Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term **Newsletter No. 8** **Friday 6th November 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We started our day today with an absolutely beautiful Celebration of the Word, led by Mrs Hume's Year 1 class. The children reminded us how special God's creation is and how we have been left as stewards of the earth; our role is to look after and protect this gift, and preserve it for generations to come. The children spoke so well, particularly considering that they are only 5 or 6 years old. They showed confidence and resilience as they presented to the 500-strong audience. An enormous well done to Mrs Hume's class.

You may remember me mentioning in a recent newsletter how we are part of an exciting local initiative called The Pride in Place Programme, which is a government initiative aimed at revitalizing communities across the UK. It provides funding and support to local boards to address community needs and improve public spaces. We are incredibly excited to be part of such a project, and would appreciate input from our school community. Please see further in the newsletter for more information on how you can have your opinions and ideas heard, and contribute to some life-changing developments in our local area.

This weekend, we mark Remembrance Sunday across the country. Well done to those children who will be taking part in parades or marking this occasion within their communities. Thank you to Mrs Fox and the school council who will be selling poppies and other Remembrance items in our playground before and after school on Monday and Tuesday next week. Please see information further in the newsletter regarding our Remembrance Tree in school.

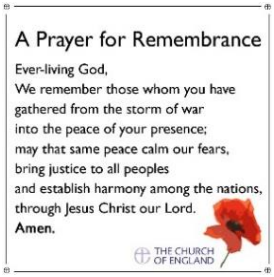
On Monday of next week (9th November), we encourage all children to wear odd socks to school along with their usual school uniform. This is an initiative led by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, and marks the beginning of anti-bullying week in schools across the country. The theme this year is *Break the Silence*, and is an opportunity for children to further consider the importance of inclusivity and individuality.

A gentle reminder re. Parent Evenings next Tuesday and Thursday; slips with allocated times have been sent home with children so please check book bags if you haven't yet received one.

Wishing you all a good weekend

God bless,

Mrs Benn



DIARY DATES

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)
	Parents Evening 3-7pm
Wednesday 11th November	Reception Stay & Play (2.30-3pm)
Thursday 12th November	Year 5 Swimming (7 of 10)
	Parents Evening 3-7pm
Monday 16th November	Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 17th November	Year 3 Greek Day (In School)
	Year 6 WWII Day (In School)
	Nursery 'When I Grow Up' Day
Thursday 19th November	Year 5 Swimming (8 of 10)
Friday 20th November	Mrs O'Reilly's Year 4 Class Celebration of the Word 9am Parents Welcome
Sunday 22nd November	Feast of Christ the King Youth Mass 11.30am at Holy Family Church
Monday 23rd November	Week 3 of the Menu
Thursday 26th November	Year 5 Swimming (9 of 10)
Sunday 29th November	First Sunday of Advent

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
Well done to Alicia Zdanowska for progressing to Stage 5 in her swimming lessons.

Well done to Clemmie Smith for completing her Stage 1 swimming lessons.

Well done to Nick Brumby who has just finished reading his last Beast Quest book! Since the beginning of Year 3 Nick has worked his way through the whole main series of Saga 1 - in total 27 series / 134 books!

Congratulations Alicia, Clemmie and Nick.

Weekly Sports Update
On Sunday 18th October, our Athletics team took part in a Berkshire Sportshall Athletics trial. Every single HFCS pupil who attended the event did incredibly well, having multiple top 3 finishes and some very impressive timings. One member of the Berkshire Sportshall team praised the Holy Family students on their professionalism and mentioned how impressed he was with the fact that they all understood exactly what to do and acted brilliantly. I am very proud of all of them and we are all looking forward to the next one.

Before half term, some of our boys took part in Creative Academy's new Boys' dance project. The aim of the event was to show boys that they also have opportunities in dance. Our boys absolutely loved it; they were able to get creative and had the freedom to dance their own way.
Well done all. Mr Holder.

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: Rebecca Atkinson **Illustrator:** Kate Read

Interest Age: 3-5 **Reading Age:** 7+

A child finds the end of a tail and follows it around town. Readers are invited to follow along with the tactile tail as it loops, curls and zig zags across the pages in this interactive picture book – great fun!

Attendance
Congratulations to Miss Caswell's Year 5 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (99.1%).

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

Hi, I'm Joe and I am one of the Mission Team members. This week's Wednesday Word is Wisdom.

The Gospel today is from Matthew 25:1-13. The story Jesus is telling us is about 10 Bridesmaids waiting for the Bridegroom. Five of them were wise bringing extra oil for their lamp and the remaining five were foolish bringing no extra oil for their lamps. The wise went into the feast whilst the others were finding extra oil and could not go in.

Our mission this week is to reflect on our relationships with God. Remember he is all around us.

Remembrance Leaves
November is a time for remembering our loved ones that have died and we mark this time of year at Holy Family by creating a special remembrance tree in our hall. This month, your child will be given a leaf to take home and we invite you to record the names of any family members or friends that you would like us to remember and pray for. Leaves will then be placed on our remembrance tree. Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly.

Feast of Christ the King – Youth Mass
On Sunday 22nd November, all pupils (past and present) are invited to attend the 11.30am Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church for a youth Mass to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on the last Sunday of our liturgical year. This is our annual reunion Mass which we have started to hold each year. An opportunity for pupils and staff, past and present to re-connect and strengthen our sense of belonging to the Holy Family School Community as lifelong.

Pride in Place Survey
The Pride in Place Programme is a government initiative aimed at revitalizing communities across the UK. It provides funding and support to local boards to address community needs and improve public spaces. The program includes phases, with funding available for up to £20 million per place over a 10-year period. The initiative focuses on empowering local people to shape their neighbourhoods and includes new powers and tools for community-led delivery. The program aims for lasting change and encourages local pride and community engagement. We are very lucky that Holy Family School sits within the geographical boundary defined by government for Pride In Place Foxborough. The chair of the board is Jess Theisinger, the headteacher at Foxborough Primary School; the vice chair is Rev Chris Ferris, the Rector at St Mary's Church. Mrs Benn is a board member along with local residents, local councillors and one teenager. The voluntary board is supported by two paid Slough Borough Council staff:

- Betty Axtell Pride in Place Engagement Officer
- Shile Ojuroye Pride in Place Programme Manager

This is a very exciting initiative and the current phase is an engagement phase. The board have to submit our plans for the next 3-10 years to government in February 2027. Our role between now and Christmas is to find out what people who live and work within Foxborough want to see the board implement to make improvements in our local area.

I am asking you to engage in three ways:
1. Firstly, GET THINKING AND DREAMING about how good Foxborough could be with significant financial investment.

2. Second, speak to Betty Axtell who will be attending school on four occasions in the next month. Betty will be in the school hall during both Parents Evenings, she will be around at school drop off on Tuesday 17th November and she will be at our Christmas Fayre on Friday 4th December. TELL BETTY YOUR IDEAS.
3. My third ask is you COMPLETE THE SURVEY below after taking time to dream big!
The main questions on the survey are:
What would you prioritise to be improved in Foxborough in years 1 and 2 of the programme? Explain why.
Think of the future, what would you most like Foxborough to be known for?
If you could change one thing to make Foxborough a better place for future generations, what would you change?

This feels like an amazing opportunity to strengthen our community by listening and responding to people who live and work locally. School governors have a strategic plan for our school site which includes a sports hall, a multi-use flood lit games area, an Early Years Unit (which would be our 2 year old, 3 year old and Reception classrooms all in one building with true free flow, level access and one shared outdoor space) and a chapel. All of these spaces could be used by the community evenings and weekends if the access is correct. Please join Mrs Benn and make your views of what you think would improve Foxborough known to Betty.

Please see link below and attached QR code for the Foxborough Pride in Place Survey:
Foxborough Pride in Place - Slough Borough Council - Citizen Space

Parents' Evening - Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th November
We will be holding Parents' Evening on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th November. A letter regarding this has already been sent home. Please look in school bags for confirmation of the confirmed appointment time. Please note that children from Year 2 – Year 6 should attend with their parent/s. Thank you.

Attendance Letters & Appointments
Attendance letters: Anyone whose attendance is recorded as less than 90% between 2nd September 2026 and 20th October 2026 and anyone that has seven or more lates between 2nd September 2026 and 20th October 2026 should expect to receive an attendance letter from our attendance officer, Mrs Oakes, over the next few weeks. Anyone whose attendance is between 90-96% may be spoken to by the class teacher.

Appointments: If your child needs to attend an appointment during the school day please can you notify school via: attendance@hfcs.org.uk with proof of the appointment attached. Where possible, if your child has to attend an appointment during the school day, please try to avoid breaktimes. (10:55 to 11:15am and 12:30pm to 1:25pm). Thank you.

Spaces Available in Year 1 and Year 2
All schools need to be full to be financially sustainable. School rolls are falling across Slough. We currently have two spaces in Year 1 and two spaces in Year 2 and no applications or children on waiting lists, which is unusual. Our younger and older years are full with waiting lists. We are currently updating our school promotional literature and ask for your help in promoting Holy Family School to any new neighbours moving into Langley or families with their first child who have yet to choose a school community to join. Please help us to build and strengthen our school community, securing a bright future for Holy Family Catholic Primary School.

The Queen's Christmas Present
Back in July, The Queen marked her birthday with a renewed commitment to supporting children's literacy with the announcement that every Year 6 child across the UK will be gifted a special edition of the bestselling book Impossible Creatures by award-winning author Katherine Rundell this Christmas. The Queen's Christmas Present celebrates the National Year of Reading 2026 – the biggest campaign in a generation designed to inspire every child, young person and adult to discover the joy of reading and embed it into everyday life. Our allocated books have arrived in school, and a copy will be given to each Year 6 to take home this coming week.

School Photographs
Our children all came into school yesterday looking smart for their annual school photographs. A proof of the photo taken (including details of how to order) was sent home with every child yesterday.

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.

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

Mrs Harris	Set 1	L- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CV5TDbSW/nOqXz4w7 H- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xMnzydH6/o6qsVXwE R- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OerwFygo/J18B2uuP J- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rvibWK3q/9uDa5YMW
Miss Macfarlane	Set 1	D- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/hB7OE3eV/xra6NJCs A https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GlemsxV5/ABP0bO1J M- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xFp0XSgu/pUoqwpxX

		S- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SDot3tWv/vPEqkB7g
Mrs Crow	Ditties	SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mv7QRPgg/abVBHVEq QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/31HgR7hB/oH0ncauk TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YE43HYGS/5jK5fWCZ NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DgxZXlJr/e4j7jeLS
Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg	Green Pink	AY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qsv5a9Gz/FJtEoklT EE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/soanm75u/KaEwDs69 IGH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xrK9GjtY/yDLA7DmY OW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FAD7NJKY/l7kKNNCa
Mrs Wilson Mrs Green	Yellow Grey	EA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jH0kb1OD/almmCDLS OI- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/r5Leshuu/DLZfZV4X A-E https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xE8VJbx4/cx9JDoJb I-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qKQ2OdTS/2izyhaU2

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

PTA – Pantomime update – Tickets will be in book bags week of 16 November
Thank you to EVERYONE who bought tickets for the pantomime at **The Theatre Royal Windsor**, which will be a performance of **Jack and The Beanstalk at 7pm on Wednesday 2nd December** https://theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/beanstalk-26/. Your tickets will be sent home in your children's book bags the week of 16 November, so please keep an eye out for them. **Thanks for your support – Holy Family PTA**

PTA Christmas Fayre - Friday 4th December 3-5pm School Hall
We are delighted to share that the Holy Family PTA will be holding a Christmas Fayre after school on Friday 4th of December. We hope it will be a fun afternoon with lots of stalls, games and refreshments!
If you would like to be involved in the Fayre in any way or you would like to know more, please speak to Chrissy or Halima or email: holyfamilypta@gmail.com

Donations for Christmas Fayre - Week of 16th November - drop off before or after school
We are looking for donations of the following for our Christmas Fair

Preloved Toys, Books, Cuddly Toys, Unwanted Gifts - such as toiletries, gift sets etc.

Please ensure these are in good condition and in working order. (E.g. no missing or broken pieces)

Please bring to the front of the school at drop off or pick up on the following dates only:

Tuesday 17th November

Wednesday 18th November

Thursday 19th November

Thank you for your support!

holyfamilylangleypta@gmail.com

TLC Day - A Thank You!

A note to say a huge thank you to the parents and children who gave up their time in the half term, to help improve the outdoor Reception area. We painted, weeded and swept and gave the space a much needed refresh. The children (and adults!) worked so hard - we are very grateful!
We hope to hold another TLC event soon….

OTHER

The Curve Venue
Please see attached flyer for details regarding a Christmas show in December: Twinkle, Twinkle at the Curve Venue in Slough.

The show is aimed at 2 to 6 year olds and their families. Please see attached flyer for more information and booking details.