

Thursday 22nd August 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,



We are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to HCB next Wednesday 28th August 2024.

✚ The boys will start the new school term on *Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th and Friday 30th August 2024.*

✚ The first 3 days back will be the **earlier finishing times** – RR, ML and SL at 11.30am, P2, 4 and 6 at 11.45am & P3, 5 and 7 at 12.00noon.







✚ NO Dinners will be provided on these days.

✚ All information for our return is on our School Website

www.holycrossboys.com and on the School App (which can be downloaded from the homepage of website).



Entry/Exit School Procedures for start of HCB School Year on Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th and Friday 30th August 2024

P4 line	P4W Mr Wallace Rm12 P4M Mrs Mullan Rm13 (Start 8.45am and finish 11.45am) Room 6 Exit door	NO parking near the school gates!	P2F Mrs Fegan R4 P2T Mrs Torbitt R5 (Start 8.45am and finish 11.45am) Front Main door	P2 line	P6M Mr Magennis R19 P6H Mr Hawkins R20 (Start 8.45am and finish 11.45am) Pitch Exit door	P6 line
P5 line	P5W Mrs Wallace Rm 14 P5M Mr Morrin Rm 15 (Start 9.00am and finish 12.00noon) Room 6 Exit door		P3Mc Mrs McShane R10 P3A Mrs Armstrong R11 (Start 9.00am and finish 12.00noon) Front Main door	P3 line	P7J Mr Johnston R21 P7M Mr McEvoy R18 (Start 9.00am and finish 12.00noon) Pitch Exit door	P7 line
 Enter the school via Rm 6 exit doors.	 Collection Point 1 (Front Gate)	MAIN School Gates	 Collection Point 2 (Front Gate)	 Enter the school via front door.	 Collection Point 3 (Side gate at pitch)	 Enter the school via pitch exit door.

Primary 1 pupils (1Q Miss Quirk R2 and 1M Mrs Mohan R5) will have separate start/finishing times at the start of the new school year (Parents will be notified).

- **Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th & Friday 30th August 2024:** Parent Meetings the Teacher Meetings Individual times will be given to each pupil
- **Monday 2nd to Friday 13th September 2024:** 9.00am to 12:00 pm
- **Monday 16th September 2024:** Feast of the Holy Cross 9.00am to 11.20am
- **Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th September 2024:** Pupils will receive dinner / lunch in school and go home straight after eating - 9:00 am to 12:15 pm
- **Thursday 19th & Friday 20th September 2024:** Pupils will receive dinner/lunch in school, have playtime in the yard and then go home - 9:00 am to 12:45 pm
- **Monday 23rd September 2024:** First Full Day - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
- (All pupils may attend the Breakfast Club if desired 8:00am to 9:00am.
- *During September 2024 the Parents / Guardians may bring the pupils to and collect them from their classroom each day at the agreed times. From Monday 23rd September 2024 the pupils will line up outside in the morning at their Room Number and the teachers will lead the class out at home time.*

Please read the important information/dates attached.

We hope that you and the boys have had a lovely relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing the boys return to HCB on **Wednesday 28th August 2024.**

Mr McAreyvee
(Principal)

Mr Curran
(Vice-Principal)

Parent Information and Key Dates for School return

✚ **School Dinners:** The current price of a school meal is **£2.65**. Your son may be entitled to Free School Meals. To check this, you can contact the Education Authority Belfast on 02890564000 and ask to speak to someone in the department of free school meals and uniform grants. Alternatively, apply online via <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

✚ **Packed Lunches:** Sandwiches or a bread based item, Fruit / vegetables/ yoghurt, Water / milk / non fizzy juice and one treat.

✚ **Water:** All children are encouraged to carry a plastic bottle of water in their schoolbags to drink throughout the day. No flavoured water!

✚ **Healthy eating** at Holy Cross should not be seen in isolation. The Healthy Eating Policy of Holy Cross Boys' is an integral part of our PDMU policy. It involves a partnership between teachers and parents. We will have a Healthy Eating Ambassador each week to help promote healthy eating.

✚ **Break:** Children can now have a small bread-based snack and a yoghurt alongside fruit and/or vegetables. The only drinks taken should be either milk or water. Bread based snacks with a sugar free filling e.g. plain bread sticks, bread rolls, sandwiches of ham, tuna, cheese etc. Scones, muffins or pancakes can be used occasionally as they contain some sugar and may cause tooth decay if taken frequently.

Healthy Lunch Choices: In PDMU (Personal Development, Mutual Understanding) lessons we are trying to develop the idea of a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle which will be carried on into adult life. For this reason, we encourage pupils to include a piece of fruit, sandwiches, and a non-fizzy or sugar free drink in their lunch as well as a treat (biscuit).

Pupil Information and Consent Form: These forms will be sent home on **Wednesday 28th August 2024**. Please ensure that you complete and sign the Pupil Information and Consent Form (Copy Attached below) and return it to the class teacher ASAP. It is essential that we have this information. Please contact the school if you have any medical issues/concerns regarding your son that the school should know about.



Lunches at Holy Cross Boys' Primary School



Bread snack/ Sandwiches	Fruit/yoghurt/ vegetables	Drink: milk/water
Treat: 1 normal size bar of chocolate or normal size bag of crisps/salted popcorn.		

**NB: NO FIZZY drinks or sweets.
NO oversized bars of chocolate.**



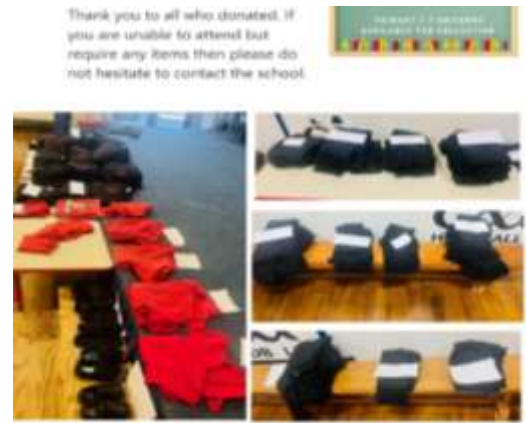
HCB School Uniform

Pupils will wear their full school uniform on the first day back on Wednesday 28th August 2024.

NB: We are grateful to all our parents who contributed generously to our School Uniform Appeal (organised by Mrs Brooks) at the end of June. All donations were in good condition & clean. Please call into the school to have a look and take what will be of use for your son for the start of the school year. Uniforms will be available in the school hall, tomorrow **Friday 23rd** and on **Tuesday 27th August from 12.00noon to 2.00pm.**

HCB School Uniform consists of:

- ✚ Black jumper (with school crest)
- ✚ Red Polo shirt
- ✚ Plain Black trousers
- ✚ **Plain black shoes/black trainers** (no stripes/designs)
- ✚ Black shorts can be worn in the summer months
- ✚ Parents/guardians are asked to label all items of clothing clearly with their child's name.
- ✚ On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school (watches are not considered items of jewellery and may be worn). Earrings ARE NOT PERMITTED.
- ✚ Hair: Lines or dyes ARE NOT PERMITTED.



Physical Education

All pupils should wear their full P.E Uniform on their P.E days.

Your son can come to school for the day/s he has PE in the following:

- ✚ Black Jogger Bottoms
- ✚ White Polo Shirt
- ✚ Normal Black School Jumper with HCB Crest
- ✚ Black Trainers



Attendance

- ✚ Holy Cross Boys' PS is committed to a positive policy of encouraging pupils to attend school regularly. The school will work with parents, pupils and outside agencies to secure this aim.
- ✚ **Rewarding Pupils with Excellent and Improved Attendance:** Pupils who attend School for 5 days of the week will automatically receive a Written Homework Pass for the following Thursday night. Our Student Council brought in this initiative, and it has helped to encourage improved attendance for many pupils. We also celebrate all our pupils who put in a great effort with attendance at every opportunity throughout the school year and reward these pupils at the mid and end of each term with prizes and organise Friday visits to Solitude.
- ✚ Friday is typically the worst attended day and so we introduced the **Friday Tuckshop** last year (which takes place every Friday, starting **Friday 6th September 2024**) to encourage the boys to come in on that day. A new initiative from our **Student Council**, entitled **Football Top Friday** (FREE) which will replace Trainer Tuesday, is another incentive to improve Friday attendance and will start on **Friday 6th September**. **It IS NOT a non-uniform day.** Pupils will wear their football top over their red polo shirt.
- ✚ **Poor Attendance:** Pupils who have a history of poor attendance will continue to be monitored on a regular basis. Pupils who have had poor attendance for the last school year **2023-2024** will be placed on a school monitoring list, which will be checked weekly with class visits from Mr McArevey and Mr Curran. Pupils are encouraged not to take holidays during term time. If a pupil goes on a holiday during term time, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Key Information/Dates for Term 1

DATE	Activity																																
Wed 28 th , Thur 29 th and Friday 30 th August 2024.	Early finish for the first 3 days back (RR, SL & ML Rooms finish at 11.30), (P2,4 & 6 start finish 11.45am) & (P3,5 & 7 finish at 12.00pm).																																
Wednesday 28 th August	Breakfast club will start on Wednesday 28th August for P2-7 and on Monday 23rd September 2024 for Primary 1. The Breakfast Club opens at 8:00am in the school canteen and is FREE FOR TERM 1 (includes cereal, toast and a drink). Parental Contact/Consent Forms (Contact/Consent details etc.) will be given out on Wed 28 th August 2024. Please return asap (Copy attached).																																
Monday 2 nd September	Normal times for P2-7 from Monday 2nd September 2024 . <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">YEAR</th> <th style="background-color: #00ff00;">START</th> <th style="background-color: #00ffff;">Finish</th> <th style="background-color: #ffccff;">Friday Finish</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">1</td> <td style="background-color: #00ff00;">9.00</td> <td style="background-color: #00ffff;">2.00 (starting Monday 23rd Sept)</td> <td style="background-color: #ffccff;">12.45</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">2</td> <td style="background-color: #00ff00;">8.45</td> <td style="background-color: #00ffff;">2.15</td> <td style="background-color: #ffccff;">1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">3</td> <td style="background-color: #00ff00;">9.00</td> <td style="background-color: #00ffff;">2.30</td> <td style="background-color: #ffccff;">1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">4</td> <td style="background-color: #00ff00;">8.45</td> <td style="background-color: #00ffff;">2.45</td> <td style="background-color: #ffccff;">1.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">5</td> <td style="background-color: #00ff00;">9.00</td> <td style="background-color: #00ffff;">3.00</td> <td style="background-color: #ffccff;">1.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">6</td> <td style="background-color: #00ff00;">8.45</td> <td style="background-color: #00ffff;">2.45</td> <td style="background-color: #ffccff;">1.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">7</td> <td style="background-color: #00ff00;">9.00</td> <td style="background-color: #00ffff;">3.00</td> <td style="background-color: #ffccff;">1.20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Primary 1 pupils (1Q Miss Quirk R2 and 1M Mrs Mohan R5) will have separate start/finishing times at the start of the new school year (Parents will be notified). Monday 23rd September 2024: First Full Day for Year 1 - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm During September 2024 the Parents/Guardians (of Primary 1 pupils) may bring the pupils to and collect them from their classroom each day at the agreed times. From Monday 23rd September 2024 the pupils will line up outside in the morning at their Room Number and the teachers will lead the class out at home time.</p>	YEAR	START	Finish	Friday Finish	1	9.00	2.00 (starting Monday 23 rd Sept)	12.45	2	8.45	2.15	1.00	3	9.00	2.30	1.00	4	8.45	2.45	1.20	5	9.00	3.00	1.20	6	8.45	2.45	1.20	7	9.00	3.00	1.20
YEAR	START	Finish	Friday Finish																														
1	9.00	2.00 (starting Monday 23 rd Sept)	12.45																														
2	8.45	2.15	1.00																														
3	9.00	2.30	1.00																														
4	8.45	2.45	1.20																														
5	9.00	3.00	1.20																														
6	8.45	2.45	1.20																														
7	9.00	3.00	1.20																														
Sunday 1 st September	First Weekly Bulletin - Sunday 1 st September 2024.																																
Mon 2 nd September	Break time and Lunchtime Book Club will start on Monday 2nd September 2024 - for pupils who would like to read or pupils with attitude/behaviour, schoolwork issues/concerns. Homework will also start on Monday 2 nd September for P2-7 pupils.																																
Tuesday 3 rd September	Monitoring Weekly Visits from Vice-Principal (Tuesdays) & Principal (Thursdays) will start on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 . This will replace Punctuality Monitoring Week and Homework Monitoring Week etc. and continue throughout the year. The list will focus on pupils who have issues with punctuality, attendance, uniform/shoes, homework, (Spellings & Reading) and behaviour.																																
Wednesday 4 th September	Parent Curriculum Information: Teachers will prepare a video and send via relevant class apps to parents on Wednesday 4th September . This will be uploaded to School Website for Class Information Video.																																
Friday 6 th September	Football Top Friday will replace Trainer Tuesday (FREE) as an incentive to improve Friday attendance. Friday Tuckshop Day: This will take place every Friday, starting Friday 6 th Sept 2024. Solitude Friday Visits – Restart on September Friday 6 th September 2024. School of Philosophy House System: First Weekly winners for Friday 6 th September 2024.																																
Thursday 12 th September	Written Homework Pass (For Thursday nights only) to start on Thursday 12 th September.																																
Monday 16 th September 2024	Feast of the Holy Cross: Pupils will finish early on Monday 16 th September 2024 for the Feast of the Holy Cross. All classes will finish at 11.00am & no homework.																																
Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th September 2024	Extended Schools - there will be two 8-week blocks this year and will commence on Week 1 - Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th September 2024.																																
Thursday 26 th September	European Languages Day on Thursday 26 th September 2024 (Miss Quirk to provide details).																																
Thursday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day is Thursday 10 th Oct 2024. Poster competition - Mental Health Awareness on Friday 11 th October 2024																																
Monday 14 th - Friday 18 th October	Book Fair starts on the week beginning Monday 14th October 2024 (Details to follow) .																																
Monday 21 st October	Pupil Awards for Reading, Maths and Attendance at Mid-term Monday 21 st October 2024.																																
Monday 28 th October - Friday 1 st November	Halloween Break for pupils will be from Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November 2024 inclusive. Halloween Hooley plans TBC. Early finish on Friday 25 th October 2024 (All pupils finish at 11.00am).																																
Wednesday 6 th November	Flu Vaccination: P1-P7 (Fluenz Tetra is a vaccine to prevent influenza/flu): Wednesday 6 th November 2024																																
Mon 11 th -Fri 15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week: Mon 11 th - Fri 15 th Nov 2024 - Odd Socks Day (Tuesday 12 th Nov) and Poster competition (Friday 15 th Nov).																																
Thursday 16 th November	World Philosophy Day presentation on Socrates on Thursday 14th November in the hall.																																



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School September 2024

Dear parent/guardian,

Please ensure that you complete an8538d sign the Pupil Information and Consent Form to ensure that we have all the relevant and up to date details for you and your son. We need this information asap.

PUPIL RECORD

CHILD'S NAME: _____ Teacher: _____

DOB: _____ 1st Language: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

TEL No:(Mobile) _____ (Home) _____ EMAIL: _____

Method of transport to school: _____ Entitled to Free School Meal (FSM) _____ SEN: _____

Nursery/ Playgroup/ Previous School: _____

Priority/Emergency Contact Numbers

Emergency Contact's Name	Number 1	Number 2	Relationship to Child
1.			
2.			
3.			

Doctor's Name	ADDRESS
Length of involvement	TELEPHONE

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The above-named child (*please tick*):

- has **no** medical conditions
- has** a specific medical condition (please give details below).
- has** medication to be kept/administered in school (please give details below).

FOOD/OTHER ALLERGIES INFORMATION

The above-named child (*please tick*):

- has **no** allergic reactions to food or any other products.
- has** allergic reactions to and should not eat the following (please give details below)

Please ensure that your child is aware of anything to which he may have an allergic reaction. If your child should develop an allergy/medical condition in the course of the year, please let the class teacher know immediately. To ensure all staff recognise children with severe medical/allergy conditions, a photograph and relevant information will be displayed in the school.

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian) Date: _____



Parent Consent 2024-2025

Please tick the appropriate box:

YES

NO

Permission is granted for photographs/videos to be taken of my child for use within the School (School Newsletter, School Twitter/Facebook Accounts, School App/website, Publication in Newspapers/After School Activities, displays around the school and in circumstances when television stations visit the school.

Permission is granted for the above-named taking part in any educational visits/activities deemed necessary by the school. I confirm he is medically fit to participate in trips and will make the school aware of any changes in his medical condition in the future. These visits may include, Ardoyne Library, Falls Swim Centre, Holy Cross Church, John Paul Youth Club, Ardoyne Youth Club, Sports venues (Solitude) and any other visit/trip organised by the class teacher or others in the school.

Permission is granted for my son to travel in the car with the teacher/classroom assistant in some circumstance – eg: Sporting/Musical events/competitions, Aunt Nellie's etc.

Permission is granted for my son to have access to the internet and to IT systems at school. I know that my son will receive e-safety education to help them understand the importance of safe use of ICT – both in and out of school.

Permission is granted for my phone number to be entered into the School Web Design Private Messaging.

Permission is granted for a plaster to be used on my child if required.

Permission is granted for participation in the RSC Flourish Programme and NSPCC Programmes (including PANTS Programme).

Permission is granted for my child's **P1 or P2 teacher or classroom assistant** to provide intimate care for my child where appropriate.

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian) Date: _____

Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

2024-2025 School Calendar



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

August 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31				1	2	3	4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
34	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
35	26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

October 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			

November 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31					

January 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1			1	2	3	4	5
2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	27	28	29	30	31		

February 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5						1	2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9						1	2
10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
14	31						

April 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14		1	2	3	4	5	6
15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
18	28	29	30				

May 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18				1	2	3	4
19	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22							1
23	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	30						

July 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27		1	2	3	4	5	6
28	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
29	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31	28	29	30	31			

*Parent/Teacher Interviews on Friday 7th February 2024

	Pupils are in School		Baker Days (5)
	School closed/holidays		Staff Development Days (5)
			Early Finish (No Dinners)