



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.4

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We are absolutely delighted to announce the appointment of 13 Mission Team members this week. These Year 6 children will help to share the Gospel and lead our children in deepening their faith. They will be formally commissioned at the Diocesan School's Mass on the 9th October. Children wrote some beautiful letters by way of applying for this role explaining they wanted to: be positive role models, serve others, help Mrs O'Reilly, bring joy and encourage others, develop their own leadership skills and show others how much faith can help in times of need and that there is always hope. These children are incredibly impressive and I would employ any of them in a heartbeat! Please join us in congratulating Isa, Emma, Alberto, Elsie, Ananya, Lea, Abigail, Joe, Clarissa, Charlotte, Kamila, Olivia and Jackson on this special responsibility.

Our Year 6 children had a brilliant time this week working alongside a visiting engineer on a STIXX challenge. They spent Tuesday morning designing and building a structure from old newspapers large enough for five or six of their classmates to fit inside. A fantastic example of teamwork, problem-solving, and engineering.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to respond to our recent RSE Policy consultation. We are grateful for your consideration, engagement and views. As parents, you are your child's first and most important educators, and what our children learn about and are exposed to within our curriculum is very important. As a Catholic school, our RHSE curriculum will always be rooted in the teachings of the Church and in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Catholic Education Service. Parents feedback will be considered by our governors in October and further updates will follow.

We have updated our Behaviour Steps for this academic year. These will be explained more fully later in this newsletter, so please do take a moment to read through the changes together as a family. Behaviour Steps are just one element of our Behaviour Policy which explain the sanctions for children in Y1-Y6 which are consistently applied by all adults in school. Please see the website for the entire Behaviour Policy which has many positive behaviour strategies to build self esteem which may also be helpful for parents to use at home.

On a beautifully sunny day today, we were delighted to welcome a professional photographer into school to take some new photographs of our pupils and school in action. These will help us refresh our website and promotional materials so we can continue to share the wonderful things happening at Holy Family.

Next Friday, Chrissy and Halima (PTA Chairs) invite anyone who can spare 30 minutes at Friday drop off to join them in the AOC (room opposite the Dining Hall) for coffee/tea. The aim is twofold, first and foremost to build community, and secondly get involved in events.

Thank you for your ongoing support and wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 28th September	Week 2 of the Menu
Thursday 1st October	Year 5 Swimming (3 of 10)
Friday 2nd October	PTA Coffee Morning 8.50am (AOC)
Monday 5th October	Week 3 of the Menu
Tuesday 6th October	Little Recyclers Collection & Pre Loved Uniform Collection (school drop off)
Wednesday 7th October	Flu Immunisations Rec – Year 6 (In School) Little Recyclers Collection & Pre Loved Uniform Collection (school drop off)
Thursday 8th October	Year 5 Swimming (4 of 10)
Friday 9th October	HFCS Celebrate CAFOD Family Fast Day Mission Team Attend School Mass in Northampton
Monday 12th October	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 14th October	Year 5 Swimming (5 of 10)
Friday 16th October	Mrs Powell's Year 2 Class Celebration of the Word 9am Parents Welcome Pre Loved Uniform Sale from 3pm

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 – Please hand in forms by Friday 2nd October 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 Alice Brumby who tried rugby last weekend; Alice tried her best and joined in all the activities and was awarded player of the week.

Congratulations to Saran Atwal Torcal who has moved up to Stage 6 in her swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Devante Romney who played his first football game of the season last weekend. After a tough game, Devante was awarded Man of the Match for his team.

Well done Alice, Saran and Devante.

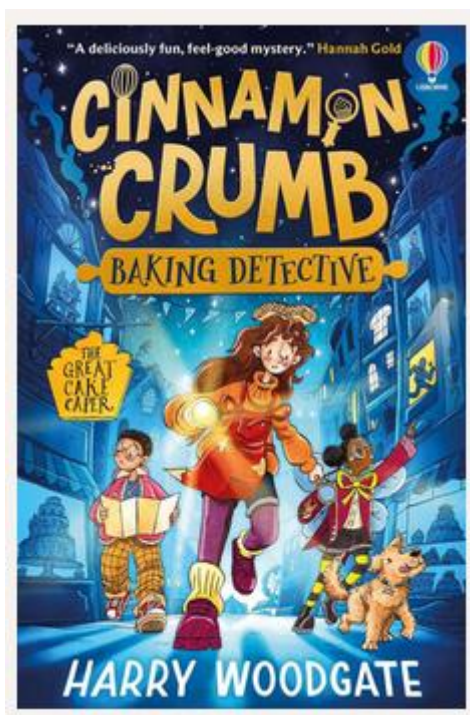
Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge:

Maria Teresa Kiran, Gloria Manoj, Gianna Manoj, Zyanna Masih, Ruthvik Mutcherla, Lyon Kuruppu, Sienna Monserrate, Brendon Rodrigues, Bryan Rodrigues, Cohen D'Souza, Haleema Ahmed, Amreen Kaur, Tejveer Kaur, Shanaira Khaneja, Avea Garg, Charlotte Chandler and William Chandler.

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: Harry Woodgate

Interest Age: 7-11

Reading Age: 8+

Cinnamon Crumb Baking Detective: The Great Cake Caper is a deliciously entertaining mystery filled with humour, intrigue and mouth-watering treats. When rival bakers accuse each other of sabotage, young detective Cinnamon Crumb must uncover the truth. A fantastic choice for readers who enjoy solving puzzles and following clues.

Attendance

Congratulations to Mrs Harris' Reception class and Mrs O'Reilly's Year 4 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (99.3%).

Behaviour Steps

As children move from Reception to Year 1, our approach to maintaining and encouraging good behaviour changes. Last week, Year 1 children 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.

Annually we update our behaviour steps/sanctions in line with any patterns in behaviour that staff repeatedly deal with and/or new expectations. This year, we will continue to embed the term 'protected characteristics' with children from Year 1 – Year 6. The info graphic below may help you to hold open conversations with children about the importance of treating all human beings with dignity.



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

Baylis Court School – Please see the attached information leaflet for further details.

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.

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.

RSE Policy

Thank you to the parents who responded to our recent questionnaire regarding the updates and changes to the PHSE curriculum in primary schools.

The updates to the curriculum are statutory and schools are required to implement them. We would like to reassure parents that these changes will be carefully incorporated into our curriculum using the Ten:Ten Life to the Full resources.

As a Catholic school, we remain committed to delivering an age-appropriate curriculum that is firmly rooted in the teachings and values of the Catholic faith. Our approach will continue to promote the dignity of every person, respect for others, healthy relationships and the importance of making responsible choices.

Through the Ten:Ten resources, we will ensure that pupils receive high-quality education that reflects statutory requirements while remaining faithful to our Catholic ethos.

Accessing Ten Ten's Life to the Full Parent Portal:

Parents and carers can explore what children learn through *Life to the Full*, our relationships and health education programme, using Ten Ten's Online Parent Portal.

The portal includes lesson summaries and suggestions for conversations and activities at home.

1. Open this link <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/information-for-parents/>
2. Enter the school's parent username: Parenthfcsorguk
3. Enter the school's parent password: HolyFamilyParent

Please contact the school office if you have difficulty accessing the portal.

Supporting CAFOD's Harvest Family Fast Day – Friday 9th October

On Friday 9th October, Holy Family School will support CAFOD's Harvest Family Fast Day appeal. This year's focus is on helping children in Zimbabwe access safe water and nutritious food so they can attend school, learn and flourish.

Children are invited to wear something bright alongside their usual school uniform. Catholic Social Teaching calls us to uphold the dignity of every person, work for the common good and support our global neighbours. If possible, please consider making a **£1 donation via ParentPay** to support CAFOD's work. All children are welcome to wear something bright, regardless of whether a donation is made.

Years 4–6 will walk to church to join the parish Mass, while **EYFS, KS1 and Year 3 will walk around the school playground**, coming together in solidarity with communities supported by CAFOD.

We would once again be grateful for **parents and carers of children in Years 4–6 to volunteer to accompany the walk to church**. If you are able to help, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support as we put our faith into action together.

Marian Month

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and children in KS2 (Year 3 – Year 6) will be invited to pray a decade of this wonderful prayer on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday's in school. We invite you to maintain this month of dedication on Saturdays and Sundays at home.

A decade of the Holy Rosary is:

1 x Our Father
10 x Hail Mary
1 x Glory Be

During each decade you can pray with a Mystery of the Rosary. Mysteries are moments in the life of Jesus and Mary. Please see the link below to help imagine them in your mind. There are four sets of five Mysteries:

The Joyful Mysteries
The Glorious Mysteries
The Luminous Mysteries
The Sorrowful Mysteries

We do hope that you can join us to pray the Rosary again this October. For further information, please see the following link: <https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/the-rosary-mysteries/>

Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly – RE Lead

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=KUbrJPAt65g>

Miss Macfarlane Mrs Harris	Set 1	G- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QabCw79E/0DgEXQ8q O- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CvqHhGk4/hZ412rm5 C- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9IPrUY2o/70IQJi3u K- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GOJkTGk6/YS7R2h4r
Mrs Crow	Ditties	SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/wXvbqJA0/df0sNRtl QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FkWcC9rU/qGqNt8y1

		TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/BxlrG2DR/XYchT1oD NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6vrQMw7g/5tCxarZe
Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg	Green Pink	AIR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/aO1MCq46/rxD9owA9 IR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/5R9XyDwx/YrAIoTFi OU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/68nxYf7w/udrRMjCb OY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/60R8EdCx/prvahdnC
Mrs Wilson Mrs Green	Orange Grey	UR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LwO9wR0d/Mp7Lj6Qd ARE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/J4wb4K24/iWx9yrMg AI- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/v2rRBiZH/tnI20qbI OW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rUUYIO7c/aUSVRW6b ER- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/cr4sAbKn/Sh9wq7pc

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Friday 2nd October - after drop off - PTA Coffee Morning

Our first Holy Family PTA coffee morning of the school year is Friday 2nd October, in the AOC classroom opposite the dining hall.

All are welcome so please come along for a cuppa, catch up and to find out what we have planned and how you can get involved 😊

Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th October - Morning - Little Recyclers and Preloved Uniform Collection

Are you having a declutter of your wardrobe? Or do you have clothes that your children have grown out of? We are excited to have organised another clothing collection through Little Recyclers!

There will be a collection point at the front of the school on the morning of the 6th and 7th of October.

We will also be collecting any preloved uniform on the same day. Please put these in a separate bag - these will be for the PTA Preloved Sale. Please see the flyer for more information.

Friday 16th October - After School - Preloved Uniform Sale

Our PTA will be holding a Pre-Loved Uniform Sale after school on Friday 16th October.

We will be selling branded jumpers, cardigans and PE jumpers for £3. Branded polo t-shirts and PE t-shirts will be £2.

There are plenty of white shirts, grey trousers, pinafores and other items that are all free. So come and grab yourself a bargain!

Christmas Cards

This year, the PTA are offering the opportunity for parents to order merchandise, including Christmas cards, with your child's design on them. An amount from every item purchased is given back to the school so it raises vital funds. Within the next couple of weeks, your child will come home with a design which has already been completed or for them to colour at home. If you would like to place an order, please return the completed art work to your child's

class teacher by Monday 12th October. Please fill in the details on the back of the form. These will be sent off to the company who runs it and once they have received it they will provide you with details of how you can order online. School cannot accept any designs handed in later than this date. Thank you from the PTA for your support.