



"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

**Newsletter
Friday 9th
September 2022**

Holy Ghost Catholic Primary School

www.holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk

Twitter: HG_SchoolSW12

'A child helped by another child is like a strong city'



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year, I hope that your summer break was peaceful and relaxing. We particularly welcome our new children and families in Reception and across the school, and look forward to getting to know you in the weeks ahead.

We have some new members of staff too. Mr Will Milton joins as Year 5 teacher and Miss Hannah Kielty as Reception class teacher and Miss Maria Butler has joined our team as a teaching assistant. In the office Renate Ryszko is our new administrative assistant, AJ Bundhun joins us temporarily as site manager. I'm sure you will all join me in extending a warm welcome to them as they settle into to Holy Ghost Primary.

It has been lovely meeting many of you at the school gates this week and I look forward to getting to know all our families over the coming weeks. Please do introduce yourself if you have the chance, I'm trying to remember all the new names but there are many more of you than me!

Wishing us all a happy, healthy and successful year,

Mrs McCann



Absence Requests

Good attendance at school is proven to lead to academic success and we remind you that medical and dental appointments should be made outside school hours. Where this is not possible please fill in an absence request form available on the school website or from the school office and attach evidence e.g. appointment letter, giving at least 3 days notice if possible.

Diary Dates

Monday 12th—Friday 16th September

- Reception Children attending until 11:30pm

Tuesday 13th September

- Yr 6 TfL Workshop

Wednesday 21st September

- Individual and Siblings School Photographs

Friday 23rd September

- Beginning of New School Mass 9:30am
- Inter-planet Cross Country, Y3— Y6

Thursday 29th September

- Wandsworth Secondary School Test Year 6

Secondary School Open Days and Tests

Attending a Secondary school open day is an important part of choosing the right school for your child; the majority of schools now offer open days after school hours and at weekends. As such the number of visits authorised during school hours will be limited to 3 days in Year 6 only. Please fill in an absence request form.

School tests which take place during the school day will be authorised, again up to 3 days. Requests for additional absences can be discussed with Mrs McCann.

Illness and Sickness Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school parents or carers, must contact the school by 9am at the latest on each day of the child's absence, giving the reason for the absence. Messages can be left on the school answer phone if you are unable to speak to a member of the office staff. You can also use parentmail to notify us of sickness absence. Messages regarding absence should not be passed to a sibling's teacher; calls (or emails) must be made to the school office.

Wandsworth Tests

Year 6 parents please note that the registration for the Wandsworth Tests closes on Sunday 11th September. You will have received a flyer with further information last school year and we resent this flyer to you today.

Healthy Eating Schools and Birthdays

With the new school year underway we wanted to inform you of some small changes we are making regarding treats sent into school to celebrate birthdays. As a healthy eating school, we ask parents to not send in any sweets, cakes or chocolates.

We will be working alongside our new school council next week to revise how we celebrate birthdays and will be in touch to inform you of the decided changes.

Book Donations and Returns

This term in Holy Ghost we are taking stock and auditing our reading resources in school and therefore we are pausing acceptance of donations of books. If you have any books belonging to school which you may have forgotten to return, especially Phonics Bugs books please return to school as soon as possible. We are very grateful for all the help, support and donations we receive from our families and we will keep you updated on our progress.

Class PE Days

On the day your child's class has PE they may wear their PE kit to school. Please ensure all PE uniform is clearly labelled with names.

Reception = Tuesday - dance, Thursday - PE

Year 1 = Tuesday - dance, Wednesday - PE

Year 2 = Monday - gymnastics, Tuesday - PE

Year 3 = Monday - gymnastics, Tuesday - PE

Year 4 = Monday - gymnastics, Tuesday - PE

Year 5 = Monday - PE, Tuesday - dance

Year 6 = Monday - PE, Thursday - swimming

Holy Ghost School Uniform

School specific items of uniform can be purchased from <https://www.schooluniform247.co.uk/Your-School-Uniform/Holy-Ghost-Catholic-Primary-School/>

Key Stage 2 PE uniform can be ordered via parentmail.

ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND CLASS.

We will host uniform sales termly for unclaimed items.

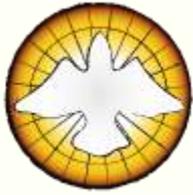
Arrangements for End of School Day/ Collection of Children

It is essential that secure arrangements are in place to ensure the safe handover of every child from the care of the school to that of the responsible parent or carer. These arrangements relate directly to our safeguarding policy and Keeping Children Safe In Education (2022) requirements.

If there is a change to the collection arrangements for your child, please inform the school office by 12pm on the day, via email/phone call. Teachers will not release a child to a different adult (even if the adult has previously collected your child) if we have not been notified on the day of a change.

Please also inform us if your child is attending a party / playdate and is being collected by another parent. Notes in Reading Records can often be missed, so please inform the school office.

As a school we understand that things happen at short notice causing parents to be delayed, but it is vital you inform the school, and not just the person collecting your child.



Holy Ghost Catholic Church

Balham ♦ London

Mass attendance forms' for families planning to apply for to Catholic Schools

Parents hoping to have their children accepted at Catholic Schools normally need to provide a 'priests' reference form' (sometimes called a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice'), confirming their regular attendance at Sunday Mass for a period of 3 years or more. To assist the priest in making his professional judgement about a family's attendance, many parishes, including our own, have traditionally made use of 'Mass attendance forms', which a family will fill out each week to demonstrate attendance at Mass.

During the period of the pandemic, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales suspended the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, since for many people it was very difficult or indeed impossible to come to church at this time. For this reason, we did not produce 'Mass attendance forms' during this time.

However, as of Pentecost Sunday 2022 (5th June) the Sunday obligation has been restored.

Therefore, we are returning to the practice of providing 'Mass attendance forms' which will be available after every Sunday Mass as from 11th September 2022.

Families who will be applying for places in a Catholic school – primary, secondary or Sixth Form – in the near future should make sure they fill in a form every Sunday (or Saturday evening). Forms are available at the back of church and, once completed, should be left in the tray provided.