of tickets available in the office in required.

Again, we would like to thank all of our families who donated prizes and bought tickets. The incredible array of prizes are pictured below!



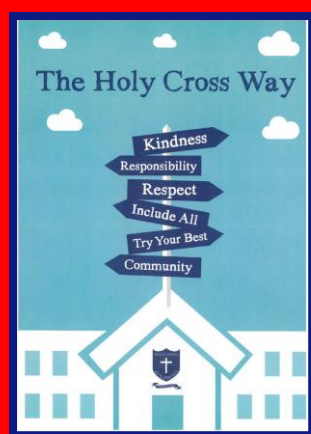
Many thanks also to our wonderful PA who have provided brilliant Christmas Annuals for all of the children in the school. They were delivered to the junior classes by a very special guest this morning which caused great excitement!



Holy Cross Way - Community

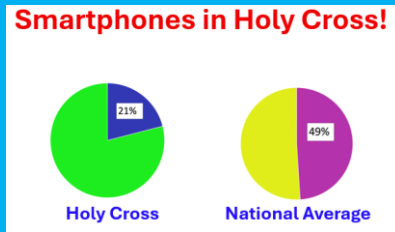
This month the element of the Holy Cross Way we are focussing on is "Community". Thanks to our fantastic Amber flag Committee there are a few initiatives that everybody is getting involved in. This Friday, 19th December, we will have a Christmas jumper day for Pieta House. We will all wear something Christmassy and bring in €2 to donate to Pieta House to support the great work that they do. Our Amber Flag committee would like to remind children that parents have been very generous with buying tickets etc. over the last few weeks and so the €2 should come out of pocket money! If that isn't an option we would encourage all of our children to make sure they give some extra help around the house this week to earn the €2 for Friday!

Also in the last week or so the classes have been working hard on Christmas cards for Friends of the Elderly. These cards will be sent to elderly people in our community and in different parts of the country who may be alone this Christmas. It is a great example for our students of how small gestures can have a big impact on others in our communities.



Smart Tech Usage in Holy Cross

Our fantastic Student Council, working with Ms. Faulkner's Rang 5, have been working on gathering some data on smartphone usage in Holy Cross. They were interested due to the recent media coverage regarding Social Media laws in Australia being discussed in Ireland and other European countries. What they have discovered is very interesting - please see below!



The Student Council wanted to compare the % of students in Holy Cross with smartphones against the national average.

We found that we are way below the national average! By less than half!

We surveyed 3rd to 6th class and found:

- 21% pupils have a smart phone
- 2% have "dumb" phones (Nokia etc)
- 25% have smart watches that allow kids to call/ text their parents

We're delighted with these results and hope that this is one area that we can stay below average!

(Survey carried out by Cyber Safe kids in February 2024)

<https://www.cybersafekids.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/CSK-TU-Report-23-24-Final.pdf>

