



## **Holy Family Catholic Primary School**

**Advent Term**

**Newsletter No.5**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers

This week in school we have enjoyed a variety of trips and visitors, alongside the usual curriculum. On Tuesday, we welcomed Jeremy King, an engineer who came to work with the children on designing and building a robust structure, using a variety of STEM skills. Jeremy has been visiting Holy Family for a number of years and is always very complimentary about our children and their attitude and behaviour; he is now limiting the number of schools he visits as he is of retirement age, but continues to work with us as he thinks so highly of our children. Once again, the children did not let themselves down: they worked collegiately and imaginatively on their structures and ended the session feeling proud of their achievements.

Both Year 3 and 4 visited Langley Library this week too, where they enjoyed learning more about the organisation of the library and having some reading for pleasure time. Thank you to parent volunteers for walking with our children.

On Monday, we had a visit from Kristian Hewitt, who is the Director of Education for St Thomas Catholic Academy Trust. We have worked with Kristian a few times in the last year, and we warmly welcomed him again this week as he met with Mrs Benn to discuss school priorities and walked through lessons to see how we worked. As always, Kristian was incredibly positive about our wonderful staff and pupils, and loved the high standard of teaching and learning that is taking place throughout school, from our tiny 2 year olds to our Year 6 classes.

We ended our week with Key Stage 2 attending Holy Family Church to celebrate Mass on CAFOD Family Fast Day. Trelawney Avenue was awash with bright colour as we walked all 250 pupils from school to Church this morning. The children's behaviour was, once again, exemplary as we celebrated Mass with Fr Tony for the first time. Thank you to the small army of volunteer parents who ensured we travelled to and from Church safely; your help is very much appreciated. Meanwhile, our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children walked around our school field in their bright colours to mark CAFOD Family Fast Day. Well done to all.

Well done to Miss Macfarlane, Year 2 Teacher and Reading for Pleasure Champion; Mia's Reading for Pleasure project that she completed last year has been published on the Open University website: <https://ourfp.org/eop/cultivating-a-lifelong-love-of-reading/>

A gentle reminder that school will be closed for staff INSET on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October (week before half term). If you need to use our October half term holiday camp (running on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October), please do return the completed form asap. We have extended the return date until next Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Unfortunately, if we do not have sufficient numbers the holiday camp will not be able to go ahead and we will confirm to parents if this is the case during the week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

As you leave and enter school in the coming days, please take note of our statue of Our Lady near the pedestrian gate. The parents of Chloe in Year 2 and Hailey in Nursery have been so kind with their time in creating a marble altar for Mary to stand on; she looks beautiful rightfully elevated, and we are very grateful for your help!

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

God bless,

Mrs Benn

### **Prayer for CAFOD Family Fast Day (Children's Prayer)**

Almighty God,

We thank you for the gift of education. We thank you for our teachers and friends and all the resources that enable us to learn.

We pray for our sisters and brothers in the developing world. We pray that the fighting stops, and that peace will prevail.

We thank you for CAFOD and for the amazing training programs they are providing that are changing lives.

We stand in solidarity with the call for all children to have access to good quality education, and we pray for a world where all resources are distributed fairly.

Amen.

### **DIARY DATES**

|                                          |                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b>     | Week 2 of the Menu                                                                         |
| <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>    | Year 4 Visit to Kew Gardens<br>Year 3 (Ms Iqbal) Class Visit to Langley Library            |
| <b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>  | Year 5 Swimming (4 of 10)<br>Year 4 (Mrs Green & Mrs Evans) Class Visit to Langley Library |
| <b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>    | Year 2 (Miss Macfarlane) Class Assembly Parents Welcome 9am                                |
| <b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>    | Week 1 of the Menu                                                                         |
| <b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>   | Reception (Mrs Harris) Class Visit to Langley library                                      |
| <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b> | Year 5 Swimming (5 of 10)                                                                  |
| <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>    | Year 2 (Miss Macfarlane) Class Visit to Langley library<br>Week 2 of the Menu              |
| <b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b> | <b>Staff INSET – School Closed</b>                                                         |
| <b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>  | <b>Staff INSET – School Closed</b>                                                         |
| <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>    | <b>Staff INSET – School Closed</b>                                                         |

**October Half Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

### **Celebrate Success!**

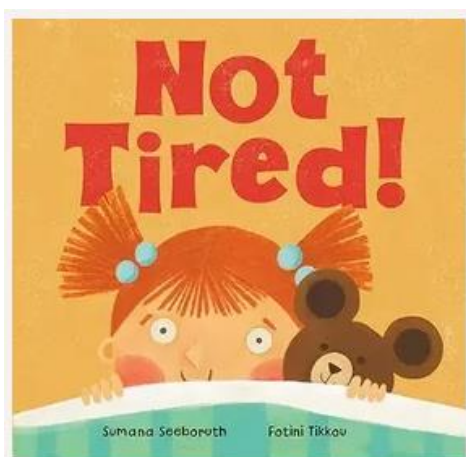
To link in with our Vision statement, 'To value, inspire and challenge all', we invite parents/carers to notify us of special achievements (outside of school e.g. music, sports, positive contribution) your child has achieved so they can be recorded on their school record and shared with children and 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**

Congratulations to Ciara Robinson who danced at her first feis last weekend following an injury and was awarded two firsts and a second and ninth place. Well done Ciara.

### **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:** Sumana Seeboruth

**Illustrator:** Fotini Tikkou

**Interest Age:** 0-3

It is bedtime, but the toddler in this delightful little board book is not tired and has lots to do before she's ready to sleep. With plenty of familiar scenes which will resonate with children and their parents, this lovely tale is sure to become a firm favourite, especially at bedtime.

### **Some lovely feedback!**

Last week, we had a visit from a lady who works for ABC to Read; she came to train our Junior Librarians in how to help younger pupils with their reading. We were delighted that she emailed that evening to pay her compliments to our children and school and I would like to share part of it with you here:

*For over twenty years we have been delivering these courses across Berkshire but I have to say that the group of children from Holy Family Catholic School were outstanding in the way they focused, worked together as a team, encouraged each other as well as coming up with smart answers to the questions asked. The students really were a credit to your school and a delight to work with.*

We are incredibly proud of our children and love to receive feedback that we can share with them about how wonderful they are!

### **Mission Team visit to Dunstable**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 15 of our Year 6 Mission Team (formerly known as Faith Ambassadors) are due to travel via coach to Dunstable for an inaugural Mass with the Bishop. If there are

any parents of these children who would be willing to travel with them for the day, please let office staff know, as we would be grateful for your support. Thank you.

### **Adventure Playground**

Please ensure that children are not climbing on the adventure playground at the end of the school day, or at any time when a member of school staff is not supervising. We are not insured unless a member of staff is present and we ask you to support us by keeping your children away from the equipment whilst waiting for older siblings to come out of classes at the end of the day. Thank you.

### **Visits to Langley Library**

On most Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons this term, each class will have the opportunity to walk to Langley Library to spend some of the afternoon getting familiar with the library and looking at books together. Depending on the age of the children, some classes may need to request parents or grandparents help to accompany the children to the library, so please speak to your child's class teacher if you are able to help. Please ensure that your child has a raincoat in school on the day they are attending the library, as we still plan to go if it rains!

### **Unauthorised Absence Reminder**

We would like to remind you of school's expectations regarding attendance and unauthorised absence, and attached to this newsletter you will find a document outlining our approach. As a reminder: holidays will not be authorised, and days off school attached to either side of school holidays will also be recorded as unauthorised, unless medical evidence can be provided.

### **Collection from after-school activities**

When collecting your child from their after-school activities, please be advised that, if the activity takes place outside on the field/ playground, children will be brought to the gate outside the main reception entrance and released to a parent there. Please can parents refrain from walking around past the nursery gate (which needs to be left open for after-school club and external users) and onto the playground. This makes for a smoother handover, as we often have children who attend Bradley tuition arriving at this time too. We appreciate your support in prioritising the safety of our children.

### **October Holiday Camp 2025**

We will be running a three-day holiday camp during October half term this year on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Please see further information attached to this newsletter. We have extended the deadline for returning completed forms to next Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you.

### **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 for the Rosary Challenge this October. For further information, please see the following link: <https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/the-rosary-mysteries/>

Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly – RE Lead

### **Reception Classes**

The Slough and South Bucks Observer will be running an Our "First Days" Supplement in the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025 edition of the paper. Please note that both of our two Reception classes are likely to be featured. Thank you.

### **Year 6 Secondary Transfer and School Visits**

Year 6 children will need to complete a **Common Application Form** for secondary school **before 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Baylis Court School – Open Mornings**

Please see attached poster for further information.

### **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.

### **Flu Immunisation for Children in Reception – Year 6**

The date currently scheduled for your child to receive the flu immunisation in school is 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025. An online consent form from the NHS Berkshire Immunisation Team has been emailed to parents of children in Reception-Year 6. Consent needs to be given before 9am on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Please see the letter you have been 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<br>Mrs Harris                      | Set 1                  | B- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9BddiW8x/Nh7rvUY0">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9BddiW8x/Nh7rvUY0</a><br>F- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lo1tt1Zq/GatselqU">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lo1tt1Zq/GatselqU</a><br>E – <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/N67Ti1Xl/HFKI0mev">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/N67Ti1Xl/HFKI0mev</a><br>L- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HNK13L6d/S2nNPkSX">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HNK13L6d/S2nNPkSX</a>     |
| Mrs Crow                                     | Ditties                | NG- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/XfaJRG4M/D6wrCv7K">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/XfaJRG4M/D6wrCv7K</a><br>NK- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/o8PrfKOp/Zrdcg5MT">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/o8PrfKOp/Zrdcg5MT</a><br>CK- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/XDOSxRQg/9rmGEa8V">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/XDOSxRQg/9rmGEa8V</a><br>SH- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0Pdm5NqS/ekw9fWi2">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0Pdm5NqS/ekw9fWi2</a>  |
| Mrs Keogh<br>Mrs Hendy                       | Green<br>Purple        | OY- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ze5nvOy5/CuRk6QKm">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ze5nvOy5/CuRk6QKm</a><br>AY- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/slS7KYVU/XaazPsGh">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/slS7KYVU/XaazPsGh</a><br>EE- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/g9jhc6lv/argbxj1k">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/g9jhc6lv/argbxj1k</a><br>IGH- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NemeeOve/jqkHlfVY">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NemeeOve/jqkHlfVY</a> |
| Mrs Wilson<br>Mrs Hogg<br>Miss<br>MacFarlane | Orange<br>Blue<br>Grey | AI- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/e818zRMJ/Y71G8uXM">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/e818zRMJ/Y71G8uXM</a><br>OA- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4WuMyMJE/AqCFS085">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4WuMyMJE/AqCFS085</a><br>EW- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/O026vh7M/f02RTn7H">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/O026vh7M/f02RTn7H</a><br>IRE- <a href="http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IOChZ9X3/ffcGzzEN">http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IOChZ9X3/ffcGzzEN</a> |

## 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).

### PTA Pantomime

The PTA are delighted to announce we are returning to the pantomime at The Theatre Royal Windsor this year, which will be a performance of Cinderella at 7pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December <https://theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/cinderella-25/>. Once again, our favourites Kevin Cruise and Steven Blakely will entertain us all and get us in the festive mood.

**Tickets will be going on sale in one week today on Friday 10th October. These will be priced at a very competitive £20 per ticket**, with profits going to the PTA, directly benefitting your children and Holy Family School.

We have excellent Front Stalls and Royal Stalls seats again this year, which are worth between £37 and £39 a ticket. You will be able to purchase up to 6 tickets per family, if your child is a pupil at Holy Family School, and these will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. We will, of course, accommodate any special access requirements, as always.

This is without a doubt a FANTASTIC night out for the children and adults alike, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible! Please look out for the school newsletter next Friday for details of how to buy your tickets. Thank you for your support, from the Holy Family PTA.

## 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. £1 from every item purchased is given back to the school so it raises vital funds. Your child has been sent home with either the completed artwork or a design 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 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October (rather than Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October which is stated on the form). 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 email you with details of how you can order online. Any merchandise you order will be delivered to school and then sent home via your child. Thank you from the PTA for your support.

## OTHER

### GEMS

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                       |                                       |            |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>NEW<br/>AuDHD</b> | <i>Hosted by Parenting Special Children</i><br>This neuro-affirming, strengths based, interactive workshop is designed to help parents/carers better understand the unique experiences of AuDHD (Autistic and ADHD) children and young people. Exploring AuDHD strengths and challenges, Practical strategies for home and school, Reframing so called 'difficult' behaviours, Supporting child's self-esteem and self-advocacy. | <b>Autism &amp; ADHD Support</b><br>For parents & carers of primary & secondary school aged children. | Online:<br>Tuesday<br>2nd<br>December | 7 -<br>9pm |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|

Booking link : <https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/audhd-workshop-berkshire-east-dec-2025/>

These workshops and courses are available to families who reside or is registered at a GP practice in East Berkshire , Slough, Windsor, Maidenhead and Bracknell