



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.11

Friday 28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are getting ready for Christmas! Staff and children have enjoyed being creative, making decorations for their classrooms and corridor displays. Three beautiful Christmas trees have been installed and fairy lights abound. Nativity rehearsals are well underway and your children's singing fills the hallways.

Well done to our athletes who last weekend competed against local athletics clubs and in Mr Holder's words... 'they smashed it!' Jovan (Y6) won three out of three races and by all accounts it was a wonderful experience for our 12 competitors. Well done all and thank you Mr Holder.

Thank you to all the Year 1 parents who accompanied children to the library this week. Children were very well behaved and really enjoyed their visit.

Year 6 teachers led our oldest children in their World War 2 day. They experienced making gas masks and learning the lindy hop. Mrs Ragg was in character all day as a strict school ma'am.

Nursery and Reception celebrated St Andrew's day. They enjoyed learning the story of St Andrew and how he was a fisherman. Children coloured and decorated the Scotland flag and our Reception children also listened to some ceili music.

On Wednesday, children will have seen many adults around school. We hosted a St Thomas Collaborative Review of RE which involved strategic leaders and senior leaders from other schools working with myself and Mrs O'Reilly to evaluate the teaching of RE. We also considered how well our children remember and can articulate their learning. As always, it was invaluable to school leaders to have external perspectives and helps us to identify the aspects of our new Religious Education Curriculum that we wish to refine. Visitors were impressed with how polite and friendly your children are.

Tours of the school for prospective parents also took place at 10am and 2pm on Wednesday. This is a regular marketing activity and tours will resume in January. We currently have three admission rounds open, all of which close on January 15th. We welcome applications from

parents who have children who will turn 2 years old, 3 years old or 4 years old before 1st September 2026. Please do recommend us to family and friends who live in Langley. We are very proud of our designation as a Catholic school; however, our profile is currently 64% Catholic and we are also proud to welcome children of all faiths and none.

Today, children wore their own clothes in exchange for a donation towards our PTA Christmas Fair. I am very grateful to the parents who have joined together to reform as our PTA and the energy they are bringing to their first big-scale event. They are trying a new format of holding our Christmas Fair immediately after school next Friday. Please do support our school by bringing children along to enjoy the fun of the fair. All monies raised will directly benefit your children. The PTA fund additional resources and equipment school would otherwise be unable to afford. Thank you for your generous donations.

Last Sunday, school staff hosted our annual alumni Mass on Youth Sunday, The Feast of Christ the King. This was really well supported and we received some lovely feedback from children, parents, parishioners and governors. Well done to Nifemi, Luscious, Jackson, Teya, Charlotte, Noah, Bryan and Danny whose video recordings of their Minutes of Hope inspired the congregation.

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

God bless

Mrs Benn

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

Monday 1st December	Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 2nd December	Reception Class (Mrs Scott) Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 3rd December	Year 5 Swimming (Last Session) Year 6 Class (Mrs Doyle & Miss Caswell) Visit to Langley Library PTA Pantomime at the Theatre Royal Windsor 7pm
Friday 5th December	PTA Christmas Fair 3.00pm
Monday 8th December	Mufti Day – Donations for Love Christmas Campaign Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 9th December	Year 6 Visit to the Battle of Britain Bunker Year 5 Class (Mrs Fox) Visit to Langley Library EYFS Nativity to Parents 2pm
Wednesday 10th December	EYFS Nativity to Parents 10am
Thursday 11th December	KS1 Nativity to Parents 10am KS1 Nativity to Parents 2pm
Friday 12th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch (Own Clothes/Christmas Jumpers)
Monday 15th December	Week 1 of the Menu EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Party Day
Tuesday 16th December	Years 1 – 6 Party Day
Wednesday 17th December	2 Year Old Nursery Party Day
Thursday 18th December	Advert Term Ends for 2 & 3 year old Nursery – Usual Time Year 6 Christmas Production for Parents 7pm (At School)
Friday 19th December	Advert Term Ends for Reception to Year 6 12.15pm
Christmas Holidays: Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026	
Monday 5th January 2026	Lent Term Starts for Nursery – Year 6 / The Feast of the Epiphany
Monday 19th January 2026	SCHOOL CLOSED – STAFF INSET DAY

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.

Achievements

Congratulations to Lea Rogulska who has progressed from Stage 6 to Stage 7 in her swimming lessons. Well done Lea.

Sports Update

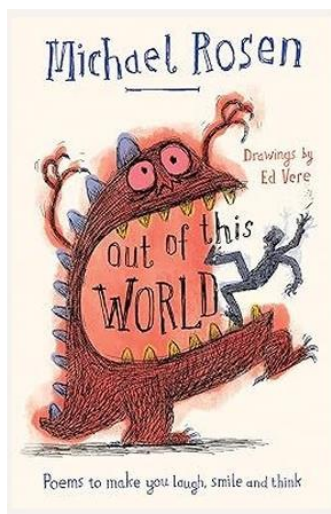
Last weekend, some of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in an Athletics event at Thames Valley Sports Club. We were the only school that participated, going up against athletics clubs and we absolutely smashed it. Well done to Jovan, Nicholas, Jacob, Simas, Devante, Filip, Evie, Seren, Emma, Skye, and Nifemi: you all did incredibly well. Thank you to the parents who attended; you were all a great help and support for the children! Mr Holder.

Attendance

Congratulations Mrs Doyle and Miss Caswell's Year 6 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (98.1%). 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: Michael Rosen
Interest Age: 9-11

Illustrator: Ed Vere
Reading Age: 8 +

This imaginative poetry collection comprises a selection of funny, energetic and thought-provoking poems from former Children's Laureate Michael Rosen, many of which draw on events from his own life. Accompanied by atmospheric black-and-white drawings.

Wednesday Word

Leyla-Rose Eiffert, Faith Ambassador, in Year 6 writes for us this week:

Hello everyone,

A very special season begins on Sunday.

This week's Wednesday Word is Advent.

During this time we prepare for Jesus' birth and stand ready for his second coming.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said to his disciples, "Stay awake, know when I will come again so be ready. If you know what time a thief was coming you would stay awake and not let them in. So stay ready for you don't know what time I will return".

During advent we remember that God loves us so much that He sent His only son into the world to save us from our sins.

This week our mission is to stay awake and be ready for the second coming of Jesus.

Let's make a special effort to let our family know how much we love and appreciate them.

Year 1 Jolly Post Office Opens Monday 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
RES –Mrs Scott	RDH – Mrs Harris
1LH – Mrs Hume	1CH – Mrs Hendy
2MM – Miss Macfarlane	2DP – Mrs Powell
3MM/RK – Mrs Martinez and Mrs Kukla	3SI – Ms Iqbal
4CD – Miss Dardis	4MEG – Mrs Green/Mrs Evans
5TF – Mrs Fox	5DO'R – Mrs O'Reilly
6SCD – Mrs Doyle / Miss Caswell	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 **Monday 1st December** until **Wednesday 17th 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 8th December. 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 15th December: EYFS

Tuesday 16th 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 12th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper/Own Clothes Day

Whole-school Christmas lunch will be served to all full time pupils on Friday 12th December free of charge, this includes our full time 3 year old Nursery children. A letter was sent home with children detailing the meal options (please see attached also).

For Reception to Year 2: Please make your selection on the Colham Catering Portal: www.colhamcateringplus.co.uk.

For Nursery and Years 3 to Year 6: Please email your meal choice to orders@hfcs.org.uk stating your child's name, class and meal choice. (Selections that have already been made for these year groups on the portal will be refunded to your account)

If you have not already done so, please make your selection by Monday 1st December 2025. On Christmas Lunch day, children may wear either a Christmas jumper and/or their own choice of clothes. Thank you.

Love Christmas Campaign – Bags of Kindness – Monday 8th December MUFTI DAY

We would like to build on your wonderful generosity last year and request your help in supporting the Diocesan Love Christmas Campaign again this year. On Monday 8th December, we invite children to wear their own clothes to school in exchange for bringing in donations of much needed gifts to put smiles on the faces of young families, children and the elderly living in isolation and poverty, as well as young people leaving the care system and living alone, and young carers who do so much all year round for others and have little time to actually be a child.

Donations needed include a range of small items such as: selection boxes, small toys, books, games, colouring books, puzzles, shortbread, biscuits, sweets or chocolate, clothing such as scarfs, hats, gloves, games that can be played as a family, make up, nail varnish, hand cream and other treats, with the goal of both helping each recipient to feel the warmth of human connection and the joy of Christmas and to know that someone is thinking of them and cares for them.

Please can we kindly ask that all donations be brought into school on Monday 8th December and passed to your child's class teacher (please do not wrap any gifts).

Please contact Mrs Chandler (bethany.chandler@hfcs.org.uk) if you have any queries.

We will be very grateful for any donations received, whether it be one item or several. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Lockdown and Fire Evacuation Drills

One day next week school staff will practice both our Lockdown Procedure and our Fire Evacuation Procedure with your children.

There are many potential situations where we may wish everyone to remain securely in our building, such as air pollution, a major fire in the vicinity of the school, dangerous dog on the site, an intruder or anything we consider to be harmful to children or staff. All schools are required to practice Lockdown Procedures annually. The Lockdown Procedure is not something we publish, but is likely your children may come home talking about today or next week. Please do not be alarmed. Staff will manage this as sensitively as possible.

Schools are also required to regularly practice Fire Evacuation. Children are much more familiar with our Fire Evacuation Procedure. Children are expected to leave the school building quietly and sensibly making their way to the Fire Assembly Point on the playground. Yesterday, the fire alarm sounded at 3.29pm when KS1 had been dismissed and KS2 teachers were about to dismiss children. Thank you for your understanding and patience yesterday. There was no fire located in school and we are grateful for the prompt response from the Fire and Rescue Service.

If the alarm sounds at school pick-up time again, any children remaining on site will be escorted by a member of staff to the fire assembly point in playground (tarmac area closest to tennis courts). Parents should wait on the other tarmac area closest to the map of the world. We can then dismiss children.

Important Health Reminder

At this time of year, sickness bugs can spread quickly. To help keep everyone healthy, please ensure that if your child has vomited, they remain at home for **at least 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting** before returning to school.

This precaution helps prevent the spread of illness and keeps our school community safe.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Nursery Provision

We have recently been made aware that there is funding available where schools can show that there is a local need and/or interest in an increased Nursery provision. Following the recent success in expanding our Nursery provision to include 2-year-olds, we would like to gauge whether there is a need and/or interest in us expanding further, this time to include children from 9 months. This survey is open to all of our stakeholders, whether they have children of this age or not, and we would be keen to hear your views. Please complete the following form, which closes on Thursday 4th December. Many thanks.

<https://forms.gle/4VeZmxXi4ta8Zf6K9>

Foundation Governor Vacancy

We still have one vacancy for a Foundation Governor on our Local Academy Committee. As Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop of Northampton, we welcome any Catholic parent who may be interested in serving our school in this way. Please either speak with Mrs Benn or email our clerk to Local Academy Committee, Mrs M Gilmartin if you are interested.

Mgilmartin@stcat.co.uk

Nursery and School Admission for September 2026

Admission to Reception September 2026

The above admission round opened on the 15th of September 2025 and closes on 15th January 2026. You must apply via your local authority website completing a Common Application Form (CAF) for a place in a Reception class to start September 2026.

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 2026. Reception Supplementary Forms can be obtained from the school website or the school office.

Admission to 2 or 3-Year-Old Nurseries September 2026

The Nursery 2026 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 2026.

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.

Mrs Harris	Set 1	K- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/nBiIS8CZ/GVf6KjAa U- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QgY28bq6/AROB75fY B- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Zsli5Chh/xKVfzwpW http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FKj41tYe/qKNgV24F http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LkljQ5P6/E8PWFDJh
Mrs Scott	Set 1	W- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mFxC7UGY/M2S7OWq1 N- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CqXlaGUq/N6nYRJT1 P- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QUcBXJYt/JoI8FNBX G- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/vETQ3RmD/KHNocBR7 http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FKj41tYe/qKNgV24F http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LkljQ5P6/E8PWFDJh
Mrs Mulrooney / Mrs Birch	Word Time	http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ViNyf8TI/JgnHDzBe http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/EeWIw5d4/bfMtog2r http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/RtN2XMHV/vSK9aiYA http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1gbIFMsZ/sNI5S5nk
Mrs Crow	Ditties	QU- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/VfzlvBC2/vB8x9KIR NG- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Ls4yRFPg/8eJMM8Xd NK- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OMpThlrE/FXSlnGXq CK- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qxuUupUb/OQEzewi8
Mrs Keogh Mrs Hendy	Green Pink	OU- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JO0x8uDF/f8Pw63Kc OY – http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OGaujQNK/R7SOgi31 AY – http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/wbXL89rQ/0l5xMmVd EE- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/i8iv056A/UnShj3k4
Mrs Wilson Mrs Hogg	Orange Blue Grey	OW- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/f40OeHWA/1klXqi3p AI- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Hpwo2spE/zF2eFgRx OA- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/H1fd0fcz/o3pugegs

Miss MacFarlane		EW- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yCGHB5gX/DwhaLwiP
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PTA (Parent Teacher Association) NEWS

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 holyfamilylangleypa@gmail.com.

PTA Christmas Fair – 5th December

A huge thank you for all the Christmas Fair donations brought in today. The PTA are very grateful as this will all contribute to a successful fundraising event.

Next Friday 5th December is the Holy Family Christmas Fair! Please pop in and support our school. It will take place 3-4:30pm in the school hall.

Please bring plenty of coins/small change - there will be games, face painting, a raffle, toys, books and plenty more....!

A paper sweetie bag has been sent home with your child today. We ask you to kindly fill with small wrapped sweets, chocolates and small party bag toys. We ask that the sweets do not contain nuts and please check best before dates. Please return no later than Wednesday 3rd December.

If you do wish to help on the day or in preparation for the event please email holyfamilylangleypa@gmail.com.

PTA – Pantomime update

Thank you to EVERYONE who bought tickets for the pantomime at The Theatre Royal Windsor, which will be a performance of Cinderella on Wednesday 3rd December at 7pm <https://theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/cinderella-25/>. Tickets have been **sent home today** in your children's school bags. Thanks for your support – Holy Family PTA