Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term **Newsletter No.10** **Friday 20th November 2026**

Dear Parents

Staff and pupils have had an action-packed week in school this week, with lots of extra-curricular activities making it feel more lively than usual. Along with multiple nativity rehearsals going on, children in various year groups have been celebrating their learning with immersive days.

On Tuesday, our Nursery children had 'When I Grow Up' day, coming into school in the outfit reflecting what they aspire to do as adults. We saw doctors, fire fighters and even a farmer. The ideas were wide and varied and the children were rightfully proud of their outfit choices; thanks to parents for supporting this day.

On Wednesday, history came to life as Year 3 celebrated Greek Day. The children came to school dressed in fabulous Greek inspired outfits. They enjoyed becoming historians for the day as they created their own fact files about fascinating Greek gods and goddesses. They started the day with a nod to the Olympics, taking part in some Ancient Greek sports and comparing them with sports we see in the modern Olympics games. Overall, it was a wonderful day for children to immerse themselves in Greek culture and history.

Also on Wednesday, Year 6 enjoyed World War II Day, where the children spent the day as evacuees who had been sent from the city into the safer areas of the countryside. They experienced stricter than usual teaching (!), responding to an air-raid warning and some even getting to wear the Dunces Hat! Children enjoyed a range of creative activities, such as making gas masks, dolly pegs and learning to dance the popular 1940's dance, the Jitterbug. A wonderful day was had by all.

On Thursday, Mr Holder and Mr Flisher took both our girls' and boys' football teams to the Slough District Football tournament, held at Dedworth Middle School. Adults were impressed by the skill shown by all players, as well as the positive attitude on display and the supportive nature of the teams. The girls secured a third place finish, and the boys were awarded second place. Well done to all who took part, and thank you to staff for recognising the importance of such opportunities for our children and facilitating it.

We look forward to mufti day next Friday. Children may come to school in their chosen clothes, and we politely ask that that, if possible, families make a donation towards our Christmas Fayre. Please see the PTA section of this newsletter for specific requests.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the 11.30am Feast of Christ the King Youth Mass this Sunday. It really is a lovely occasion for our pupils - past and present - to come together to celebrate faith, friendship and belonging.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Doyle

DIARY DATES

Sunday 22nd November	Feast of Christ the King Youth Mass 11.30am at Holy Family Church
Monday 23rd November	Week 3 of the Menu
	Mission Team Retreat Day at St Joseph's
Wednesday 25th November	Year 6 Visiting Langley Free Church
Thursday 26th November	Year 5 Swimming (9 of 10)
Friday 27th November	Mufti Day *(Donations for Christmas Fair)*
Sunday 29th November	First Sunday of Advent
	TVA KS2 Athletics 9am
Monday 30th November	Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 1st December	EYFS Nativity for Parents 2pm
Wednesday 2nd December	Year 6 Visit to RAF Bunker
	EYFS Nativity for Parents 10am
	PTA Pantomime – Theatre Royal Windsor 7pm
Thursday 3rd December	Year 5 Swimming (10 of 10)
	KS1 Nativity for Parents 10am & 2pm
Friday 4th December	PTA Christmas Fair 3-5pm
Sunday 6th December	Second Sunday of Advent
Monday 7th December	Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 8th December	Year 6 Health Screening School Nurse Visit
Wednesday 9th December	Year 3 Visit to Eton
Thursday 10th December	Year 6 WWII Show to Parents 9.15am
Friday 11th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch
Sunday 13th December	Gaudete Sunday / Third Sunday of Advent

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.

Attendance
Congratulations to Mrs Hendy's Year 1 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (99.3%).

Weekly Sports Update
It's been a very busy week for our Holy Family sports teams.

On Sunday, 16 of our children represented us at a Berkshire Sportshall athletics event. They all did really well despite it being an incredibly busy day for all of them. We had some excellent results including some getting podium places including: Seren Yarrow, Emma-Kathy Leo, Poppy-Lea Eiffert, Carla Williams and Devante Romney. Well done to all those who attended. You make us all proud every time and I am looking forward to the next one!

On Thursday our boys' and girls' Year 5 and Year 6 football teams took part in a Slough district football tournament. The girls played with great passion and teamwork and improved massively with every game they played. Mr Flischer and I decided that our players of the tournaments were Olivia Tomaszewska, for stepping in to goal last minute and pulling off some fantastic saves, and also Evie Kulczykowska and Sophia Sheikh for being a brick wall in our defence.

Our boys also played really well. Coming off the back of a defeat in our first game they went unbeaten all the way to the final. We ended up coming second in a very impressive display from the boys. Our players of the tournament were, Patrick Karasinski, for excellent footwork and for scoring and creating some fantastic goals, Filip Michalik for controlling the midfield and also scoring a last-minute winner that saw us into the semi-finals, and finally Daniel Shah who played fantastically in goal pulling off some great saves.

Special mention to Patrick Karasinski and Daniel Jerry who have been invited by the Slough district to train with them.

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



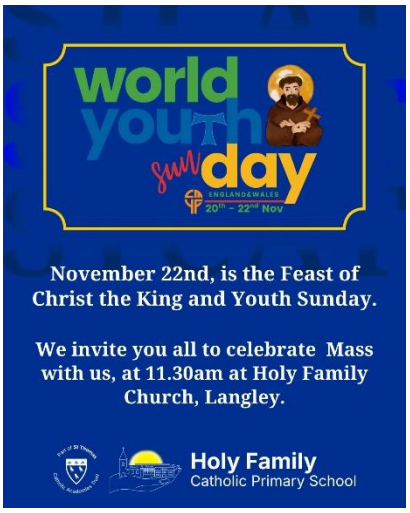
Author: Lindsay Roberts Rayne **Interest Age:** 5-9 **Reading Age:** 7+

It's 1917 and a little girl's father is fighting in the trenches: the girl decides to send him her puppy to help. Trained at the British War Dog School, can the little white and ginger dog save the day? A heart-warming tale of hope.

Reading
At Holy Family, reading is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that if children can read, their opportunities are endless. During Parents' Evening, teachers may have shared some recommended reads for your child's year group. If you would like to explore these recommendations further, please visit The Reader Teacher: https://www.thereaderteacher.com/

Feast of Christ the King – Youth Mass

This Sunday 22nd November, all pupils (past and present) are invited to attend the 11.30am Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church for a youth Mass to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on the last Sunday of our liturgical year. This is our annual reunion Mass which we have started to hold each year. An opportunity for pupils, parents and staff, past and present to re-connect and strengthen our sense of belonging to the Holy Family School Community as lifelong.



Pride in Place Survey

Betty Axtell, Pride in Place Engagement Officer, was pleased to attend both Parents' Evenings last week. On the Parents' Evening that took place on a Tuesday, Betty did a 'hotspot' mapping activity and on the Parents' Evening that took place on the Thursday she presented 6 priorities and asked each family to identify their top 3 priorities. Across both evenings approximately 60 families engaged suggesting ideas that would improve the Foxborough area designated to receive significant funding over the next 10 years. We are very lucky that Holy Family School sits within the geographical boundary defined by government for Pride In Place Foxborough. The board have to submit plans for the next 3-10 years to government in February 2027. The board's role between now and Christmas is to find out what people who live and work within Foxborough want to see the board implement to make improvements in our local area.
Please **COMPLETE THE SURVEY** below after taking time to dream big!
The main questions on the survey are:
What would you prioritise to be improved in Foxborough in years 1 and 2 of the programme? Explain why.
Think of the future, what would you most like Foxborough to be known for?
If you could change one thing to make Foxborough a better place for future generations, what would you change?

School governors have a strategic plan for our school site which includes a sports hall, a multi-use flood lit games area, an Early Years Unit (which would be our 2 year old, 3 year old and Reception classrooms all in one building with true free flow, level access and one shared outdoor space) and a chapel. All of these spaces could be used by the community evenings and weekends if the access is correct. Please join Mrs Benn and make your views of what you think would improve Foxborough known to Betty and the Pride In Place board.

Please see link below and attached QR code for the Foxborough Pride in Place Survey:
Foxborough Pride in Place - Slough Borough Council - Citizen Space

Reception and Year 6 Health Screening Programme
If you have a child in Reception or Year 6, please do look out for an email from school (sent earlier this week) regarding the Health Screening Programme. The email included a letter from the school nursing team regarding this programme. Please follow the instructions provided in the letter to register your child on the portal and to give your permission prior to the school nurses visiting.

Sunset Owls
Please, where possible, can any 'ad-hoc' sessions for our Sunset Owls after-school provision be booked via email at least 48 hours in advance. We appreciate that this is not always possible, but it is a help to Mrs Lynch when planning staffing and food supplies to know in advance how many children she will have in attendance. Many thanks

Spaces Available in Year 1 and Year 2
All schools need to be full to be financially sustainable. School rolls are falling across Slough. We currently have two spaces in Year 1 and two spaces in Year 2 and no applications or children on waiting lists, which is unusual. Our younger and older years are full with waiting lists. We ask for your help in promoting Holy Family School to any new neighbours moving into Langley or families with their first child who have yet to choose a school community to join. Please help us to build and strengthen our school community, securing a bright future for Holy Family Catholic Primary School.

Nursery and School Admission for September 2027

Admission to Reception September 2027
The above admission round opened on the 1st September 2026 and closes on 15th January 2027. You must apply via your local authority website completing a Common Application Form (CAF) for a place in a Reception class to start September 2027.

In addition to completing a CAF, please complete our Supplementary Form (Called 'Reception School Supplementary Form' on our website) and return with the relevant supporting documents to Holy Family Catholic School by 15th January 2027. Reception Supplementary Forms can be obtained from the school website or the school office.

Admission to 2 or 3 Year Old Nurseries September 2027
The Nursery 2027 admission round is now open. Nursery application forms can be obtained from the school website or the school office; please complete our Application Form and return with the relevant supporting documents by 15th January 2027.

Phonics
If you would like to continue to support your child at home with their phonics, the following links below might be useful. If you look for the name of the adult who leads your child's RWI group or the colour of book that they are on you will see links to the sounds that have been taught this week. This support is primarily aimed at those children in Reception – Year 2 who are currently learning their phonics; however, all parents are very welcome to access the links below regardless of what year their child is in.

If you are unsure how to pronounce the sounds please the following link which goes through all the Set 1, 2 and 3 sounds and how to pronounce them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUbrJPAt65g

Mrs Harris	Set 1	M- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xR4lVbwS/JiV14e4C

		A – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YXxCuNJh/ijo7GXOB S- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/t7cG9dlc/UM01b1pZ D- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lXhf70Sl/oWHyDpUR https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/eWcDEEyG/Eoez5zLO https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2sfuOQ7G/GWrk6o6m
Miss Macfarlane	Set 1	C- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yVhQ2Ezy/25Z2KPaI K- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/UKTIzFgk/4K1echhc U- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Pd4BIMaV/xCFjt33a G- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xXWxcCBU/whYpeGIx https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LLr7Zhx5/QldwbTCl https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/nur4JCwe/wprEt1Ig https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/APR2zpV1/CRuXnrV0 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/npjy4mre/zeiJxmp9
Mrs Crow	Ditties	QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0pV1gemt/LnlE2xXs TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DiTIQ5t7/Rc7Fr3ex NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/b2u1BT75/biBRfRm7 CH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/O5AVOc48/NNPxTR7q https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ah3fYHKt/t0HQo1d8 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/hZw0J3bm/efDlsnBw https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HJPmgJmj/qNDWg6yz
Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg	Green Pink	AIR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/hQZKKZuK/nIPen1jk IR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/w8bWqouL/qEmRUEIN OU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JYoOJkxq/GZgem1c6 OY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/daJfMl2O/wYOtFkn1 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/sxAK0UkW/ViQNM13E https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WMl263gz/aSrbU6Ys
Mrs Wilson Mrs Green	Yellow Grey	UR – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/no0U3vtt/d9uCFF8J ER – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LX9CKiB5/AhJJYOSO OW – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jZoDjQeA/TQFSlt6y AI - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HNtI4fU4/tewytjgh https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/KexBt0Vk/JvKHdu3k https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ZD1P9CoC/KwRLuK5O

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

PTA – Pantomime update – Tickets will be in school bags next week

Thank you to EVERYONE who bought tickets for the pantomime at **The Theatre Royal Windsor**, which will be a performance of **Jack and The Beanstalk at 7pm on Wednesday 2nd December** https://theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/beanstalk-26/. Your tickets will be sent home in your children's school bags next week, so please keep an eye out for them. **Thanks for your support – Holy Family PTA**

PTA Christmas Fayre - Friday 4th December 3-5pm School Hall

We are delighted to share that the Holy Family PTA will be holding a Christmas Fayre after school on Friday 4th of December. We hope it will be a fun afternoon with lots of stalls, games and refreshments!

If you would like to be involved in the Fayre in any way or you would like to know more, please speak to Chrissy or Halima or email: holyfamilypta@gmail.com

PTA Mufti Day on Friday 27th November
Children are invited to come to school on Friday 27th November, in non-uniform, in return for donations for our Christmas Fayre.

We would love donations of:

Bags of wrapped sweets (such as Haribo) chocolates or lollies (for prizes!)

Boxes of chocolates or bars of chocolate (small, large or multi pack) (for our Sweet Treat Tombola and other stalls!)

Christmas food treats like mince pies, wine, chocolate, cakes or biscuits, snacks etc. (for stalls and hampers)

Please ensure all items are nut free and in date. We would also be grateful for any dairy free donations.

Thank you
The PTA are extremely grateful for the continuous support and donations towards our Christmas Fayre. Without the help and generosity of parents, these events wouldn't be able to happen!

If you would like to help on the day or in other ways please do speak to Chrissy, Halima or Becca or email holyfamilylangleypta@gmail.com.

OTHER

The National Children's Choir of Great Britain
The National Children's Choir of Great Britain (NCCGB) is holding auditions in Slough, offering local young singers aged 9–19 the opportunity to audition for a place in a national choir. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop singing skills, receive high-quality musical training and take part in exciting performance opportunities. For further information and audition details, please see the attached poster.

Give & Gift Family Christmas Fair
The Pioneer Family Partnership is holding a Give and Gift Fayre again on 7th December. This is the third year this event has been run and it's a great event where families in the community can come along and receive a free gift. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Slough Town Football Club
Please see attached flyer with details of a free prize draw.