



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.3

Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely week it has been, with everyone settling back into good routines and the school full of its usual happy buzz!

Our before and after school sports clubs are now in full swing, and it's wonderful to see so many children taking part. Thank you to everyone for your understanding around not waiting on site to observe clubs, and for respecting that children will be dismissed either from the main school front door or the gate by the Year 3 classrooms. Your co-operation makes such a difference to how smoothly the school runs.

A very warm welcome to all our new starters who have recently joined our nurseries; we look forward to getting to know you and your families over the coming weeks.

Please remember that only fruit should be sent in as a breaktime snack. This is especially important as we are a nut aware school with a number of children who have severe nut allergies. This week a member of staff noticed a child eating a snack containing hazelnuts, and I know you will all understand why keeping every child safe has to come first. Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us look after one another.

Along similar lines, thank you to the parent who responded so thoughtfully to our expectation that children no longer bring food or other items into school to share with classmates on their birthday. The poster, sent in with a wrapped book for a child to open in front of his class, was a wonderfully kind and creative solution, and just the sort of positive solution we love to see.

With the weather turning changeable, please do send children in with a raincoat each day.

It was lovely to see such a great turnout for the phonics sessions led by Mrs Hume, as well as for our Meet the Teacher meetings. Thank you for making the time to come along.

A gentle reminder, too, about road safety. Please remind children of the importance of walking sensibly along pavements, as staff have noticed some children stepping out between parked cars or running across the staff car park on their way in. While our staff always drive carefully in and around the school site, parents remain responsible for children's safety until they reach the school gate, at which point I take over that responsibility.

Last week, as it was Education Sunday, Fr Tony kindly invited me to speak at Mass on the theme of forgiveness. It felt closely linked to our school mission **'Trying to make the world a better place through creating a learning environment based upon gospel values where all children and adults become better people'** and I hope some of you might find a moment to read and reflect on it.

Finally, good luck to our Year 6 children, many of whom sit their Berkshire 11+ tomorrow. We are all thinking of you and know you'll do your best.

Wishing you all a good weekend,

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

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)
Monday 5th October	Week 3 of the Menu
Wednesday 7th October	Flu Immunisations Rec – Year 6 (In School)
Thursday 8th October	Year 5 Swimming (4 of 10)
Friday 9th October	HFCS Celebrate 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.

October Holiday Camp 2026

We will be running a three day holiday camp during October half term this year on Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October 2026. Please see further information attached to this newsletter.

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 lesson.

Congratulations to Taksh Jain who has moved to Stage 4 in his swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Amreen Kaur who has successfully auditioned for London Junior and Senior Ballet in Chiswick and will be attending their training course this year.

Congratulations to Nick Brumby who joined the Drifters Rugby club less than 2 weeks ago and is already player of the week.

Congratulations to Alice Brumby who learned to ride her bike without stabilizers over the summer.

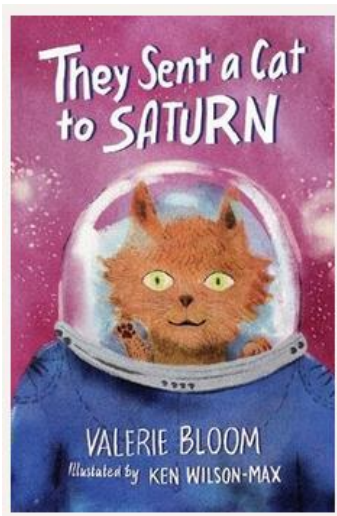
Well done all!

Summer Reading Challenge

If 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 next week's newsletter. 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: Valerie Bloom

Illustrator: Ken Wilson-Max

Interest Age: 7-11

Reading Age: 8+

They Sent a Cat to Saturn is a wonderful collection of more than sixty poems from award-winning poet Valerie Bloom. Full of rhythm, humour and imagination, these poems are perfect for reading aloud in class or enjoying independently, helping children develop a love of language and poetry.

Attendance

Congratulations to Mrs Hendy's Year 1 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (99.7%).

Year 1 Behaviour Steps

As children move from Reception to Year 1, our approach to maintaining and encouraging good behaviour changes. Today, Year 1 children have brought home a copy of the Behaviour Steps which are used from Year 1 – Year 6. Our full Behaviour Policy is available in the Parents' Information section of the school's website.

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.

Information re. Open Evening/Mornings for Secondary Schools September 2027 Entry and How to Apply

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.

Flu Immunisation for Children in Reception – Year 6

The date currently scheduled for your child to receive the flu immunisation in school is 7th October 2026. An online consent form from the NHS Berkshire Immunisation Team will be emailed to parents of children in Reception-Year 6 over the next few days. Consent needs to be given before 9am on 6th October 2026. Please see the letter you will be emailed for further information and details regarding how to give your consent. Thank you.

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. All applications must be made through <https://www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk/>.

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.

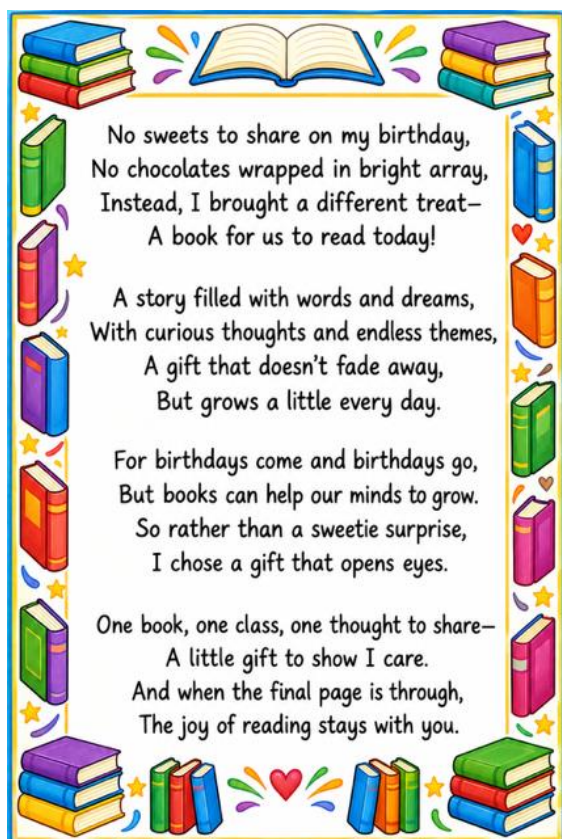
We greatly value the partnership between home and school and would encourage all parents and carers to read the information provided and complete the questionnaire here: [RSE Policy and Curriculum Updates](#)

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.

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. As an alternative, you are welcome to donate a book to the school (see the lovely poem below) although this is very much not expected. Thank you for your understanding and support in managing children's expectations.



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=KUbrJPA65g>

Miss Macfarlane Mrs Harris	Set 1	T - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/wL9n8Lf/yIKZ72Fm I - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/eU0P8hQv/cxGuKVil N - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/G70PrMaT/vQOWIHed P- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NyfPQHGS/gvxAL46P
Mrs Crow	Ditties	NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6luyHL4A/XP2u74cY CH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LrALHqt5/oRHZSGfA NK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QRy9ftkG/5DioVMC7 CK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rOaclhwQ/vsnDSJv5
Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg	Green Pink	OO- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ZG3oYH6z/7MgFdC2f OO - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lxHDh73g/LdslQ0G6 AR - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/5cSohvqT/pqMdKjz8 OR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/acBrIC0c/clh0vmoH
Mrs Wilson Mrs Green	Orange Grey	O-E - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/XMWu4rjv/frzbpdvV U-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HHy7OJdk/76H0TDEg AW - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/5l3uvbo0/rbdySxsF ARE - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/vpenM0s7/iEiITht ER- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/EBdM0CsA/rbRmipVW

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.