



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.2

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Our first full week in school has been calm and purposeful, with children and adults becoming more familiar with routines. The children are enjoying being back with friends and working hard. Our youngest children in Nursery and Reception are settling particularly well and we are enjoying getting to know them.

Our communication system means we are currently unable to send emails, meaning we are relying on the weekly newsletter and our school website to share information with parents. We are doing everything we can to rectify the issue and appreciate your patience while we have to operate slightly differently.

This week, a number of our Year 6 children sat their Bucks 11+; well done to these children for your hard work leading up to this, and good luck to those who are still waiting for the Slough 11+, which takes place on Saturday 19th September.

Next Wednesday – 16th September – we are holding two phonics information sessions, aimed at helping parents of children in EYFS and KS1 when supporting their child at home with their reading. Mrs Hume will lead the sessions – one at 8:50-9:20am and another at 2:45-3:15pm. Please come along and learn more about our phonics scheme and hopefully leave feeling more confident in supporting your child at home.

On Thursday of next week – 17th September – we are holding our Meet the Teacher sessions. Parents are invited into school at 2:30-2:50 (KS1) and 2:50-3:10 (KS2) where they will hear from their child's teacher regarding the curriculum, homework and any other relevant information about their new year group. Please come along and ask any questions you may have at the beginning of a new year.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

God bless,

Mrs Doyle

DIARY DATES

Sunday 13th September

Education Sunday

Monday 14th September

Week 3 of the Menu

Extra-Curricular Activities Start

Wednesday 16th September

Phonics Information Sessions for Parents of Children in Reception & KS1 8.50-9.20am and 2.45-3.15pm

Thursday 17th September

Year 5 Swimming (1 of 10)

Meet the Teacher – 2.30-2.50pm for KS1 and 2.50-3.10pm for KS2

Saturday 19th September

Berks 11+ Exam

Monday 21st September

Week 1 of the Menu

Thursday 24th September

Year 5 Swimming (2 of 10)

Monday 28th September

Week 2 of the Menu

Thursday 1st October

Year 5 Swimming (3 of 10)

Friday 2nd October

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Please note the staff INSET Days on Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd 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.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-Curricular Activities commence from Monday 14th September. Apologies for the delay in sending out the information due to our main communications system being down. Extra-curricular clubs are very popular this term and we apologise for any disappointment if your child was not able to obtain a place in a particular club. Likewise, Mr Holder had a great response for the KS2 club trials held this week and has distributed letters for the invite-only clubs. We are sorry for any disappointment caused yet hope parents and children understand that each club has a maximum number for after school clubs. Thank you.

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 Kawthar Ma who has moved to Stage 3 in her swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Lyon Kuruppu who was chosen as 'Player of the Week' whilst attending Powerleague holiday camp. Lyon has also represented Slough Cricket Club's Under-9 team in a few matches.

Congratulations to Ivy Bernard for who started GKR Karate at the beginning of the summer holidays and has progressed from a white belt to a yellow belt grading already.

Congratulations to Igor Malec who recently successfully completed Stage 3 of his swimming lessons and has officially advanced to Stage 4.

Congratulations to Ophelia Akaki who has moved up from the Preschool Stage to Stage 1 in her swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Harper Dixon and Saran Atwal Torcal who performed beautifully alongside their Dancing school team at the Bray Fete last weekend.

Congratulations to Mani Atwal Torcal who learnt to swim and dive over the summer, overcoming his fear of water.

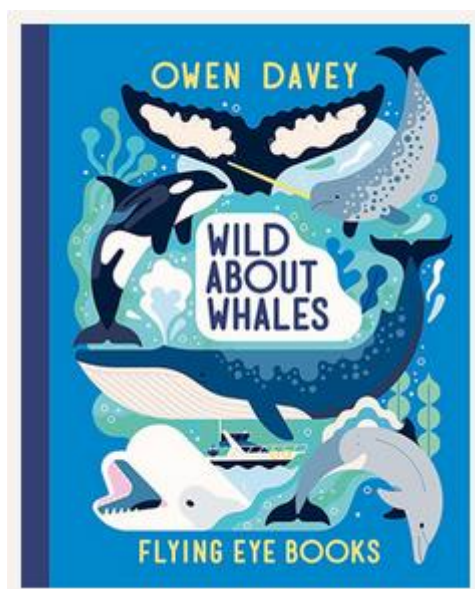
Well done all!

Summer Reading Challenge

Once your child has finished the Summer Reading Challenge, please encourage your child to let their teachers know. If you would like your child recognised for their efforts, please email Librarian@8715202.onmicrosoft.com. Thank you to all those who have already sent an email to inform school; please note we have received your email and will mention all those children who have completed the challenge in the weekly newsletter once the challenge has ended. Thank you.

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: Owen Davey

Interest Age: 7-11

Reading Age: 7+

Wild About Whales is a fascinating non-fiction book packed with incredible facts about some of the world's most amazing creatures. The accessible text and eye-catching illustrations make it ideal for curious readers who enjoy discovering more about wildlife and the natural world.

Meet The Teacher

On Thursday 17th 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.

Year 6 Secondary Transfer and School Visits

Year 6 children will need to complete a **Common Application Form** for secondary school **before 31st October** via your own local authority. Any parents of pupils who attend Holy Family School but live outside Slough should contact their home authority for a CAF.

Please also notify Mrs Oakes (Attendance Officer) if your child is attending secondary school open days this term. Please minimise absence by returning children to school promptly after school visits. Thank you.

Open Evening for Secondary Schools September 2027 Entry

The Langley Academy – Please see the attached information leaflet for further details.

St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School – Please see the attached information leaflet for further details.

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.

Music Opportunities in Slough

Is your child interested in music and singing? Perhaps they would enjoy learning to play a musical instrument or developing their musical talents further. Slough Music Service provides excellent opportunities for children and young people in the local area, both in and out of school. Through the Peripatetic Music Lessons programme, children can learn an instrument during the school day, while the weekly and weekend activities offered by Slough Music Service provide further opportunities to develop musical skills, build confidence and enjoy making music with others. Please see the attached flyers for more information about the peripatetic lessons available in school, as well as the range of weekly and weekend activities that your child can take part in. All applications must be made through <https://www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk/>.

There is also information attached about auditions for the Youth Choir of the National Children's Choir of Great Britain, providing a wonderful opportunity for young singers to develop their skills and perform alongside other talented children. We encourage you to take a look at the attached information and explore the opportunities available for your child.

Policies

Please find the **Allergy Policy** attached to this newsletter. With an increase in both number of children and the severity of allergies, please familiarise yourselves with our allergy policy. Please be reminded that we are a nut and dairy aware school. 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.

We also include our **Medication in Schools Policy** for your information. Please note only medication that has been **prescribed** and requires administering **four times a day** will be administered in school. At the bottom of the policy, you will find the form that parents need to complete if they require school staff to administer medication. Thank you

The Department for Education (DfE) has recently updated the statutory guidance relating to the Primary PSHE curriculum, including Relationships, Health and Sex Education. Attached to this newsletter, you will find:

- Our updated **RSE policy**
- A summary of the main changes to the primary RSE curriculum
- An online Parent/Carer Questionnaire, giving you an opportunity to share your views and feedback as we review our RSE provision.

We greatly value the partnership between home and school and would encourage all parents and carers to read the information provided and complete the questionnaire here: [RSE Policy and Curriculum Updates](#)

Please complete online questionnaires to school by **Sunday 20th September 2026**.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to provide a high-quality PSHE curriculum that supports the development and wellbeing of all our children within the context of our Catholic faith.

E-safety

This week in school children have been considering e-safety, and the safe and responsible use of technology. E-safety is about behaviour as much as electronic security. As parents, it is important to have clear, simple rules for the technology your children have access to, to be aware of what they are using and to keep communication open. Talk to your children about online behaviour. Throughout our e-safety lessons we emphasise that children should tell an adult if they are upset by what they have seen online. We have used resources from thinkuknow.co.uk and childnet.com which both have resources and advice for parents and carers and copies of some videos we have used. Please take the time to ask your children what they have talked about.

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 the School Office – school.admin@hfcs.org.uk.

For children who require prescribed medication, all **Inhalers and Adrenaline auto-injectors** must be brought into school as soon as possible and given to **the School Office 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.

Children's Safety at the End of the Day

Please can parents remember to pass a signed consent form to the School Office Team if they intend for their child to walk to school/home from school unaccompanied. The forms can be obtained from reception. Please also remind children that they should return to school immediately if they are outside school and have become separated from their parent/carer or experience any other issues.

Please be reminded that children are not allowed to play on the adventure playground or with playground equipment when waiting at the end of the day. They are only allowed to play on the climbing equipment when accompanied by a member of school staff and we would appreciate you reminding your children to wait with their adult if waiting for older siblings.

Birthday Treats

With the increase in children's allergies and food intolerances, for health and safety reasons, we have taken the decision that school staff will not distribute any cakes, chocolates, sweets or party bags that parents bring in for their child's birthday. Thank you for your understanding and support in managing children's expectations.

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.

Neighbours

Please can we ask that as a school community we all act respectfully at all times to our neighbours when coming to school and leaving school. We respectfully ask that parents/children do not sit on any of the neighbours walls in the two cul de sacs and that we ensure we do not litter and are considerate to the noise we are making, being mindful that everyone works different hours or may be unwell. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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.

We do not yet have a date when the ANPR cameras will be live but will update parents and carers as and when we have more information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Office Queries

As many parents will be aware, our school Receptionist retired in July, and, due to school budget restraints, we will be going forwards without a Receptionist.

Our school administration team now consists of:

Mrs Chandler (Operations Manager) who works 5 days a week

Mrs Oakes (Office Manager) who works 5 days a week

Mrs Mynett (Admissions Officer) who works 4 mornings (Mon-Thurs)

Please note that school Reception will not open until 8.30am and will close at 3.40pm. We politely ask parents to understand that at certain times during the school day our answer machine will be switched on. If your query is **very urgent** and you cannot get through by telephone, please email school.admin@hfcs.org.uk. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work more efficiently.

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 the School Office (school.admin@hfcs.org.uk) to make an appointment with your child's Phase Leader. Thank you.

Phase Leaders

Miss Macfarlane 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

PE Kits

Please can children 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.

Miss Macfarlane	Tuesday
Mrs Harris	Tuesday
Mrs Hume	Wednesday and Friday
Mrs Hendy	Tuesday and Friday
Mrs Powell	Monday and Tuesday

Mrs Green	Monday and Wednesday
Ms Iqbal	Tuesday and Thursday
Mrs Martinez	Wednesday and Friday
Mrs O'Reilly	Monday and Friday
Miss Dardis	Monday and Wednesday
Mrs Fox	Tuesday and Wednesday
Miss Caswell	Tuesday and Wednesday
Mrs Doyle	Thursday
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.

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.

Miss Macfarlane Mrs Harris	Set 1	M- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/eAO81Zq4/Cty8WsHw S- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0NuXxFFh/CAoGH7Vp A- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Ib7JvkVN/VvSijpzq D- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mXD5OI0m/7jjO50DU
Mrs Crow	Ditties	SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HzFO2Xpe/6jDkqbYB TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CuXEPvQ9/zFRIT5W4 CH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FzibVEW7/JPKcVReb QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/iZaHb3Ji/LdjlTsdT
Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg	Green Pink	AY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JdkUuies/xKiKoaW8 EE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ULuxhv1U/XdEXREM8 IGH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9QONNINo/VZuJ6fUt OW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/S3W8V5Va/8Rq2NrpD
Mrs Wilson Mrs Green	Orange Grey	EA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/aaEZ8wCd/wjx2VnOt OI- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/O3Jgiir6/96ya01lq A-E https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/n4U1a8fZ/X46FLEAX – I-E https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/S4YPDvk9/H3Pcv9vZ –

PARISH NEWS

Holy Family Catholic Church

Please see the message below from Holy Family Catholic Church.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

If you have a child in year three or above and you wish for them to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time please ring Lisa in the parish office Monday to Friday, 10.00am – 1.00pm (excluding Thursday) to book a registration time. 01753 543770 **Booking is taking place now.**

Registration is with Roni, Lucy or Kieran beginning Monday 28th September to Wednesday 30th September between 4 and 6pm and it takes place in our church.