



## **Holy Family Catholic Primary School**

**Advent Term**

**Newsletter No.14**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Dear Parents

What a fantastic end to an incredibly busy term! Along with following our usual packed curriculum, children have been busy this week getting ready for Christmas and enjoying the celebrations, lunches, discos, shows and parties that have taken place across all year groups.

On Monday, Year 2 celebrated the end of their geography topic by holding an 'Explorer Day'. Each child came dressed as an explorer of their choice, and spent much of the day investigating explorer vehicles and had a wonderful time designing their own. Thanks to parents for their support with costumes, especially during such a busy time of year.

On Monday evening, 16 children performed at Eton College Chapel, as part of the Slough Schools' Christmas Carol Service, and what a performance it was! As one grandparent rightly described it, even though our choir was the smallest in number, they 'punched above their weight'! The children, along with Mrs Green, have rehearsed diligently and should feel really proud of what they achieved: the service had a wonderful atmosphere, with the audience thoroughly entertained from start to finish. Well done choir!



Also on Monday, EYFS held their Christmas Party Day, and much fun was had by all! Spirits were high, as the children enjoyed party games and other Christmas activities. On Tuesday, Years 1-6 enjoyed their own party day, dressed in Christmas jumpers and party clothes. They had a lovely time in classes with their teachers, playing party games and crafting, and then ended the day with a disco in the hall. They also enjoyed a special in-person visit from Santa, who delivered presents to each class. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to let their hair down and enjoy themselves, having worked so hard all term.

Some of you may have been following Simon Cowell's new boy band, December 10, and TV show on Netflix, The Next Act. If you have older children who previously attended Holy Family, you may well have recognised Nicholas Alves, a former pupil here, who is now a member of the band! Nicholas is now 16, and would have been in Year 12 currently.

Following their successful trip to the RAF Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge, Year 6 ended our term in style by performing the WWII Christmas Show. The show showed Geoff and Toby, two 10-year-old boys, and their families, and what life was like during the Blitz campaign over Christmas in 1940. The Year 6 children performed with professionalism, and managed to share important messages about the real meaning of Christmas, along with a large dose of singing, dancing and fun! Thank you to parents for helping with costumes and props, and for coming to watch on Thursday evening in such large numbers.

When we return in the new term, children in Key Stage 2 will be encouraged to take part in our 'Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move' chaplaincy initiative, which has run successfully for the past couple of years. Children will have the opportunity to run an extra-curricular club of their choosing for a series of 4 weeks – they will need to spot a gap in our current offer and design a programme that they can lead and manage. The club they run will align itself to one or more aspect of Catholic Social Teaching and/or a school virtue. We encourage all children to put their thinking hats on over the holiday and make the most of this exciting initiative. More information can be found in the paperwork attached to this newsletter. I look forward to reading their applications!

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December, we have a number of Key Stage 2 children taking part in an athletics competition at Thames Valley Athletics Centre, and we wish them the very best of luck as they compete against local athletics clubs. Thank you to Mr Holder for organising these sporting opportunities for our children, and for parents who organise the logistics at such a busy time of year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say an enormous thank you to all of our parents who have supported us so well this term. We are a very busy school, and staff enjoy providing a well-rounded and full offer for all of our children, but we are aware that this also entails a lot of support from our families and wider community. Thank you for the gifts and food that have been sent into school for staff this week – it is never expected but always appreciated, so a heartfelt thank you from me and all Holy Family staff.

Wishing you a peaceful, restful Christmas holiday.

God bless  
Mrs Benn

### **A Christmas Prayer**

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
That we may share in the song of the angels,  
The gladness of the shepherds,  
And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate

And open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
And good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing, which Christ brings  
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us

Happy to be thy children  
And Christmas evening bring us  
To our beds with grateful thoughts  
Forgiving and forgiven  
For Jesus sake  
Amen.

## **DIARY DATES**

**Christmas Holidays: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026** Lent Term Starts for Nursery – Year 6

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026** KS2 Mass to celebrate Feast of the Epiphany

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026** SCHOOL CLOSED – STAFF INSET DAY

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

The extra-curricular activities schedule for the Lent term 2026 was emailed to parents/carers earlier this week and a copy is attached to this newsletter also. Next term, we will be using parent pay to manage all of our invite only clubs instead of our usual paper invitation. If your child is invited to a club you will be alerted via your Parent Pay account with all necessary details. You will need to fill out the relevant information requested to confirm your child's attendance for that term. If there are any issues/queries please speak to Mr Holder or Mrs Oakes.

## **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](mailto: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**

Well done to Adikrit Singh who has been selected for a U9 winter training program by Berkshire County Cricket Club as part of Boys Junior Pathway Observation, after a series of trials across Berkshire.

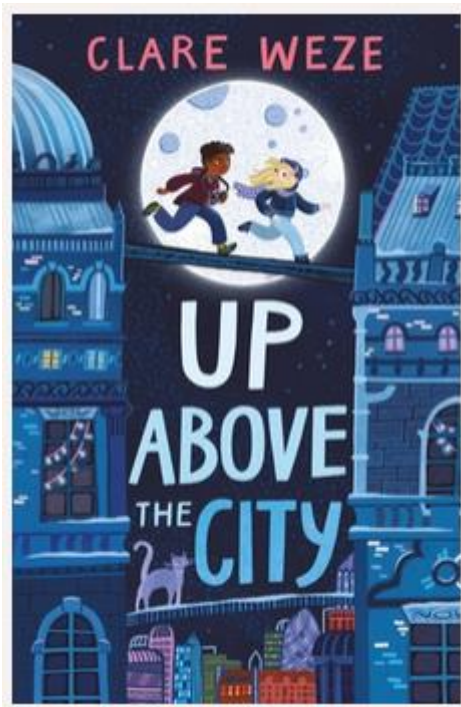
## **Attendance**

Congratulations to Miss Macfarlane's Year 2 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (98.7%). Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

Currently we are receiving a high number of requests for children with family who live abroad to take absence attached to the Christmas holiday. Please refrain from planning holidays in term time. We have 13 weeks of school holiday and we respectfully request that all holidays are booked within the published school holidays.

## **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:** Clare Weze

**Interest Age:** 9-11

**Reading Age:** 9+

Two children explore the hidden places in the rooftops of London in a strange and eerie story of refugees, human trafficking and a fantastical invention.

### **Mission Team Empty Tubs Collection 2026!**

Our Mission Team would love your help! We want to collect as many empty plastic chocolate, biscuit and cracker tubs to support Macmillan Cancer and to recycle plastic.

We have found a simple way for to follow Jesus' teaching to care for others and to look after our beautiful planet. The Mission Team are inviting families to send in any empty chocolate tubs so that we can support Macmillan Cancer while also helping to reduce plastic waste. By taking part, our school community is living out Catholic Social Teaching, especially our call to care for God's creation and to stand in solidarity with those in need. This simple act of recycling and charity reflects our mission to make the world a better and teaches our children that even small choices can make a big difference.



FIRST COLLECTION DAY Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

LAST COLLECTION DAY Friday 13h February

Thank you for helping!

### **Planning Permission Secured**

We are delighted to have been granted planning permission to build a purpose built 70m<sup>2</sup> provision for our 2-year-olds. We expect to demolish the brick bin store in the staff car park and start building our new nursery in February 2026. It will be linked to the existing 3-year-

old playground. There will no doubt be some disruption in the Lent term but we expect this will mostly impact on staff as some of the car park will not be useable during construction.

### **Nursery and School Admission for September 2026**

#### **Admission to Reception September 2026**

The above admission round opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 and closes on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### **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 [holyfamilylangleypta@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilylangleypta@gmail.com).

### **PARISH NEWS**

#### **Polish Carol Service**

The annual Polish Carol service at Holy Family Church will be on Sunday 28th December at 17:00: communal singing + readings all in Polish. Poster attached.

### **OTHER**

#### **Slough Family Information Services**

Please see the Winter Holiday Activities brochure from Slough Family Information Services attached.