



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.1

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents

Welcome back and we hope everyone had a good summer and have returned rested and refreshed ready for the new term.

On behalf of the whole school community, I extend the warmest welcome to our new Reception families and the many other new children who have joined Holy Family this week. During the course of the next few weeks, two- and three-year-olds will be first visiting, then joining our Nursery provisions. We are delighted to be able to offer our youngest children wrap-around care that matches the times available for school children. This will take place within the Nursery classrooms.

Children appear genuinely pleased to be reunited with their good friends and the playground has, once again, been filled with joyful laughter.

The school site has been refreshed too. Repairs of three broken toilets and two pieces of our wooden trim trail, in addition to widening the area of safe surfacing to cover the exposed tree roots means we are starting the year with everything in full working order. The exposed tree roots became a trip hazard due to children digging the ground between the roots, so children have been asked to only dig in the brick built raised flower beds. Unfortunately, two Key Stage 2 boys' toilets were out of action at the end of term due to boys deliberately removing the push buttons that make the toilets flush. This was disappointing and expensive to rectify. Please join staff in reminding children to show care for our school environment.

We also wanted to mention that there is some outside furniture outside our new 2-year-old Nursery (near 3-year-old Nursery entrance and Mrs Hume's Year 1 class). We look for your support in ensuring older children do not climb on or move any furniture that is intended for our youngest children.

Thank you for your generosity to staff at the end of the summer term. Although it is not expected or necessary, your kind words and gratitude were very much appreciated.

One email received from a Year 6 parent referred to the good foundation her daughter received and how well-prepared her daughter is to move on to secondary school and start a new chapter in her life journey. Staff have reflected on what some parents tell us when their children leave our school and we have created a Strong Foundations Digital Passport which we will be promoting at every opportunity with our children this year.

We believe children develop closest to their full potential when parents and staff work closely together and children are willing participants. Our Strong Foundations Digital Passport includes three elements:

1. Our Learning Characters

2. Social teaching principles from the Catholic church
3. Gospel Virtues

Please join staff in noticing when your children display the positive attributes listed in any of the above three elements and praise them. Try to be specific with your praise as this will build your child's self-esteem.

We thank Father Kevin for his ministry and support over many years for children and staff past and present. Unfortunately, tonight's party has been cancelled. We hope he enjoys his weekend of celebrations and keeps in touch with us following his retirement.

We have an exciting event-filled 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 18th 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.

Please pray that our whole school community has a good year ahead.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

Emergency Alerts Test 2025

The UK government is testing the Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 7 September 2025 at 3pm. Compatible mobile phones and tablets will receive an alert, make a loud siren-like sound and vibrate. You will not need to take any action.

The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there's a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. Regular testing ensures the system is functioning correctly, should it need to be used in a life-threatening emergency.

Find out more at gov.uk/alerts.

DIARY DATES

Monday 8th September	Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 9th September	Bucks 11+ Familiarisation
Thursday 11th September	Bucks 11+ Exam
Friday 12th September	KS1 Road Safety Assembly
Monday 15th September	Week 1 of the Menu Extra-Curricular Activities Start
Tuesday 16th September	KS2 Road Safety Workshops
Wednesday 17th September	Phonics Information Sessions for Parents of Children in Reception & KS1 8.50-9.20am and 2.45-3.15pm Year 5 Swimming (1 of 10)

Thursday 18th September	Meet the Teacher – 2.30-2.50pm for KS1 and 2.50-3.10pm for KS2
Saturday 20th September	Berks 11+ Exam
Monday 22nd September	Week 2 of the Menu
Wednesday 24th September	Year 5 Swimming (2 of 10)
Friday 26th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning (children only) - £1 Donation

Please note staff INSET Days on Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th 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 Nick Brumby for progressing to Stage 4 in his swimming lessons. Well done Nick.

Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to those children who have completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge! The project runs until 13th September, so you have time to complete it if you've already made a start. Please encourage your children to let their teachers know that they have completed the challenge but if you'd like your child recognised for their efforts, please email bethany.chandler@hfcs.org.uk to let us know once they have finished, if you have not done so already. Thank you.

Book of the Week

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



Author: Kit Frost

Illustrator: Aaron Cushley

Interest Age: 6-8

Reading Age: 6-8

What Came First sets out a useful timeline showing young readers a sometimes surprising order of events with several quirky "which came first?" questions per page.

PTA Update

Thank you to all the parents and staff that supported the uniform sale. The total raised from the sales was £385.10. We will be collecting uniform in September to run future sales so please save any uniform no longer needed.

If you want to be involved in the PTA in anyway, maybe you have an idea for an event/project or want to volunteer. It's a great way to meet other parents and gain some new skills. Please contact holyfamilylangleypta@gmail.com.

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 Mrs Gonoud – Carole.Gonoud@hfcs.org.uk.

For children who require medication, all **Inhalers and Adrenaline auto-injectors** must be brought into school as soon as possible and given to **Mrs Gonoud 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 9th September. Thank you.

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.

Nut Aware School

Please remember that we are a nut aware school, due to some of our children having severe nut 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.

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.

Uniform Reminders

On joining Holy Family School, all parents sign a Home School Agreement and part of this is an agreement to adhere to our uniform policy. Branded items are available from Aqua uniform shop in Langley and unbranded items are usually available from supermarkets.

Our uniform policy can be found here <https://www.holyfamilycatholicschool.org.uk/Uniform/>.

Thank you to everyone who has ensured children's uniform reflects our policy. All children should have indoor shoes, or slippers, as much of our school is carpeted and as soon as the weather changes it prevents mud being brought into the classrooms. PE sweatshirts must not have hoods and no jewellery, other than small stud earrings, may be worn.

Thank you for your continued support.

Prime Minister's Letter to all Parents

Please also see the following link to The Prime Minister's letter to parents and carers on Best Start in Life: https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/09/prime-ministers-letter-to-parents-and-carers-on-best-start-in-life/?es_c=2B83B0113A9046481922CBF9149A0561&es_cl=71C9A2D5AD3C3E8AE36E2D78BB80601B&es_id=ph7%c2%a3o1

Book Amnesty

Please can we kindly ask families to see if they have any school reading books at home that can be returned to school. Thank you.

Road Safety

Whilst the slip road is now largely closed off to cars at school drop off/pick up times, please can parents remind children that there is still a need to be vigilant to road safety and potential danger from moving vehicles (staff and neighbours) as the slip road is not a pedestrianised area. Please can parents continue to supervise children closely and guide them not to scoot/cycle down the middle of the slip road. Everyone must remain vigilant to moving vehicles and blind spots caused by corners and parked cars.

To assist with any parking issues, The Toby has very kindly and generously agreed to allow parents to use their carpark around school drop off/pick up times. Parents may park at The Toby from 8.00-9.15am and 2.45-4pm Monday to Friday during term time only. Before parking there for the first time, please ensure that you send an email with your car registration number and car make to The Toby at langleyslough@tobycarvery.co.uk, marking the email for the attention of Wendy, and please park in the main (large) car park and not in the rear (smaller) car park as that is mainly used by Travelodge guests and for deliveries. You will need to wait until you have received confirmation from Wendy before you start parking in the Toby car park.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 6

If Year 6 children are sitting the Buckinghamshire 11+ next Tuesday and Thursday mornings, please email attendance@hfcs.org.uk to notify school if you haven't already done so. Children are expected to return to school after taking both the familiarisation and 11+ exam. 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.

Open Evening for Secondary Schools September 2026 Entry

If we receive any information, or flyers, about local secondary school open evenings they will be forwarded directly to Y6 parents.

St Joseph's Catholic High School –

Please see the attached information leaflet for further details.

Meet The Teacher

On Thursday 18th 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 Mrs Gonoud (School Receptionist Carole.Gonoud@hfcs.org.uk) to make an appointment with your child's Phase Leader. Thank you.

Phase Leaders

Mrs Scott 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 15th September. Parents will be contacted directly by the Activity provider or Mr Holder and told which activities their child has been enrolled by the end of next week.

KS2 Invite Only Clubs

Please see the attached letter regarding lunchtime trials for the invite only clubs. These are scheduled to take place next week at lunchtimes.

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.

Teacher	Day/s
Reception Mrs Harris	Tuesday
Reception Mrs Scott	Tuesday
Y1 Mrs Hume	Monday and Friday
Y1 Mrs Hendy	Monday and Friday
Y2 Miss Macfarlane	Tuesday and Friday
Y2 Mrs Powell	Tuesday and Wednesday
Y3 Ms Iqbal	Tuesday and Wednesday
Y3 Mrs Martinez / Mrs Kukla	Monday and Thursday

Y4 Miss Dardis	Monday and Wednesday
Y4 Mrs Green/Mrs Evans	Monday and Friday
Y5 Mrs O'Reilly	Tuesday and Thursday
Y5 Mrs Fox	Tuesday and Thursday
Y6 Miss Caswell/Mrs Doyle	Thursday
Y6 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.

Nurture Your Child's Musical Talent with Slough Music Service

Does your child love music? Whether they're always humming a tune, tapping to a beat, or dreaming of performing, now is the perfect time to encourage them to take their interest further!

Getting involved in music builds confidence, creativity, and teamwork – and it's a lot of fun!

Slough Music Service offer a wide range of opportunities for young people to explore and grow their musical abilities. From **learning an instrument in school** to joining exciting programs like **The Rap School** and the **Slough Youth Choir**, there's something for everyone no matter their experience or style.

<https://www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk/instrument-lessons/> Click on the link if you are interested in your child learning an instrument at school. Additionally, a lesson leaflet and application form is attached to this newsletter.

Miss Caswell