



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.1

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back and we hope you all enjoyed the fabulous weather throughout the summer holidays. Everyone has returned refreshed and delighted to see friends and colleagues once again. You might be surprised to hear that many children and staff love the routines of term time!

We extend a really warm welcome to all our new Reception children and their families who have joined our happy school community this week. We also welcomed our two- and three-year-olds for a visit on Wednesday and we look forward to them joining us over the next two weeks.

In our first whole school assembly of this year, I was very impressed with children's excellent behaviour, confidence in answering questions, choral reading of a prayer, singing that became more enthusiastic as the assembly progressed and the whole school's commitment to being as kind as we can be to each other this year. Please join staff in noticing when your child is kind and praise them for it.

We have an exciting year ahead and, once again, we invite you to invest in building good two-way communication with your child's new class teacher by attending 'Meet the Teacher' sessions on the afternoon of Thursday 17th September.

We wish all our Year 6's sitting their Bucks 11+ next week calm minds and good sleeps so they can do their best.

On behalf of all our staff I thank you for your generosity at the end of last academic year. We received some lovely treats which were enjoyed by staff, and many kind words of gratitude were expressed. Words are very impactful and many staff place great value on words of appreciation from parents and children. Thank you.

Please pray that our whole school community has a good year ahead and that our global brothers and sisters in Nepal, and in war torn areas, receive the support they need to build back stronger than before.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 7th September	Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 8th September	Bucks 11+ Familiarisation
Thursday 10th September	Bucks 11+ Exam
Sunday 13th September	Education Sunday
Monday 14th September	Week 3 of the Menu Extra-Curricular Activities Start
Wednesday 16th September	Phonics Information Sessions for Parents of Children in Reception & KS1 8.50-9.20am and 2.45-3.15pm
Thursday 17th September	Year 5 Swimming (1 of 10) Meet the Teacher – 2.30-2.50pm for KS1 and 2.50-3.10pm for KS2
Saturday 19th September	Berks 11+ Exam
Monday 21st September	Week 1 of the Menu
Thursday 24th September	Year 5 Swimming (2 of 10)

Please note the staff INSET Days on Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October (INSET means In-Service Training; school is open for teacher training but closed to pupils). Mr Holder will be running a three-day holiday camp should anyone need childcare. Details to follow with next week's newsletter.

Celebrate Success!

To link in with our Vision statement, 'To value, inspire and challenge all', we invite parents/carers to notify us of special achievements (outside of school e.g. music, sports, positive contribution) your child has achieved so they can be recorded on their school record and shared with children and staff. Please email bethany.chandler@hfcs.org.uk for notification. Your child will receive recognition for their achievement from their class teacher, and Mrs Benn, who will issue a 'Head teacher's Award' certificate.

Amazing Achievements

Congratulations to Tejveer Singh who participated in the Fu Jau Championship kickboxing competition and won.

Well done to Liliana Salamon Mahomed who over the summer holidays had her hair cut donating 24cm to the Little Lady Locks charity.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is still ongoing. Well done to the 37 children signed up from Holy Family so far. The deadline to sign up is 7th September, and children have until 12th September to complete the Challenge. Once they have finished the Summer Reading Challenge, please encourage your child to let their teachers know. If you would like your child recognised for their efforts, please email Librarian@8715202.onmicrosoft.com. Thank you!

Book of the Week

Each week, we will recommend a lovely new book, which will hopefully inspire our children to broaden their reading tastes.



Author: Lucy Rowland

Illustrator: Asa Gilland

Interest Age: 3-7

The Heart on Your Hand has a beautiful and reassuring message about how love stays with us, even across time, distance and change. Written in lyrical rhyme and accompanied by stunning illustrations, this heart-warming picture book is perfect for sharing together and discussing feelings, relationships and belonging.

Start of Term Reminders

School email address school.admin@hfcs.org.uk.

If there has been any change in your child's health or medical condition, or if you have moved house or changed your mobile phone during the summer please inform the School Office – school.admin@hfcs.org.uk.

For children who require prescribed medication, all **Inhalers and Adrenaline auto-injectors** must be brought into school as soon as possible and given to **the School Office in Reception**. Please ensure they are within at least three months of expiry.

Please note drop off and pick up times. The school gates will open at 8.40am. All children in Reception – Year 6 will be expected in class by 8.50am. Children in Reception – Year 2 finish at 3.20pm. Children in Years 3 – 6 finish at 3.30pm.

Please can parents remind children (and any siblings that come to school at drop off/pick up) not to cycle/scoot on school premises or play ball games at drop off/pick up times. Please can we also ensure that we are being courteous to our neighbours at all times by asking that children do not play football before the school gates open in the morning.

Please can all children have indoor shoes in school for Monday 7th September. Thank you.

Children's Safety at the End of the Day

Please can parents remember to pass a signed consent form to the School Office Team if they intend for their child to walk to school/home from school unaccompanied. The forms can be obtained from reception. Please also remind children that they should return to school immediately if they are outside school and have become separated from their parent/carer or experience any other issues.

Please be reminded that children are not allowed to play on the adventure playground or with playground equipment when waiting at the end of the day. They are only allowed to play on the climbing equipment when accompanied by a member of school staff and we would appreciate you reminding your children to wait with their adult if waiting for older siblings.

Medicine to be Administered in School

Please note that we are only able to administer prescribed medicine to children once a day. If your child needs prescribed medicine during the school day, please speak to the School Office Team to complete the necessary forms. In accordance with the St Thomas Administration of Medication policy we can no longer administer any medications that have not been prescribed.

Nut/Allergy Aware School

We are an allergy/nut aware school, due to some of our children having severe nut and dairy allergies. Please be mindful that some spreads and snacks do contain nuts and could be harmful to other children despite not being eaten near them. Thank you for your understanding.

Birthday Treats

With the increase in children's allergies and food intolerances, for health and safety reasons, we have taken the decision that school staff will not distribute any cakes, chocolates, sweets or party bags that parents bring in for their child's birthday. Thank you for your understanding and support in managing children's expectations.

Fruit, Vegetables and Drinks

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive free daily fruit or vegetable.

Children in KS2 may bring their own fruit or vegetables to eat at break time. Please remind children that they must not share food with friends. No alternatives to fruit or vegetables may be brought to school.

Children may only bring water to school in their drinks bottles; no juice or cordial. Thank you.

Neighbours

Please can we ask that as a school community we all act respectfully at all times to our neighbours when coming to school and leaving school. We respectfully ask that parents/children do not sit on any of the neighbours walls in the two cul de sacs and that we ensure we do not litter and are considerate to the noise we are making, being mindful that everyone works different hours or may be unwell. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Unauthorised School Absences – Penalty Notice

Please see the attached poster for more information. If you have any queries, please contact the school's Attendance Officer, Mrs Oakes at emma.oakes@hfcs.org.uk.

Office Queries

As many parents will be aware, our school Receptionist retired in July, and, due to school budget restraints, we will be going forwards without a Receptionist.

Our school administration team now consists of:

Mrs Chandler (Operations Manager) who works 5 days a week

Mrs Oakes (Office Manager) who works 5 days a week

Mrs Mynett (Admissions Officer) who works 4 mornings (Mon-Thurs)

Please note that school Reception will not open until 8.30am and will close at 3.40pm. We politely ask parents to understand that at certain times during the school day our answer machine will be switched on. If your query is **very urgent** and you cannot get through by telephone, please email school.admin@hfcs.org.uk. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work more efficiently.

Meet The Teacher

On Thursday 17th September, you are invited into your child's classroom for a short meeting with their class teacher. KS1 teachers will welcome parents 2.30-2.50pm and KS2 2.50-3.10pm. If you have two children in the same key stage please feel free to spend just ten minutes in each class. This is a good opportunity to hear the expectations for your child's new year group, ask any questions you may have and get to know your child's teacher.

Raising Concerns

If you have any concerns during the academic year your child's class teacher, and/or member of support staff, should be your first contact and the most likely people who will be able to answer your query or solve your problems swiftly. If, after raising concerns with the staff who work with your children daily, issues are not resolved please contact the School Office (school.admin@hfcs.org.uk) to make an appointment with your child's Phase Leader. Thank you.

Phase Leaders

Miss Macfarlane is phase leader for EYFS (Nursery and Reception)

Mrs Powell is phase leader for KS1 (Years 1 and 2)

Miss Dardis is phase leader for Years 3 and 4

Mrs Fox is phase leader for Years 5 and 6

Extra Curricular Activities

Extra Curricular Activities commence from Monday 14th September. A form will be sent to parents early next week.

PE Kits

From next week, the children need to come into school wearing their PE kits on the days that they have PE. They do not need to bring uniform to change into and will stay in their kits for the whole day. Please see the table below to check what days your child has PE lessons.

Miss Macfarlane	Tuesday
Mrs Harris	Tuesday
Mrs Hume	Wednesday and Friday
Mrs Hendy	Tuesday and Friday
Mrs Powell	Monday and Tuesday
Mrs Green	Monday and Wednesday
Ms Iqbal	Tuesday and Thursday
Mrs Martinez	Wednesday and Friday
Mrs O'Reilly	Monday and Friday

Miss Dardis	Monday and Wednesday
Mrs Fox	Tuesday and Wednesday
Miss Caswell	Tuesday and Wednesday
Mrs Doyle	Thursday
Mrs Ragg	Thursday

Please note there may be special events, e.g. attending mass at Holy Family Church, when children will be required to bring uniform or a PE kit to change into. Thank you, Mrs Hume.

Year 6

If Year 6 children are sitting the Buckinghamshire 11+ next Tuesday and Thursday, please email attendance@hfcs.org.uk to notify school if you haven't already done so. We wish them all good luck.

Please also notify Mrs Oakes (Attendance Officer) if your child is attending secondary school open days this term. As above, please minimise absence by returning children to school promptly after school visits.

Holy Family Catholic Church

Please see the message below from Holy Family Catholic Church.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

If you have a child in year three or above and you wish for them to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time please ring Lisa in the parish office Monday to Friday, 10.00am – 1.00pm (excluding Thursday) to book a registration time. 01753 543770 **Booking is taking place now.**

Registration is with Roni, Lucy or Kieran beginning Monday 28th September to Wednesday 30th September between 4 and 6pm and it takes place in our church.