



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.3

Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

School was a lovely place to be this week, finished off by a beautifully sunny Friday! We have spent time talking to the children about the Catholic Social Teaching principle of being a peacemaker, and we have seen this in action in classrooms and on the playground; children have shown kindness and been problem-solvers when friendship issues or disagreements have arisen. So much 'soft' learning takes place outside of the curriculum as children learn to live with one another and navigate social situations, and it has been a pleasure to watch them as they learn and develop the skills that will help them and the rest of the world which can, at times, feel less than peaceful!

On Thursday of this week, school welcomed Mark McLaughlin, the newly-appointed CEO of St Thomas' Catholic Academy Trust, who visited us for lunchtime. Children were incredibly welcoming and friendly, as they approached to engage with him; he left feeling special as so many children – even Nursery aged children – came over for a chat. He commented particularly on how happy everyone seemed, children and adults alike.

Also on Thursday we welcomed many parents into school for our annual 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. Those parents who were able to attend were given an overview of the year ahead, and had the opportunity to hear from their child's class teachers about expectations and other key information. Thanks to so many parents for coming along.

Today we welcomed Danielle Mercer, from the Slough Early Years Team, who came to visit our Nurseries. She was impressed to see how our new provision for 2 year olds has been organised, and how engaged our youngest children were with their carefully selected resources. Our 3-year-old provision was, as always, calm and well-ordered, full of happy children. It makes us really proud to showcase our Early Years provision and the team who run it so effectively.

Mrs Hume ran two very well-attended phonics meetings for EYFS and KS1 parents on Tuesday – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Feedback from parents was that the information was helpful and will enable them to feel more confident when helping their child with reading at home. These sessions will be repeated in February for anyone who was unable to attend or anyone who would appreciate a 'top-up'.

We have an increasing number of children in school who have allergies, and we ask all parents to be extra mindful when sending food into school for any reason. For birthdays, for example, some parents choose to send treats in for their child to share with their classmates. We request please, that this be limited to a small packet of sweets, rather than cakes, biscuits or chocolate. While the offer is always well-intentioned, it can lead to children feeling left out or, even worse, put them in danger of an allergic reaction. We must ensure that we are minimising risk and prioritising the safety of our children.

Some members of our Local Academy Committee have recently left the board due to increasing time commitment; we would like to thank Roisin Holden, Ruth Serrano, Huw Williams and Sukvinder Sur for their service and dedication to our school over recent years. Due to these changes, we are currently looking to recruit a new member to our Local Academy Committee (previously known as the Governing Body). In particular, we would love to appoint somebody who has a background in finance. Please contact the school office if you are interested; we would really appreciate your help.

Many of our Year 6 children will be sitting their Slough 11+ this weekend; we wish them luck; I am sure there will be a huge sigh of relief when it's over!

We look forward to raising money for Macmillan next Friday when all children will enjoy a cake. We welcome donations of cake items – please read further in this newsletter for more information. (I understand this contradicts the above request regarding birthday treats, this event will be managed carefully by school staff who are aware of children's allergies.)

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Saturday 20th September	Berks 11+ Exam
Monday 22nd September	Week 2 of the Menu Registration for 1 st Holy Communion at Holy Family Church commences
Wednesday 24th September	Year 5 Swimming (2 of 10)
Friday 26th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning (children only) - £1 Donation Year 6 Height & Weight Check (In School)
Saturday 27th September	Holy Family Parish CAFOD Walk at school 2pm
Monday 29th September	Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 30th September	Year 6 STIXX Workshop (In School) Year 3 (Mrs Martinez & Mrs Kukla) Class Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 1st October	Year 5 Swimming (3 of 10) Year 4 (Miss Dardis & Mrs Remfeld) Class Visit to Langley Library
Friday 3rd October	CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day
Monday 6th October	Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 7th October	Year 3 (Ms Iqbal) Class Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 8th October	Year 5 Swimming (4 of 10)

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.

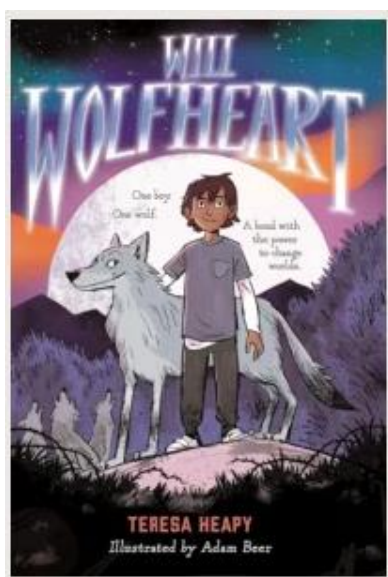
Achievements

Congratulations to Hiranya Siripurapu for successfully competing in the Red ball tournament organized by Richings Park Tennis club. Hiranya played with five competitors in her league, achieving 3rd rank in the tournament. Well done Hiranya.

Congratulations to Daniel Shah for progressing to Stage 5 in his swimming lessons. Well done Daniel.

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: Teresa Heapy

Illustrator: Adam Beer

Interest age: 7-12

Reading age: 7+

When Will and his dog Whisper are summoned into Wolf World, Whisper transforms into a talking wolf! Together, they brave many canine dangers in this illustrated, action-packed adventure.

October Holiday Camp 2025

We will be running a three day holiday camp during October half term this year on Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th October 2025. Please see further information attached to this newsletter.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 26th September 2025 (Children Only)

We would like to support the Macmillan Coffee Morning in school.

All children will be given a cake/doughnut on Friday 26th September and we would like to suggest that, in return, children make a voluntary donation (suggested donation £1).

In order for this to be a success we would appreciate any donations of cakes/doughnuts for the children to enjoy with their friends in their classes. If families would like to donate cakes/doughnuts to be given out on the Friday, please can these kindly be brought to your child's class that morning. **All items must be nut free and clearly display all ingredients.** If you need any containers to be returned to you, please ensure these are clearly labelled with your child's name and class. As we are now a cashless school monetary donations will need to be made via parent pay. Please help us raise as much money as possible for this worthy cause.

Thank you for your support.

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.

Office Queries

If you find yourself with a query that needs to come via the school office, can we request that you pop in before school or send an email to school.admin@hfcs.org.uk wherever possible. Our Reception area and office staff are incredibly busy at the end of the school day, and not always available to answer questions as thoroughly as they would like to, due to focussing on ensuring that all children are collected and off-site safely. Thanks in advance for your co-operation.

Medicine to be Administered in School

Please note that we are only able to administer medicine to children once a day. If your child needs medicine during the school day, please speak to Mrs Gonoud or another member of our Reception team to complete the necessary forms.

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.

The Langley Academy – Information re. How to Apply and Open Days

Please see information attached to this newsletter.

Nursery and School Admission for September 2026

Admission to Reception September 2026

The above admission round opens 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.

Flu Immunisation for Children in Reception – Year 6

The date currently scheduled for your child to receive the flu immunisation in school is 7th November 2025. 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 November 2025. Please see the letter you will be emailed for further information and details regarding how to give your consent. Thank you.

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 Scott Mrs Harris	Set 1	T- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3z1L5RYl/9Tefl0QG I- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/L3ZouAbp/HMfGCZji N- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JfGlzhxW/1pa9y5Ke P- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mTn98P5p/4dJN4W5P G- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HK7EE7F/MEQMObl2
Mrs Crow	Ditties	QU - http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/i8WLOU76/TlyhP4ic NG- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MIVr0Bog/Vni4s6kq NK- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Lhnl5DVr/OETk8pwy CK- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/KPQpxTUu/iswh0Jad
Mrs Keogh Mrs Hendy	Green Purple	OW- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WVSeZB1Q/b01Td45g OO- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/riAVAa88/KXf9ty1E OO – http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CxSSFJYv/seuPeY7E AR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2yquVTC2/c7UufqvW
Mrs Wilson Mrs Hogg Miss MacFarlane	Orange Blue Grey	I-E- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/oSsLaGq4/unyuvP7Z O-E- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qvN87UzX/Om29RmSx U-E- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/i8zav610/hUzMXJTW AW- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/j9X5C0gA/tMaFONo7

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Update

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 holyfamilylangleyppta@gmail.com.

PARISH NEWS

Holy Family Catholic Church – Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist

Message from Kieran McKeown – Pastoral Worker at Holy Family Catholic Church:

Dear Parents/Carers

If you have a child in Year 3 or above and you wish for them to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time you are asked to register them by coming to the Church the week beginning Monday 22nd September to meet with Roni, Lucy or Kieran. You may book a registration slot from Monday 8th September by ringing Lisa in the parish office (01753 543770) between 9.30am and 1pm., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. Registration times are from 4 to 6pm

Thank you, Kieran

Holy Family Catholic Church – CAFOD Walk

Event Details & Time:

- The event will take place at Holy Family School, High Street, Langley SL3 8NF on Saturday, September 27th and it will begin at **2pm**
- People can walk around the school field as individuals or families or community/country groups for as many times as they like (1, 2, 3 or more)
- If the weather is nice you may like to bring a picnic. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available
- Our Diocesan CAFOD representative (Deborah Purfield) will be there, and we will take a photograph for the CAFOD website
- We are aiming to raise £5,000 for CAFOD through online donations or sponsorship forms.

Sponsorship Forms & Online Donations for CAFOD:

- Kindly start sharing the news about your walk with your friends, family members, social media groups etc. and request sponsorship for your walk. You can share with them our justgiving page or the paper sponsorship forms. If your sponsor is a taxpayer, please ask them to select the gift-aid option as CAFOD is a registered charity.
- Online sponsorship donations can be made using the justgiving page - <https://justgiving.com/page/cafod-slough-run/>
 - **Note:** After entering the card details and gift-aid options, you will progress to the donation summary page and **please watch out for the tip amount.** Scroll down the page and you can adjust the tip amount or set it to £0 by clicking the 'Edit' link.
- Paper sponsorship form is attached to this email if you prefer to use this option(cafod_sponsorship_form.pdf). We will also leave some printed copies on the table at the front of the church (where we keep the newsletters) if you would like to collect one when you come for Sunday mass.

OTHER

Brownies

There is a well-established Brownies group which meets in term time (every Thursday) at Kedermister Hall, off Reddington Drive, 6.15-7.45pm. They are currently recruiting girls aged 7-10 to join their group – please see attached poster for further information.