



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.6

Friday 10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

This morning, Miss Macfarlane's Year 2 class led the first class assembly of the year. It was an absolute joy! Children spoke confidently, timing was perfect, they all looked proud of themselves and Alfie Worthington lit up the room with his beaming smile! As ever, the learning and guidance shared was inspirational. The Learning Characteristic **Hope**, reminding us to hope with certainty that our God has a good plan for each of us was cleverly interwoven with the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of **Care For Creation** and the Catholic Virtue of **RESPECT** for God's world. It is clear to see how teachers are combining the elements of our 'Strong Foundations Pupil Passport' into their RE curriculum. Well done Mrs Macfarlane and Year 2. Thank you to all the parents who supported and celebrated with your children this morning. Your children love to see you in school.

Year 4 had a great time visiting Kew Gardens on Tuesday. They had a good look around the greenhouses, learning lots about the different layers of the rainforest, and the entire ecosystem. Children enjoyed finding out about what foods and other things are grown in the rainforest and were amazed to learn that we use so many of them in our everyday lives. Thank you to our staff and volunteering parents who looked after our children so well for the day.

On Wednesday, a group of ten children visited RDA in Fulmer, for a day of horse riding and pony care. They enjoyed brushing the ponies and oiling their hooves, as well as playing games and eventually riding some larger horses. The children were fantastic representatives of our school, and the accompanying staff members were especially proud of them and their behaviour.

We have really felt the value and importance of parental support more than ever this week.

- At our first Local Academy Committee meeting of the year school leaders were delighted to welcome two new Parent Governors: Christina Mahboob (mum Elsa, Elena and Eden) and Ravinder Singh (dad of Adikrit). Jenny Brumby (mum of Daniel, Nicholas and Alice) and Danny Stacey (dad of Teya, Max and Kaja) also attended and have recently applied to be Foundation Governors.
- When a parent we expected to accompany Year 4 to Kew was unable to attend at short notice, via the parent WhatsApp group, a substitute was found. In total 6 parents gave up a whole day to facilitate this trip which teachers really appreciated.
- Today, 15 Year 6 children have travelled by coach to Dunstable to be commissioned as our Mission Team. We were struggling to release 2 members of staff and requested a parent volunteer to attend along with Mrs Henriquez (TA); we were delighted mum of Jacob Remmer came forward.
- Two classes (Miss Iqbal's Y3 and Mrs Green/Mrs Evans Y4), both visited Langley Library this week. Without the army of parental support these valuable local trips could not go ahead.

Although I have always known the importance of parents working in partnership with school staff, with the difficult financial situation schools find themselves working in, we are increasingly relying on you. Thank you all for your incredible generosity with your time. It is very much appreciated.

Pantomime Tickets go on sale today at 5pm; please see the details in this newsletter regarding how to secure your tickets. Please note the tickets sell out very quickly, usually within the first hour of going on sale.

The deadline for returning the PTA Christmas Card order forms was today. If you are yet to return an order form and would like to do so, please pass it to your child's class teacher at drop off on Monday (13th October).

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 13th October	Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 14th October	Reception (Mrs Harris) Class Visit to Langley library
Wednesday 15th October	Year 5 Swimming (5 of 10) Year 2 (Miss Macfarlane) Class Visit to Langley library
Monday 20th October	Week 2 of the Menu
Wednesday 21st October	Staff INSET – School Closed
Thursday 22nd October	Staff INSET – School Closed
Friday 23rd October	Staff INSET – School Closed

October Half Term: Monday 27th October 2024 to Friday 31st October 2025

Monday 3rd November	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 5th November	Year 5 Swimming (6 of 10)
Thursday 6th November	School Photographs
Friday 7th November	Year 5 (Mrs Fox) Class Assembly Parents Welcome 9am Flu Immunization Reception – Year 6
Sunday 9th November	Remembrance Sunday

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

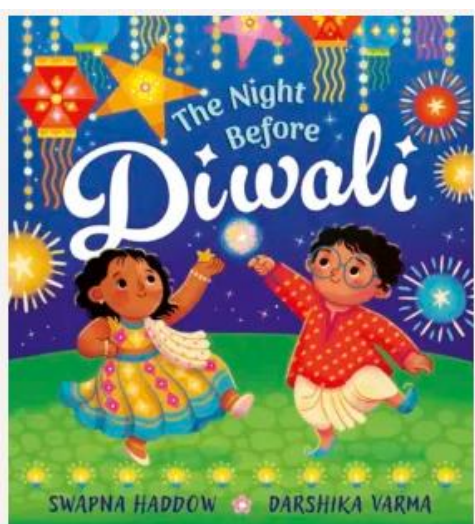
Congratulations to Jovan Sur for passing his Stage 3 swimming lessons and gaining confidence in swimming in the deep end. Well done Jovan.

Congratulations to Mickey-Ray Davies who was in the Slough Schools' FA U11 District Team when they won their cup game against Newbury, making it to the next round of the Shires Cup. Mickey-Ray also won man of the match for his brilliant performance. Well done Mickey-Ray.

Congratulations to Alberto Staffiere and Joseph Loughman for their win last weekend in their basketball league game when they joined the older U12 team. Alberto and Joseph played well and contributed to this victory! Well done Alberto and Joseph.

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: Swapna Haddow

Illustrator: Darshika Varma

Interest Age: 3-5

Reading Age: 7+

A young boy and his grandmother prepare for the best Diwali ever while the rest of their family are asleep. A beautiful depiction of Diwali traditions with rhyming text and a yummy recipe to try.

Calling all Altar Servers

Schools are encouraged to offer pupils leadership roles and we have been incrementally increasing these for a few years. We have Mission Team (formerly Faith Ambassadors), Junior Librarians, Year 5 Play Equipment Monitors and our 'Hearts On Fire, Feet On the Move' pupil led clubs, which take place in the Lent term, are also part of our pupil leadership opportunities. Starting after the October half term, we would like to give our altar servers a more frequent role in school. We will be asking three altar servers to process into weekly KS2 assembly carrying our Holy Bible. One of them will hold the bible and two more will hold candles. In

addition to this, we would like a Lead Altar Server to organise a rota of willing altar servers to take on this ministry.

If your child is an altar server at Holy Family, St Augustine's, or a different Catholic Parish, please encourage them to consider helping school staff to elevate the status of our Holy Bible in school assemblies. Please encourage them to complete the Goggle form below by Monday 20th October if they are interested in serving our school in this way.

<https://forms.gle/LAD612fx593yggCs7>

Foundation Governor Vacancy

We still have one vacancy for a Foundation Governor on our Local Academy Committee. As Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop of Northampton, we welcome any Catholic parent who may be interested in serving our school in this way. Please either speak with Mrs Benn or email our clerk to Local Academy Committee, Mrs M Gilmartin if you are interested.

Mgilmartin@stcat.co.uk

Do you have any spare Crucifixes?

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Porter (Chaplaincy Lead from St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust) on Wednesday. She was complimentary that from the minute she entered our car park our Catholic designation was evident. She commented on the quality of the school signage, the Jubilee banners, the Catholic Social Teaching poster and the statue of Our Lady. She also noted that we have one or two rooms in school without a crucifix. I wonder if anyone has a spare crucifix at home that they would like to donate to school? Mrs Porter advised that sometimes following house clearances families may end up with more crucifixes that they need and may consider donating any that are not currently displayed. We will find a suitable home for any donations. Thank you.

School Portrait Photographs – Thursday 6th November

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 6th November for school portraits. Please ensure your child is wearing smart school uniform. Thank you.

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 has been emailed to parents of children in Reception-Year 6. Consent needs to be given before 9am on 6th November 2025. Please see the letter you have been emailed for further information and details regarding how to give your consent. 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.

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.

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 24th 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 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.

Nursery and School Admission for September 2026

Admission to Reception September 2026

The above admission round opened 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.

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	H- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DCpP2b4l/uBjbFQE4 R- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3eYwI51E/sVXK8OBj J- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lr9o4xyl/39nG7ARf
Mrs Crow	Ditties	TH- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8LNq062A/1WEwuaPC CH- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/o5DxHmN4/puAFSjRS QU- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/vgOqYyps/PgrHtYeY
Mrs Keogh Mrs Hendy	Green Purple	OW- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/idB8XOQ1/r3VPKh9s OO- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0dOPCI2n/BISSMcZL OO- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6NWFH3R7/SLdtpBqE
Mrs Wilson Mrs Hogg Miss MacFarlane	Orange Blue Grey	EAR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SsfmmGKQ/HBs7vbyY URE- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/sqwVD2hX/URIEsos5 TION- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/oGpJkGIk/WROXlqiM

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.

PTA Pantomime – TICKETS ON SALE TODAY AT 5PM

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 on Wednesday 3rd December at 7pm** <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 AT 5PM TODAY, FRIDAY 10 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!

TO SECURE YOUR TICKETS, please send an email from 5pm onwards TODAY on Friday 10 October, stating your name, how many tickets you wish to purchase, up to a maximum of 6 per family and the name and class teacher / year group of your oldest child to: HFCSpantotickets@outlook.com – **These will sell out within one hour so please don't delay!**

Please also let us know if you have any special access requirements, which will be accommodated, and if your child has a birthday around the time of the panto. You will receive an email back with details of how to pay for your tickets. **PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL BEFORE 5PM TODAY AS YOUR REQUEST WILL NOT COUNT** to make it fair for everyone.

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 but have not yet done so, please return the completed art work to your child's class teacher by Monday 13th October (this is the final date we can accept orders). 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.