



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.7

Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a great week in school this week, with everyone working hard and achieving lots. On Tuesday we welcomed a trainer from Read, Write, Inc (our phonics programme), who was delighted when watching our teachers and teaching assistants teaching reading in EYFS and KS1. She was hugely impressed with the level of teaching, as well as the engagement and progress from the children – well done to all involved.

On Wednesday, we had a visit from some local headteachers, teachers and SENDCos who came to see our SEND provision and how we meet the needs of all of our children. They praised what they saw, and left with many ideas to take back to implement in their own schools.

On Sunday 19th October, the Church will celebrate World Mission Sunday; this is the one Sunday in the year when the Mass is celebrated exclusively for missionary activity. World Mission Sunday is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas. Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

We were delighted and so proud to hear about our Mission Team's visit to Dunstable last Friday. Adults who accompanied the children told us how well-behaved they all were, how beautifully they sang and responded to the Celebrant, and how well they represented our school. They were sat behind a number of ex-Holy Family pupils too, who are now in Year 7 and 8, and it was lovely to see the progression of our children, and a continuation of their faith.

Our reformed PTA will be hosting a couple of events between now and Christmas, and it would be fantastic to see as many parents as possible getting involved to help out and further build our school community. There will be a coffee morning on Wednesday 5th November, and a Christmas Fair after school on Friday 5th December – more details to follow.

Coming home with the children on Monday will be a postcard which explains Catholic Social Teaching and our school's virtues. We ask that you take some time to talk to your children about these and support them in becoming more familiar with the language used. During half term, Key Stage 2 will have a piece of homework that will be based upon this, which they will be given next week.

Well done again to those children who completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge. We were informed that our school had the second highest number of completers for the Summer Reading Challenge out of all Slough schools (24 completers). Well done to all those who took part.

Please remember that school will be closed next Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th October as we have three staff INSET days. There will be no newsletter next week so we take this opportunity to wish you all a good half term and staff will look forward to welcoming children on the 3rd November. 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.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 20th October	Week 2 of the Menu
Wednesday 22nd October	Staff INSET – School Closed
Thursday 23rd October	Staff INSET – School Closed
Friday 24th 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	PTA Coffee Morning (School Hall) 9-10.30am 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
Monday 10th November	Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 11th November	Nursery Stay and Play 11.15-11.45am and 2.15-2.45pm Year 6 Class (Mrs Ragg) Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 12th November	Year 5 Swimming Year 5 Class (Mrs O'Reilly) Visit to Langley Library Reception Stay and Play 2.30-3pm
Friday 14th November	Year 2 (Mrs Powel) Class Assembly Parents Welcome 9am Year 3 Ancient Greek Day

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 Harper Dixon for completing a 20km walk for GLOW mental health last weekend. Well done Harper.

Congratulations to Kawthar Ma for progressing to Stage 2 in her swimming lessons. Well done Kawthar.

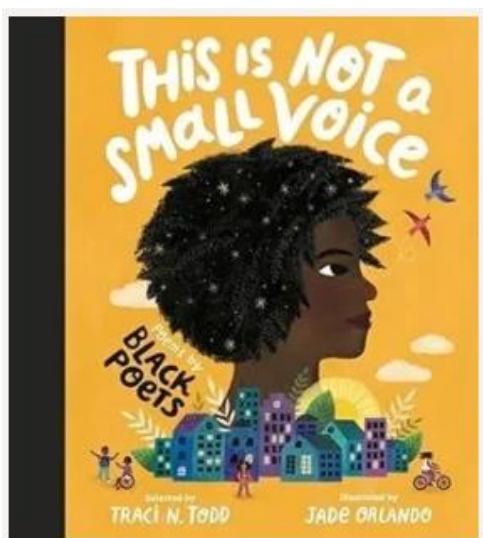
Congratulations to Xavier Smith for being named Player of the Match for his Ascot United U8's team last weekend. Despite being down at the end of the third quarter, Xavier showed determination and leadership to carry his team to a win, scoring three goals in the final quarter to seal the victory and bring his personal total in the match to four. Well done Xavier.

Attendance

Well done to Mrs Fox's Year 5 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (99.7%). Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

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: Traci N.Todd

Illustrator: Jade Orlando

Interest Age: 7-11

Reading Age: 8+

A stunning collection of poems that are warm, funny, thought-provoking and dazzling in their evocation of what it is to be Black. Accessible to all, with beautiful illustrations, this is an absolute delight.

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 6 Play Leaders, 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. Thank you to those children who have already completed the survey.

<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

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.

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	V- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/RLvr1aWE/2qQgIgkL W- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/iik0WM1g/KugvFB8U Y- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4hJJ5xNx/cAPZQWWH Z- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CQnbma1U/1wXUfDlp X- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kCJadqJU/EszNjUbS http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/5a7gyl6Y/1cBXNDi9 http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dyesll6o/ra8jITIM
Mrs Crow	Ditties	NG – http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xQPKrRVi/jNWfA6vx NK- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yqJEJXCO/HA6dFoG5 CK- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MHLEuUnH/cyN5W3fW SH- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/PBwkqvD0/nJ3GmMGf
Mrs Keogh Mrs Hendy	Green Purple	AR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/nPt2UkbJ/5niZ3sEf OR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/PYUDXpcD/duzWdTUU AIR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/tQTBWS5B/xBcJ3LGF IR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rUNWwJy9/iIG3bsTq
Mrs Wilson Mrs Hogg Miss MacFarlane	Orange Blue Grey	TIOUS/CIOUS http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FFzB4fhZ/LYnXmRu5 UE- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WR25GQoh/KACdqfny AU- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/w2vFCvbi/AHVVeKLO IE- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Hk4YjpWp/LI6vD8uE

Eligibility for a Free School Meal – Information for Parents

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support

- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Please use this link to check your eligibility [Free school meals application | Instructions – Slough Borough Council](#) or contact helen.mynett@hfcs.org.uk for further information.

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 holyfamilylangleyppta@gmail.com.

PTA Allergy Friendly Coffee Morning

Wednesday 5th November 9am to 10.30am.

We will be holding a PTA coffee morning to talk about upcoming events and begin the plans for the Winter Fayre. We'd love to see as many parents as possible - if you can help a little or a lot, your help would be gratefully received to help raise funds for our school. The coffee morning will also be used to raise awareness of allergies and will only have allergy friendly items such as gluten free, dairy free items.

PTA Toy and Book Donations

We are looking for toys, books and cuddly toy donations in preparation for our Winter Fayre. We ask that toys are in good and complete condition (e.g. no missing pieces etc.).

Please bring any items to the Green PTA store (near Nursery outdoor area) where a member of the PTA will be there to receive them on Wednesday 5th November from 8:50am.

OTHER

Slough Borough Council – SEND Family Fun Day 15th Nov 2025

Please see attached leaflet for further information.

Slough Libraries

Please see attached leaflet detailing Slough libraries' half term programme.

Slough Music Service

Slough Music Service have two new clubs – Family Drumming and Podcast club. Please see attached leaflets if interested.

Windsor Christmas Card Competition 2025

Children at HFCS have been invited to take part in this competition. Please see the attached flyer for further information.