

Friday 25th August 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,



We are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to HCB on Tuesday 29th August.

Please find preparations for our School Return attached.

- The boys will start the new school term on **Tuesday 29th August 2023**.
- The first 3 days back will be the earlier finishing times on Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st August 2023 (details below).
- NO Dinners will be provided on these days.
- The school will be closed on the Bank Holiday Monday 28th August 2023.
- All information for our return on Tuesday 29th August 2023 is also on the School Website www.holycrossboys.com.

Entry/Exit School Procedures for the start of School Year for Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st August 2023 are below:

P4 line	P4W Mr Wallace Rm12 P4M Mrs Morrin Rm11 (Start 8.45am and finish 11.45am) Room 6 Exit door	NO parking near the school gates!	P2F Mrs Fegan R4 P2M Mr Mullan R5 (Start 8.45am and finish 11.45am) Front Main door	P2 line	P6MJ Mr Jennings R19 P6EJ Mr Johnston R21 (Start 8.45am and finish 11.45am) Pitch Exit door	P6 line
P5 line	P5C Mr Connolly Rm 15 P5W Mrs Wallace Rm 14 (Start 9.00am and finish 12.00noon) Room 6 Exit door		P3Mo Mrs Mohan R13 P3Mc Mrs McShane R10 (Start 9.00am and finish 12.00noon) Front Main door	P3 line	P7H Mr Hawkins R20 P7L Ms Lynch 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 1T Mrs Torbitt R3) will have separate start/finishing times at the start of the new school year (Parents will be notified).

- Mon 4th to Wed 13th September 9.00 to 12.00pm.
- Thur 14th 9.00am to 11.30am.
- Fri 15th – Wed 20th September 9:00am 12:00pm
- Thursday 21st & Fri 22nd September 9:00am to 12.15pm Pupils will eat lunch / dinner in school.
- Mon 25th Sept – Fri 29th Sept 9.00am to 12.45pm Pupils will eat lunch / dinner in school and play in the yard.
- Monday 2nd October: 9:00am to 2.00pm First Full Day. Pupils will line up in the yard.
- During September the Parents / Guardians may bring the pupils to and collect them from their classroom each day at the agreed times. From October 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 Tuesday 29th August 2023.

Mr McArevey (Principal) Mr Curran (Vice-Principal)

YEAR	START	Finish	Friday Finish
1	9.00	2.00	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

Start/End Times for September 2023

NB: Primary 1 pupils (P1Q Miss Quirk R2 and P1T Mrs Torbitt R3) will have separate start/finishing times at the start of the new school year (Parents will be notified).

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.


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.**



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 Tuesday 29th August. 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.

HCB School Uniform

Pupils will wear their full school uniform on the first day back (Tuesday 29th August 2023).

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. We reward these pupils at the mid and end of each term with prizes.
- ✚ **Poor Attendance:** Pupils who have a history of poor attendance will continue to be monitored on a regular basis. Pupils that had poor attendance for the last school year 2022-2023 will be sent home a letter in early September to remind parents of the importance of good attendance. 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:

DATE	Activity																																
Tue 29 th , Wed 30 th and Thur 31 st August	Early finish for the first 3 days back (RR and SL Rooms finish at 11.30), (P2,4 & 6 start finish 11.45am) & (P3,5 & 7 finish at 12.00pm).																																
Tue 29 th Aug	Breakfast club will start on Tuesday 29 th Aug for P2-7 and on Mon 2 nd October 2023 for Primary 1. The Breakfast Club opens at 8:00am in the school canteen and costs of £1 per morning (includes cereal, toast and a drink).																																
Tues 29 th Aug	Parental Contact/Consent Forms (Contact/Consent details etc.) will be given out on Tuesday 29 th August 2023. Please return asap (Copy attached).																																
Fri 1 st Sept	Normal times for P2-7 from Friday 1 st September 2023. <table><tr><th>YEAR</th><th>START</th><th>Finish</th><th>Friday Finish</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>9.00</td><td>2.00 (starting Mon 26th Sept)</td><td>12.45</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>8.45</td><td>2.15</td><td>1.00</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>9.00</td><td>2.30</td><td>1.00</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>8.45</td><td>2.45</td><td>1.20</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>9.00</td><td>3.00</td><td>1.20</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>8.45</td><td>2.45</td><td>1.20</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>9.00</td><td>3.00</td><td>1.20</td></tr></table> <p>Primary 1 pupils (1Q Miss Quirk R2 and 1T Mrs Torbitt R3) will have separate start/finishing times at the start of the new school year (Parents will be notified).</p>	YEAR	START	Finish	Friday Finish	1	9.00	2.00 (starting Mon 26 th 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
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6	8.45	2.45	1.20																														
7	9.00	3.00	1.20																														
Sun 3 rd Sept	First Weekly Bulletin - Sunday 3 rd September 2023.																																
Mon 4 th Sept	Break time and Lunchtime Book Club will start on Monday 4th September 2023 - for pupils who would like to read or pupils with homework, attitude/behaviour, schoolwork issues/concerns. Homework will also start on Mon 4 th September for P2-7 pupils. Homework Monitoring Week will take place from Tuesday 5 th to Friday 8 th .																																
Tue 5 th Sept	Trainer Tuesday: This will take place every Tuesday, starting Tuesday 5 th September 2023. Pupils can wear their trainers on Tuesdays for 50p.																																
Wed 6 th Sept 2023	Curriculum Meetings: Teachers will prepare a video and send via relevant class apps to parents on Wed 6 th September. This will be uploaded to School Website for Class Information Video.																																
Fri 8 th Sept	Friday Tuckshop Day: This will take place every Friday, starting Friday 1 st Sept 2023. Solitude Friday Visits – Restarts on September Friday 8 th September 2023. House System – 1st Weekly winners.																																
Mon 12 th Sept	Written Homework Pass (For Thursday nights only) to start on Thursday 21 st September.																																
Thur 14 th Sept	Feast of the Holy Cross: Pupils will finish early on Thursday 14 th September 2023 for the Feast of the Holy Cross. P4-7 pupils will attend the mass and return to the school. All classes will finish at 11.00am & no homework.																																
Mon 18 th to Fri 22 nd Sept	Punctuality Monitoring Week: This will take place from Mon 18 th to Fri 22 nd September.																																
Tue 26 th Sept 2023	European Languages Day on Tuesday 26th September 2023																																
Tue 10 th Oct 2023	World Mental Health Day is Tue 10 th Oct 2023																																
Fri 13 th Oct 2023	P1-P7 Intranasal fluenz Tetra vaccine on Friday 13th October 2023																																
Mon 16 th to 20 th Oct	Book Fair starts on the week beginning Monday 16th October 2023 (Details to follow).																																
Mon 23 rd Oct	Rewarding Pupils: Awards for Reading, Maths and Attendance at Mid-term and end of term to start Monday 23 rd Oct.																																
Thur 26 th Oct to Wed 1 st Nov	Halloween Break for pupils will be from Thursday 26th October to Wednesday 1st November inclusive. Early finish on Wednesday 25th October (P2, 4 and 6 finish 11.45am, P3, 5 and 7 finish 12.00pm. Rainbow Room, Starlight Room and Primary 1 will finish at 11.30am.																																
Mon 13 th -Fri 17 th Nov	Anti-Bullying Week: Mon 13th - Fri 17th Nov - Odd Socks Day (Mon 13th Nov) and Poster competition (Fri 17th Nov).																																
Thur 16 th Nov	World Philosophy Day is on Thursday 16 th November 2023 (Focus on Aristotle).																																



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please ensure that you complete and 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: _____

CLASS: _____ Teacher: _____ DOB: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL No: _____ EMAIL: _____

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

Nursery/ Playgroup/ Previous School: _____

Priority/Emergency Contact Numbers

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: _____

 <p>Parent Consent 2023-2024</p>	Please tick the appropriate box:	
	YES	NO
<p>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.</p>		
<p>Permission is granted for the above named taking part in any educational visit 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.</p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>Permission is granted for a plaster to be used on my child if required.</p>		
<p>Permission is granted for my child's P1 or P2 teacher or classroom assistant to provide intimate care for my child where appropriate.</p>		

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian) Date: _____

Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

2023-2024 School Calendar



August 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31		1	2	3	4	5	6
32	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
33	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
34	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
35	28	29	30	31			

September 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35					1	2	3
36	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
37	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
38	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
39	25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
39							1
40	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
41	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
42	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
43	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
44	30	31					

November 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44			1	2	3	4	5
45	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
46	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
47	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
48	27	28	29	30			

December 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48					1	2	3
49	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
50	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
51	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
52	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Parent/Teacher Interviews on Friday 9th February 2024

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