



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all those who completed and returned the termly questionnaire in December. Your comments are warmly welcomed and gave us some very positive feedback about how you believe we are coping with the current pandemic as well as some excellent ideas for improving our School further. As a School we feel it is incredibly important to gather your views and believe that working together is the best way to ensure we continue our high standards and cohesive community. Below is a summary of the points raised in the questionnaires.

## **What has gone well:**

- Individual children have made excellent progress
- Weekly newsletter
- The School's handling of the pandemic
- Covid updates
- Making everyone feel safe
- No disrupted learning since September
- Children receiving a Catholic education
- Cheerful and helpful staff
- Introduction of ParentPay
- Homework
- Motivated children
- Hand sanitizer given throughout the day
- Guided reading
- Celebrations of Black History Month

## **Even better if:**

- No Covid19 (everyone wishes this, only some wrote it!)
- Every parent wore a face covering
- More explanation of events for new parents
- Younger children were encouraged to drink their water
- Children could attend Mass
- The School could help with the First Holy Communion programme
- Homework was a clearer format and not so much online
- More regular changes of reading book
- Reading diary was read and reviewed by teacher
- There was a car park for parents with babies
- Parents Evening offered a social platform instead of a phone call
- Normal hours were resumed
- We employed a specialised PE teacher for Holy Cross and St Augustine's
- The older children had a longer time to eat at lunch time
- Black History Month focused on saints and missionaries from England
- Less time were spent using Chrome books

## Other comments:

- Thank you all for your continued care, support and resilience!
- Continue the good work
- The hard work of staff is much appreciated
- Could we consider a non perishable treat instead of Chocolate Friday and stop birthday treats containing sugar?
- Headteacher Awards and Chocolate Friday should be given on rotation
- Welcome to Holy Cross Mr Cook!

All questionnaire responses were carefully considered and I would like to share with you the following responses:

- The staff are very grateful for your kind words of appreciation for the way the School has handled the Covid 19 situation. Staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that children have been given the education they deserve in an environment which is safe and happy.
- Many of our School events are annual and so familiar to families within the community. I fully accept that this may be confusing or overwhelming for new families and so will make every effort to write explanatory letters to Reception and Nursery classes as well as the usual notices in the weekly Newsletter.
- I will speak to staff regarding children of all ages drinking their water. It is very important for children (and adults!) to hydrate their bodies throughout the day.
- Chocolate Friday is a big incentive for the children but I do understand the concern regarding sugar intake for children. I think that we could compromise here and continue with Chocolate Friday (children receive this once a year) but stop birthday sweets being given out. We always sing to children on their birthday and ensure we celebrate with them but there is no need for sweets to be given to every child in the class. Please keep all your sugary treats to birthday parties (when you are allowed to have them again) but I will write in the newsletter that we no longer allow birthday sweets brought into School.
- I will speak to teaching staff regarding the changing of reading books and the checking of reading each week in the planners. Reading is a high priority in our School and I will ensure these issues raised are addressed.
- Schools have been asked by Archbishop John Wilson not to attend Mass in church or have Mass or a service in School during the pandemic. We are very fortunate that our wonderful Fr Antony conducted several prayer sessions via Zoom in the Autumn term. We will continue with these until we are able to gather as a community in church once again.
- When we are all back in School I will adjust the timetable so that the older children have a longer time to eat their lunch, I do accept they are not currently given time to eat at a leisurely pace.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy new year.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Collins

Executive Headteacher of Aspire London



not to have more but to be more  
saint oscar romero