Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term **Newsletter No.9** **Friday 13th November 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers

We have enjoyed a productive week in school this week, particularly due to the two successful Parents' Evenings that we held on Tuesday and Thursday. From Year 2-6, these meetings are child-led, with increased independence the older the children get. This is to encourage children to take the responsibility for their learning and to empower them to discuss their work with their adults. It highlights how we always aim to work in a three-way partnership, involving school staff, parents and the children themselves. Thank you to parents for attending the meetings and engaging and supporting all we are trying to achieve; I hope you found the meetings informative and useful. Thanks, too, to all of our teachers, for preparing thoroughly for the meetings and working two long days.

On Monday, many children came to school in odd socks to mark Anti-Bullying Week. There's an important message behind the fun: odd socks celebrate the fact that every one of us is unique, and that we are all happier when we treat each other with kindness, and respect each other's differences. In school, we continue to remember that each child is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with love.

On Wednesday, our Nursery and Reception children welcomed their adults into a 'Stay and Play' session, which was well-attended and really enjoyable. The children love to see their family members in their classroom and share with them some of the things they have been learning. Thanks to all who were able to attend; we hope you enjoyed seeing what they get up to when they're with us.

Some classes have already held their Remembrance Worship with many children expressing mixed emotions. Sadness because loved ones have passed yet at the same time feeling calm and peaceful because they know their loved ones are happy in Heaven, their eternal resting place. If any children still have leaves at home, please remind them to return them to school. Our Remembrance Tree is slowly transforming as more coloured leaves are added with each class liturgy.

On Sunday 22nd November, we invite our families – past and present – to join school staff at the 11.30am Feast of Christ the King Holy Family Parish Mass. It is a wonderful opportunity to stay connected with our community, building a lasting sense of belonging to the 'Holy Family Family'.

Please can I remind parents that we are no longer giving out treats/bags/gifts to classmates to celebrate birthdays. Whilst we appreciate that children love to share a small treat with their friends, due to the risk of severe allergic reactions, we cannot allow this practice to continue. School leaders are responsible for the safety of children, so respectfully ask that nothing is distributed to other children whilst on our school site. Thank you for your understanding.

Good luck to everyone taking part in Thames Valley Athletics competition this Sunday.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

God bless

Mrs Doyle
Deputy Headteacher

DIARY DATES

Sunday 15th November	TVA KS2 Athletics 9am
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~~ ***(Rescheduled for 22 January 2027)***
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
	TVA KS2 Athletics 9am
Monday 30th November	Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 1st December	EYFS Nativity for Parents 2pm
Wednesday 2nd December	Year 6 Visit to RAF Bunker
	EYFS Nativity for Parents 10am
	PTA Pantomime – Theatre Royal Windsor 7pm
Thursday 3rd December	Year 5 Swimming (10 of 10)
	KS1 Nativity for Parents 10am & 2pm
Friday 4th December	PTA Christmas Fair 3-5pm
Sunday 6th December	Second Sunday of Advent

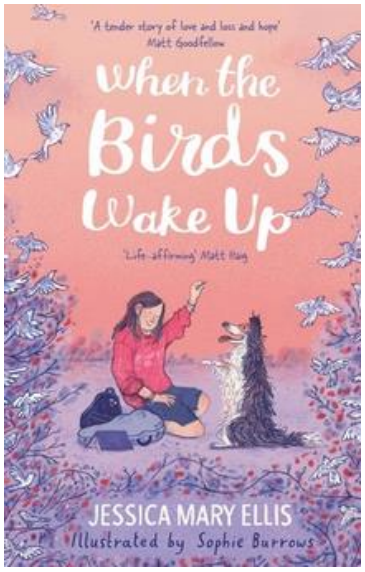
Celebrate Success!
To link in with our Vision statement, 'To value, inspire and challenge all', we invite parents/carers to notify us of special achievements (outside of school e.g. music, sports, positive contribution) your child has achieved so they can be recorded on their school record

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
Congratulations to Lyon Kuruppu for taking part in the BBC 500 Words Challenge. He wrote an imaginative story called The Fun Forest, developing the storyline entirely through his own creativity and ideas. Well done Lyon.

Weekly Sports Update
This week our Year 5 & Year 6 boys' football team played their first league match vs Wraysbury Primary School, winning the match 1-0. The boys played incredibly well as a team, showing fantastic passing, movement and communication. Daniel Jerry scored the winning goal with an incredible first touch and an even more impressive finish. Our Player of the Match went to Patrick Karasinki for his fantastic playmaking throughout the game. Excellent start boys – on to the next! 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: Jessica Mary Ellis **Illustrator:** Sophie Burrows

Interest Age: 9-12 **Reading Age:** 9+

Pear and her parents move in with her grandma when she is diagnosed with dementia. With the help of a loveable rescue dog, Pear gradually rediscovers her inner confidence in this poignant, illustrated verse novel.

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

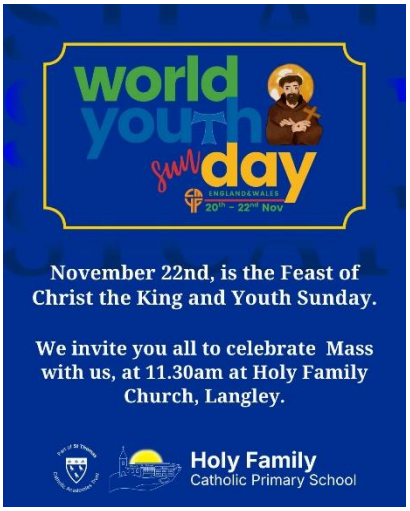
person and adult to discover the joy of reading and embed it into everyday life. Our allocated books have arrived in school, and a copy will be given to each Year 6 to take home today.

Reading

At Holy Family, reading is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that if children can read, their opportunities are endless. During Parents' Evening, teachers may have shared some recommended reads for your child's year group. If you would like to explore these recommendations further, please visit The Reader Teacher: https://www.thereaderteacher.com/

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, parents 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

Betty Axtell, Pride in Place Engagement Officer, was pleased to attend both Parents' Evenings this week. On Tuesday she did a 'hotspot' mapping activity and on Thursday she presented 6 priorities and asked each family to identify their top 3 priorities. Across both evenings approximately 60 families engaged suggesting ideas that would improve the Foxborough area designated to receive significant funding over the next 10 years. We are very lucky that Holy Family School sits within the geographical boundary defined by government for Pride In Place Foxborough. The board have to submit plans for the next 3-10 years to government in February 2027. The board's 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.

Please **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?

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 and the Pride In Place board.

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

Sunset Owls
Please, where possible, can any 'ad-hoc' sessions for our Sunset Owls after-school provision be booked via email at least 48 hours in advance. We appreciate that this is not always possible, but it is a help to Mrs Lynch when planning staffing and food supplies to know in advance how many children she will have in attendance. Many thanks

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2026
We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and families for their generous donations to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2026. Your kindness and support are greatly appreciated and help contribute to such an important cause, supporting those who have served and continue to serve in our Armed Forces. We will share the total amount raised in a forthcoming newsletter once the final amount has been counted. Thank you, Mrs Fox.

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 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.

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	V- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WCnvzAWh/18flvYGv Y- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/shW0PCcs/ycYAxFbc W- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Jvd9rVVZ/BmlgWPWk Z- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/W3P9wdEY/aEFeo6NJ
Miss Macfarlane	Set 1	T- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jHXeynsE/9InTKYMy I https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/hzvyvVh3/0dMp0hrn N- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JrnfXPpZ/kZuozxum P- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/L4jNRjXU/HAefiyey
Mrs Crow	Ditties	CH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/J7EQkFw0/r8JCB6X3 NK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/PZ85nB3v/TugMm0B5 CK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/70WFCMOj/n2c3QuUM SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qoVdw9S0/PU89zAkz https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SCSl7tWs/tJry19Ge https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/cpt4iHdC/X6zr4HxR https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Vxv3uGoJ/fiimcsNS
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Mrs Wilson Mrs Green	Yellow Grey	O-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jYuXZbqz/w8RrMAPa U-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QzJ5Lu7y/PQi0QSmx AW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/P90ZxyRi/K7HYF1uR ARE https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xVygTUWg/wfHmxMsP https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bwPqtdwG/QgfqpIyL https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/AcRXXCzH/Oeo8hL2E

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 16th 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

OTHER

SENDIASS Online Information Session/Training
Please see attached flyer for more information regarding online information sessions for parents of children with SEND, young people with SEND and professionals.

The National Children's Choir of Great Britain
The National Children's Choir of Great Britain (NCCGB) is holding auditions in Slough, offering local young singers aged 9–19 the opportunity to audition for a place in a national choir. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop singing skills, receive high-quality musical training and take part in exciting performance opportunities. For further information and audition details, please see the attached poster.

Give & Gift Family Christmas Fair
The Pioneer Family Partnership is holding a Give and Gift Fayre again on 7th December. This is the third year this event has been run and it's a great event where families in the community can come along and receive a free gift. Please see attached flyer for more information.