



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.7

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

The whole school had a lovely start to our day. Today, Mrs Powell's Year 2 class led our first 'Celebration of the Word' of this academic year which was enjoyed by parents, grandparents, staff and children. Through sharing their learning about Noah's Ark, Year 2 eloquently explained that every day we have to make choices about whether we are going to do the right thing or not, whether we respond kindly or not, whether we care for creation or not, and much more besides. They told us the rainbow is reminder of God's promise of hope following challenging times and of His ever-present closeness. Our 3-year-old Nursery children particularly enjoyed the assembly and behaved beautifully. Josiah said, "It made me smile and made me happy." Casey said, " That was so much fun!" Well done and thank you to Mrs Powell and Year 2.

Also, today Year 5 were visited by the Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Please read more about this further in newsletter. We are very grateful to the team for teaching and inspiring Year 5.

Earlier in the week we welcomed trust strategic leaders. Kristian Hewitt visited to quality assure the standards of teaching and learning across school which, once again, confirmed his opinion that the daily diet here at Holy Family promotes good progress from our youngest children to our oldest.

This week, we have also welcomed a trainer from Read, Write, Inc (our phonics programme), who was impressed when observing our teachers and teaching assistants teaching reading in EYFS and KS1. She was very pleased with the standard of teaching, as well as the engagement and progress of the children.

Thank you to our PTA team who will be holding a Pre-Loved Uniform Sale after school today and organising the sale of Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime tickets at 6pm today. Please see how to book tickets further in the newsletter. Our PTA also plan to join Miss Macfarlane on Tuesday 27th October from 10am to 2pm to develop the Early Years outside areas. If anyone is available to help please contact Chrissy via email at holyfamilylangleyppta@gmail.com.

Today, children will be coming home with a Parents' Evening letter. Mrs Hendy is trialling a new approach with her Year 1 class and everyone else will follow the usual format. Please return booking slips before the end of Tuesday 20th October.

We wish all our Year 5 and Year 6 children who will be representing school at the Thames Valley Athletics Competition this Sunday the best of luck.

Please do take a moment to read the October edition of the STCAT newsletter (attached).

As we near the end of term everyone is tired and looking forward to a two-day week next week. Further to this, please remember that school will be closed next Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October as we have three staff INSET days. There will be no newsletter next week.

Please remember that children are expected to be in winter school uniform, rather than Summer polo shirts and dresses, when we return after half term. We hope you all enjoy half term and look forward to welcoming you back on November 2nd.

God bless

Mrs Benn

SCHOOL STREET - ANPR CAMERAS ARE NOW LIVE

Please note that the ANPR cameras went live Monday 5th October 2026 during the School Street hours (8.15am-9.00am and 3.00-3.45pm). A few families may previously have been issued with paper permits – please note these will no longer be valid. Please also note that cameras will activate during the School Street hours even if you are exiting the road.

DIARY DATES

Monday 19th 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 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026

Monday 2nd November	Week 3 of the Menu
Thursday 5th November	Individual School Photographs Year 5 Swimming (6 of 10)
Friday 6th November	Mrs Hume's Year 1 Class Celebration of the Word 9am Parents Welcome
Sunday 8th November	Remembrance Sunday
Monday 9th November	Week 1 of the Menu Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 10th November	Nursery Stay & Play (11.15-11.45am and 2.15-2.45pm)
Wednesday 11th November	Reception Stay & Play (2.30-3pm)
Thursday 12th November	Year 5 Swimming (7 of 10)

October Holiday Camp 2026

For those parents who have booked their child a place at the holiday camp, please note that further information was sent home with your child during the week. We kindly ask that payment is made via ParentPay before Monday (19th October). Thank you.

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 Ayaan Sheikh for being awarded Player of the Match during his football game last weekend, helping lead his team to an impressive victory.

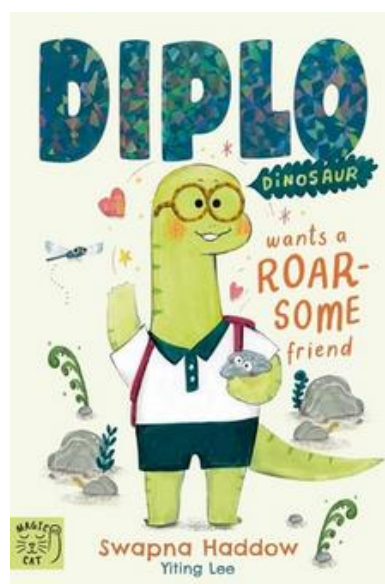
Congratulations to Julia Grzywnowicz who has progressed to Level 5 in her swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Freddie Mason for progressing to Stage 2 in his swimming lessons.

Well done to Ayaan, Julia and Freddie.

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: Yiting Lee

Interest Age: 6-9

Reading Age: 7+

Diplo is jealous of the new dino in school. Can he get his best friend back? A charming chapter book to explore feelings about friendship.

Attendance

Congratulations to Mrs Hendy's Year 1 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (98.9%).

Year 5 Fire Visit

Year 5 had an exciting and informative morning today when a team from the Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service visited school to teach us all about fire safety.

The visit began in the classroom, where the firefighters gave an engaging session on the importance of staying safe around fire. The children learned about common causes of fires in the home, such as unattended cooking, overloaded plug sockets and candles left burning, and discussed simple ways to prevent them. The firefighters stressed the importance of working smoke alarms and encouraged everyone to test the ones at home regularly.

Pupils also learned what to do in the event of a fire. The key messages were: to get out, stay out and call 999. We also talked about the importance of having a family escape plan, and many children were eager to go home and make one with their families.

The highlight for many came when the children went outside to see the fire engine up close. The crew led a tour of the rig, explaining the equipment on board and what each piece is used for. Children were shown the hoses and pumps used to fight fires, the breathing apparatus that allows firefighters to work safely in smoke-filled buildings, and the ladders used to reach upper floors. They also learned about the cutting and rescue equipment used at road accidents, and the first aid kit carried on every call-out. The children asked many thoughtful questions, from how fast the engine can travel to how firefighters stay calm in an emergency. All Year 5 children have been given a booklet to take home and complete with their families.

Wednesday Word

This week's Wednesday Word is written by Lea Rogulska from the Year 6 Mission Team.

Hi everyone, my name is Lea, and I am one of the Mission Team members.

I am honoured to write the first mission team message in the newsletter this week.

This week's story was about some people trying to trick Jesus. They asked him, 'Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar, the Emperor?'. Jesus said, 'Show me the coin you use to pay taxes'. They handed him a coin. He asked, 'Whose head is on this coin and whose name?'. 'Caesar's', they replied. Jesus said 'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and give to God what belongs to God'.

Our mission this week is showing gratitude and paying Jesus with the love he has given to us.

Thank you for reading this week's Wednesday Word.

October Half Term RE Homework

For RE Homework this half term, we invite children in Years 3–6 to plan a pupil-led Collective Worship for their class.

Children can use the planning sheet attached to prepare a liturgy, following our familiar four-part structure: Gather, Listen, Respond and Mission. They could choose some music or a special focus for the prayer space, select a short Bible passage, plan a prayer or reflection and think of a simple mission for everyone to take away.

We are encouraging children to think about how their worship could connect with a Catholic Social Teaching principle and one of our virtues. Children of other faiths, or no faith, are equally welcome to plan and lead a time of meditation or reflection for their class.

This is a lovely opportunity for our children to take increasing ownership of the prayer and liturgical life of our school, developing confidence as they plan, prepare and lead worship for others.

Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly

Reception Classes

The Slough Observer will be running an Our 'First Days' Supplement in the 23rd October 2026 edition of the paper. Please note that both of our two Reception classes are likely to be featured. Thank you.

STCAT Digital Newsletter - October Edition

Please see attached.

School Portrait Photographs – Thursday 5th November

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 5th November for school portraits. Please ensure your child is wearing smart school uniform. Thank you.

Qualification for Entry to Bucks Grammar Schools for Disadvantaged Students

Please see attached letter for more information.

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.

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=KUbrJPA65g>

Miss Macfarlane Mrs Harris	Set 1	V- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/C7ZP2wq3/zjdPNfTj W- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jlAyYSqi/2ivkiYbR Y- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Yr0TsCt3/UtiR1uyw Z- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ZmgHa44m/H88ueF4Z https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/BsISAW6c/980R8YR4
Mrs Crow	Ditties	NK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/an39kLDN/OisKEmeX CK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/E7mr89D7/he5QBiv1 SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/UZB0w0w9/wdy4fzg4 QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/q4qrxpVc/44SQAYeG TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/u9Ij45eO/6MsaeWdd https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/AP5pTCnO/iy2tNWj9 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JnhsNblv/edKokIBz https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/J6xAwddV/w8pXDZAI
Mrs Hendy	Green	AIR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HEHcbFBm/4PKYqmpS IR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8dvIVbYp/ZHMJg7fP OU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HhEChpW8/Yna5bbJF OY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4sWmFGGe/Ro2Nurc8 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fnOFIxE4/upieKiuW https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/J1CsRoRX/usBQ6PVX
Mrs Hogg	Pink	O-E https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/aLRbERY6/4ErkiZSF U-E https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/5VOwF9Pu/PjhJgU4R AW - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/eLsWxNgh/IYdBbooJ ARE - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rr6YRIVE/GQZtCqFz https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fnOFIxE4/upieKiuW https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/J1CsRoRX/usBQ6PVX
Mrs Wilson Mrs Green	Orange Grey	I-E https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7U7xShNU/5ps5INt5 E-E https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qdUzwwq5N/kBznOKyb WH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/syja1HC/tc8okDaY PH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ILthU0OC/LVEICDYr https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fnOFIxE4/upieKiuW https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/J1CsRoRX/usBQ6PVX

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Pantomime – TICKETS ON SALE TODAY AT 6PM

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 **Jack and The Beanstalk** at 7pm on **Wednesday 2nd December** <https://theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/beanstalk-26/> 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 6PM TODAY, FRIDAY 16 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 £44.50 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.

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 6pm onwards TODAY on Friday 16 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: holyfamilypantotickets@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 6PM TODAY AS YOUR REQUEST WILL NOT COUNT** to make it fair for everyone.

Thank you for your support, from the Holy Family PTA

Preloved Uniform Sale - Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make our Preloved Uniform sale a success! We are grateful to those who donated, helped wash and sort, our volunteers who helped to sell and to parents who bought uniform and helped to raise funds for our school - thank you!

We currently don't need any more donations of uniform - we hope to host another uniform collection and sale in the Spring.

Tuesday 27th October - Join the PTA TLC Day 🌱🌻

The PTA is organising a **TLC Day** to tidy, garden and fix up our school's outdoor areas—and we would love your help to make it flourish!

- **When:** Tuesday 27th October, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Where:** Front of school

Children are very welcome to join in the fun, though please note they remain the responsibility of their parents or carers throughout the session.

Please wear old clothes and bring along your **gardening gloves** and any **gardening tools** you can spare for the morning!

If you are interested in joining us, or if you can help by providing tools or resources for the day, please speak to or WhatsApp **Chrissy, Halima, or Becca**. You can also reach us via email at holyfamilylangleypta@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for your continued support in making our school environment a beautiful place for our children!

Wednesday 4th November - PTA AGM & Christmas Fair planning meeting - in the AOC (opposite the dining room)

The PTA are holding an Annual General Meeting to share our new organisation and share our events, activities and achievements as well as future plans. We will discuss plans for our Christmas Fair so please come with thoughts and ideas! Tea and Coffee will be provided.