

Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term **Newsletter No.11** **Friday 27th November 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers

School is feeling very Christmassy indeed as our decorations went up yesterday and the children were greeted this morning with a festive classroom feel.

Last Sunday, we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King Mass at Holy Family Church, and were joined by many alumni of our school, both ex-staff and pupils. This is a lovely opportunity to connect with our community, both past and present, and enjoy a social time after Mass for catching up with old faces. Our current pupils who were involved with leading the Mass did a fantastic job representing us, and it was lovely to see so many of you there to celebrate with us.

On Tuesday, some children from Years 5&6 travelled to Windsor Leisure Centre to take part in an athletics competition. As always, we were incredibly proud of their sporting skills but also of their conduct and behaviour during the tournament; they represented Holy Family beautifully.

Our Mission Team, made up of members of Year 6, visited St Joseph's Catholic High School this week to work with children from other schools in developing their role as Faith Ambassadors. They worked in mixed-school groups, led by children from St Joseph's, working their way around the Prayer Stations, as well as taking part in ice-breaker games and drama activities. They enjoyed their day together.

Our EYFS and KS1 staff have been busy rehearsing with our youngest children in school, preparing for the nativities that take place next week, and it seems that audiences have a real treat in store! Please see further details in the newsletter for timings. The Year 6 Christmas production will take place the following week.

Children came to school wearing their mufti clothes today, in return for donating an item for our PTA Christmas Fayre, which takes place after school next Friday, 4th December; thank you for the generous donations as, without parents' generosity, PTA events simply couldn't run. Please come along and support our PTA in raising money for our school next Friday. For

parents of our Year 6 volunteers, please give permission via ParentPay if you are happy for your child to help at the fayre next week.

Today we say farewell and good luck to Mrs Rogulska, one of our teaching assistants. We sincerely thank her for the enthusiasm she has brought to her role; she will be greatly missed by the team, and we wish her every success in the future.

Wishing you all a good weekend and first Sunday of Advent.

God bless

Mrs Doyle

Prayer

This Sunday marks the start of Advent in the Catholic Church. As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, may I encourage you to pray an Advent prayer with your children. In the lead up to Christmas, your family may also like to consider using an Advent Calendar with a daily reflection, or completing some of the advent activities from the links below.

Children's Advent Prayer

My little Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You for this Advent season. Please help me to understand all that You have done for me. Your loving mother held You in her heart and brought You into this world. Help me to do the same.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. Draw me close to You and help me to see my sins so that I can change the things that You want me to change.

Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent so that I may do all that God wants me to do. You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you. Please pray for me that I may do the same.
Come, Lord Jesus,
I love You, Jesus.
Amen.

CAFOD Interactive Advent Calendar: https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar

Advent Family Pack from CELEBRATE: The CELEBRATE Trust has released a new Advent Family Pack, filled with engaging activities, prayer ideas, books, and films to help families, schools, and parishes prepare for the Feast of the Nativity. The pack is free to download but suggested donations are welcome, more information about the resource and other details are available at: www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks

DIARY DATES

Sunday 29th November	First Sunday of Advent
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
Monday 14th December	EYFS Party Day
	School Choir Performing at Windsor Parish Church
Tuesday 15th December	Party Day Year 1 – Year 6
Thursday 17th December	Last Day of Term for 2 & 3-Year-Old Nurseries
Friday 18th December	Last day of Term for Reception – Year 6 – School Closes 12.15pm

Christmas Holidays: Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027

Monday 4th January 2027	Lent Term Starts for Nursery – Year 6

Term Dates 2027/2028
Please see attached.

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 Miss Dardis' Year 4 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (98%). Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

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/Illustrator: Emily Gravett **Interest Age:** 3-6 **Reading Age:** 7+

Fairytale creatures are gathering for a special picnic across the bridge. There's just one rule: don't feed the troll! A wonderfully funny fairytale with a big heart and a lovely message about kindness.

Year 1 Jolly Post Office Opens Tuesday 1st December
Year 1 are running a Jolly Post Office this Christmas to deliver the Christmas cards in school.

If you would like to use it, please follow these instructions.

1. Put the name on the envelope for who it is for.
2. Add a surname or initial if there are two children with the same name in the class.
3. Put on the **class postcode**, so you don't need to write the teacher's name.

(It also makes it easier for the Year 1 sorting)

Class Postcodes:

NAM – Morning Nursery	NPM – Afternoon Nursery
RMM– Miss Macfarlane	RDH – Mrs Harris
1LH – Mrs Hume	1CH – Mrs Hendy
2EG– Mrs Green	2DP – Mrs Powell
3MME– Mrs Martinez and Mrs Evans	3SI – Ms Iqbal
4CD – Miss Dardis	4DO'R – Mrs O'Reilly
5TF – Mrs Fox	5SC - Miss Caswell
6CD – Mrs Doyle	6SR – Mrs Ragg

4. Post them in the post box, which will be outside the main front door at the start of the day. The post box will be open from **Tuesday 1st December** until **Wednesday 16th December.** We hope you use it, as we are looking forward to sorting and delivering the cards.
Thank you, Year 1.

EYFS/KS1 Nativities
We are looking forward to seeing our EYFS and KS1 parents attend their children's nativity during the week beginning 30th November. Please note that we will not be filming our nativities. We want you to come and enjoy them. Parents are welcome to film if they stand at

the back of the hall. Parents must not stand in the seating area, or hold phones or iPads up to film from the seating area, as this obscures the view of those behind. No photograph or films may be posted on any social media site. This would be a breach of privacy. All photographs and/or recordings may only be taken of you own child for personal use. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

Christmas Party Hats/Clothes/Food

Please can your child make a Christmas Party Hat to wear on their Christmas Party Day, which will take place on:

Monday 14th December: EYFS

Tuesday 15th December: Year 1 - Year 6

Children may wear Christmas jumpers and/or their own clothes on party day. Please note, break times will be as normal so warm clothes are essential. Only flat, sensible shoes that children can run around in may be worn.

It will be normal school lunch arrangements on party days. Thank you.

Friday 4th December – Christmas Fair

The school Christmas Fair is taking place next Friday 4th December in the school hall, Year 3 classrooms and Year 1 Mrs Hume's classroom. Further to this, please note the following pick up arrangements next Friday 4th December for the classes listed below:

Year 1 Mrs Hume: Mrs Hume's class will be dismissed at the end of the day from the large gazebo on the playground.

Year 3 Ms Igbal: Dining Hall

Year 3 Mrs Martinez & Mrs Evans: Dining Hall

Friday 11th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper/Own Clothes Day

Whole-school Christmas lunch will be served to all full time pupils on Friday 11th December free of charge, this includes our full time 3 year old Nursery children. A letter will be emailed home next week detailing the meal options.

For Reception to Year 2: From 3.30pm on Monday 30th November, please make your selection on the Colham Catering Portal: www.colhamcateringplus.co.uk.

For Nursery and Years 3 to Year 6: From 3.30pm on Monday 30th November, please make your selection via ParentPay.

Please make your selection by Friday 4th December 2026. On Christmas Lunch day, children may wear either a Christmas jumper and/or their own choice of clothes. Thank you.

Considerate Parking

Please can we respectfully request that all parents and carers are considerate of our neighbours when parking locally to drop off or pick up children from school. We have received several notifications recently from neighbours who have had trouble entering or leaving their property/parking space due to the way cars have been parked, particularly in Harrogate Court and Shelly Close. To assist with any parking issues, The Toby has very 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. Thank you for your support with this.

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	X- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7NnmJFRW/FyMu2E2m T- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/EsljFcUk/M4YTQIyZ I - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kldPUAd0/6W1jr7Ho N- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/iayKFrab/Kdr3aeZA https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/baZjPMSW/sQvR96Ej https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/27tiYymF/jLPqrP8D
Miss Macfarlane	Set 1	B- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2O26pLix/l3XqPbQl F- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NE26409s/6F0OBw4a E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7u0XDPg1/pVsj9WQG H- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CTyhxHcQ/j81uyj9P https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NPat9Aeb/CtDdeZfB https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/BeUDvuvq/uEuTMUwU https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/93X3PErK/8SyIQ4wq https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8Eh6Toip/dnR0dSnY
Mrs Crow	Ditties	NK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jkhfdTSA/B7kyxHf6 CK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SxoFJFQz/uAbHJH55 SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/eLIoudTb/273G8quT QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JkVitUiN/61zIUxQo https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MKalU64e/WMceVZ75

		https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/pc9hZl9T/RTB5EPAz https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/nzLCEJZN/DVYmDDla
Mrs Hendy	Green	AY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FZoKVK7O/CKdCTcUA EE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xbXmMF7l/bUzZiEzf IGH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Y4r5ljnA/9LDByn8J OW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/oSO1evi3/0nhJsXvo https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SK5h4Jxj/R6do5BDi https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yjKYOhFI/D0jQNYOP
Mrs Hogg	Pink	EA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ybDjEFLA/HrWWIF0k OI- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3LwJokyV/sjIGlFSp A-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/d9nXZuf7/iV1AH7Z2 I-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GleuLI1g/YSJMpvnm https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SK5h4Jxj/R6do5BDi https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yjKYOhFI/D0jQNYOP
Mrs Wilson Mrs Green	Yellow Grey	OA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/BC0gj8Ad/6sd38FvS EW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bSQ42Tpb/z9YMIzPA IRE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kQaNDWwc/Te75aZ8x EAR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/pMIa3GZZ/A6QaE6z5 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8h1v4wEp/jQ2tVS4G https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dW9OM9bk/jS7ISX4S

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

PTA – Pantomime update
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 on Wednesday 2nd December at 7pm https://theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/cinderella-25/. Tickets were **sent home yesterday or today** in your children's school bags. Thanks for your support – Holy Family PTA

Surprise Bags
Your child has been given an empty sweetie bag to fill and return to school on Monday 30th November.

We ask you to fill the bag with small wrapped sweets, stickers, party bag type toys, lollies - anything that would be a lovely surprise treat for a child!

These will be sold at our Christmas Fayre so please return them on Monday the 30th November. A reminder that all items must be in date and nut free.

We would like to ensure we have dairy free options for our children so if you have made a surprise bag with sweets, toys or dairy free chocolate please make this clear by writing **Dairy Free** on the bag so parents and children are made aware of the contents and please drop any of these Dairy Free bags into the school office.

Christmas Fayre - Friday 4th December 3-5pm
⭐One week until our Christmas Fayre!⭐

We are being busy little elves and adding the finishing touches to what we hope will be a successful fayre!

We have lots of great games, superb shopping stalls and tasty treats to get you in the festive spirit! This year we also have a Little Elf Gift Shop for children to buy gifts for someone special. There are fantastic prizes in our raffle including an overnight stay, a haircut voucher and football match tickets! Raffle tickets will be sold on the day. We look forward to seeing you all.

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

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.

Simons & Son - The Board-Vent Calendar—a free, festive community trail across Slough
Please see attached flyer for further information.