



Newsletter

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October 2016

FIRST DAYS IN PRIMARY 1

A big welcome to our new Primary One girls. There was such excitement as the girls came to school on their first day, proudly wearing their smart red uniforms. They settled happily, meeting new faces, exploring their new environment and busily participating in a range of activities. We hope they have a wonderfully happy first year at Holy Cross Girls.



ACCELERATED READING

Last year Accelerated Reading was a fabulous success with all our KS2 girls achieving certificates and becoming Ready Readers, Independent Readers, Rising Readers, Super Readers, Advanced Readers or Star Readers. The girls have been given their annual targets for this year and will receive treats based on their progress.

Pupils can use books from the school and class libraries as well as from their local library. You can also check if books they are reading at home have quizzes by visiting the following website:

www.arbookfind.co.uk



Our first Accelerated Reader Assembly will be on **Monday 10th October.**
Get Reading Girls!

OUR VALUE OF THE MONTH IS 'DUTY'

At our weekly assembly on Monday P7 girls introduced our new value 'DUTY'. The girls talked to the other girls about how they could do their duty at home with their families, at school with their friends and in the community with the elderly and sick. As part of the assembly the school prefects were chosen whose duty will be to help and support the younger girls over the next months. Congratulations and well done to our Primary 7 girls.



FAREWELL TO FR GARETH

The children and staff said their farewell to our Chaplain Fr Gareth who had visited them every week bringing the message of God in a child centred and fun filled way.

Mrs McNally presented Fr Gareth with a



Celtic Cross to remind him of Holy Cross Girls' and an Irish teddy bear to remind him of his time with us in Ireland. May God bless him as he begins a new

ministry in Scotland.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to our friends in Uganda at St Theresa's Primary School who celebrated their centenary at the weekend. They hosted an event for 6000 people. We continue to keep them in our prayers.





THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

As part of our Global Schools and Eco Schools programme we are inviting you to place

an order with us for “the Real Advent Calendar”. They will be provided by the Meaningful Chocolate Company and come with an Advent activity book.

The cost is £3.99 each and orders should be returned along with the money by Thursday 27th October.

TESCO FARM TO FORK

All of our classes are currently taking part in Tesco Farm to Fork Trails. This year the trails are focusing on Food for Fuel. This helps children learn about the food they need to do sports and activities, as well as focusing on what athletes need to ensure they're at their very best.



Farm to Fork

P6 BOXING



As part of P.E. throughout term one, Primary Six are delighted to be participating in boxing classes. Each week the girls have been working hard to improve their fitness levels and have

been taught a number of different techniques. Watch this space, we might even have the next Katie Taylor in our midst!

CHESTER'S CHALLENGE

Primary 5 are busy learning about healthy living with Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke Association. They are taking part in 3 workshops:

- Physical activity and the heart
- Eating your way to health
- Stamping out smoking



Maths Week Ireland: **15th-23rd October**
Holy Cross Girls has once again registered to take part in Maths Week Ireland. All P5, 6 & 7 pupils will be able to take part in online Manga High challenges to earn points – Please encourage them to compete at home and let's hope the girls are as successful as they were last year.

Maths quizzes will be sent home on Monday – don't forget you can help your child with these.

P3 DANCE

P3 had Maiden Voyage Dance Company visit them this week to carry out a workshop in preparation for our trip to the Mac to watch them perform their show Quartet for Fifteen Chairs.



SCHOOL CHOIR

Our school choir will be performing in a concert at Holy Cross Church on Friday 21st October at 7pm. Parents and family may attend. More details will be sent out before the concert.



HANDWRITING COMPETITION

We are concentrating on good handwriting and presentation of work this year. As part of this there will be a handwriting competition in school. Children will enter a piece of poetry and the winners will be announced at assembly on 24th October.



SCHOOL GARDEN

We were delighted to be chosen as the school to work with the Hastings Hotel Group on the "Sow and Grow" programme. James, Raymond and Jilly from the Europa Hotel have started work on our new garden area, providing planters, seating and plants for the children to grow their own food. With the help of our Big Lottery Grant we can now design and develop our school garden and hope to have the children cooking their produce with their parents soon.



AFTER SCHOOLS

All our after school activities are now up and running.

P1-3 after schools every day 2.15-3.00

P4-7 Monday-Thursday

Monday: Choir

Tuesday: Ceili
Mercy College

Wednesday: Coding
Sewing
Concert Band

Thursday: Judo
Film Club

If your daughter is unable to attend after schools please write a note in her homework diary or phone the school. Otherwise no child who has registered for after schools will be allowed to leave the school before 4pm.

NO SMOKING

Remember the school grounds are a no smoking area. Please use the old St Gabriel's pitch if necessary.



CAR PARK

The front of the school is a designated area for buses only. No parking or setting down children or waiting is allowed.



INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

Our Primary 7 girls joined with schools from across North Belfast in Girdwood at an event to mark International Peace Day on 21st September.



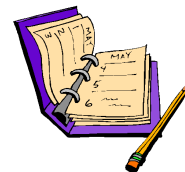
TAG RUGBY

Primary 5 are really enjoying learning a new sport – Tag Rugby with coach Johnny. They will receive 6 weeks of lessons followed by a tournament with other schools at Ballysillan Leisure Centre on Tuesday 18th October



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Thursday 13th October** - Sponsored Dance
- **Friday 14th October** - Flu Vaccinations
- **Wednesday 26th October** - Halloween Concert/ Open Day



All the nursery children and parents will be receiving their invites to visit the school on Wednesday 26th October at 10am to have a look around the school and be entertained.

- **Friday 28th October** - Halloween Hooley

We are holding our Halloween Hooley on Friday 28th October. Remember to come to school dressed up and bring £1 to get your ghoulish goodie bag.



Don't forget school closes at 12pm. There are no dinners but there will be buses.

- School reopens on **Monday 7th November** at the normal time.