



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.15

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to all our families. We hope you all had a very peaceful and joyful Christmas with your families and friends, and we wish everyone a very happy and blessed 2026.

It has been lovely to welcome children back to school. We have had a calm and productive start to the term. Children appear to have been happy to return to school and reunite with their friends.

We celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany on Tuesday. Whilst our youngest children decorated crowns, children in Years 3 – 6 attended Mass at Holy Family Church with Father Joseph, who challenged the children to spell the word 'Epiphany'. Thank you to Bryan and Daniel for serving at the Mass and to all the parent/carer volunteers who accompanied the children to and from Church on such a cold day. Our Year 4 'kings' also visited classrooms to chalk external doors/floor. Epiphany (which means "revealing") commemorates the Magi who came from the four corners of the world bearing gifts and following a star to meet the child who would become king. We celebrate Epiphany to remember that we too are invited to come and witness the life of Jesus and be blessed as we begin a new year. "Chalking the door" is a centuries-old way to celebrate and to (literally) mark the occasion of the Epiphany with God's blessing of our lives and celebrate our school as a safe place of Christian hospitality.

As we start the new term and look for ways to actively live out our Catholic Social Teaching, please see the message from our Mission Team regarding the Empty Tubs Collection 2026. The Mission Team are inviting families to send in any empty chocolate tubs so that we can support Macmillan Cancer while also helping to reduce plastic waste. If you have any empty tubs at home, we would be grateful if you can donate them before 13th February.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Hume

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the Epiphany and reminding us that every person is important to you. You revealed your most precious gift to the world by the light of a star.

Guide us with the light of Christ, that our actions for others may reflect your love. We are sorry for the times we forget to use the gifts that you have given us. Please bless our school and classrooms and all who learn in and visit them.

Holy Family of Nazareth, pray for us.

DIARY DATES

Monday 12th January	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 14th January	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 19th January	SCHOOL CLOSED – STAFF INSET DAY
Tuesday 20th January	Week 2 of the Menu
Wednesday 21st January	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 26th January	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 28th January	Year 4 Swimming
Friday 30th January	Year 3 (Ms Iqbal) Class Assembly Parents Welcome 9am Year 2 Visit to Windsor Castle

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities resume from next week.

If you requested a place for your child for the Gymnastics and/or ICON Football clubs, the relevant club will notify you if your child has a confirmed space.

If you requested a place for your child for the Wake Up Shake Up and/or Street Dance clubs, places were confirmed on receipt of forms. If you have any queries regarding your child's place, please contact the School Office. (Please make payment for StreetDance via ParentPay).

If your child has been invited to attend a club led by Mr Holder, you will be alerted via your Parent Pay account with all necessary details. You will need to fill out the relevant information requested to confirm your child's attendance for that term.

If there are any issues/queries please speak to Mr Holder or Mrs Oakes.

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.

Attendance

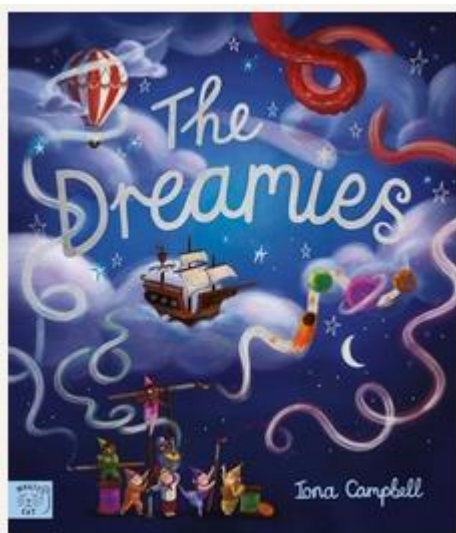
Congratulations to Mrs Harris' Reception class for achieving the highest attendance this week (97.3%). Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

Anyone whose attendance is recorded as less than 90% and/or has seven or more lates between 3rd November – 19th December 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% will be spoken to by the class teacher.

As previously informed, any requests for term time absence should be requested using the *Withdrawal from Learning Request in Term Time* form as requests via email are no longer accepted. Please note any request for absence that is attached to a school holiday or holidays taken during term time for 5 days or more will incur a penalty notice. This also applies to 5 or more days of unauthorised absence taken during a 10 week period.

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/Illustrator: Iona Campbell

Interest Age: 3-7

Reading Age: 7+

The Dreamies love to paint amazing dreams for children to enjoy. If they get too scary, a little imagination can save the day. A charming picture book about the power of dreams.

Mission Team Empty Tubs Collection 2026!

Our Mission Team would love your help! We want to collect as many empty plastic chocolate, biscuit and cracker tubs to support Macmillan Cancer and to recycle plastic. We have found a simple way to follow Jesus' teaching to care for others and to look after our beautiful planet. Please bring in any empty tubs. By taking part, our school community is living out Catholic Social Teaching, especially our call to care for God's creation and to stand in solidarity with those in need. This simple act of recycling and charity reflects our mission to make the world a better place and teaches our children that even small choices can make a big difference.

LAST COLLECTION DAY Friday 13th February

Thank you for helping!



Nursery and School Admission for September 2026 – Closes 15th January 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 – Closes 15th January 2026

The 2026 admission round for our 2 and 3 year old Nurseries 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 Harris	Set 1	B- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/XJtG43ls/b4tut3qR J- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QA8K5L4J/cg48ukYI I - http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/s4CDPu2J/dCuyf9SJ http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Y1B4dilU/mjCfdOEw http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/en9o9BUx/TfSftOVh
Mrs Scott	Word Time	http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bCe6CIAF/YsawIz1G http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IoTpw1sP/Gb2pLqRH http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DtNoljS5/MTzu1TpO http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/X4iyFzKJ/e8GxGf3K http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/izS2koqI/UFbmixqK http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WTfZexDf/79WYupjm

Mrs Mulrooney	Ditties	CH- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MYDv3v0J/UCzvPPdA SH- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/KxMi56Zf/Yps2A3c4 TH- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CYI2slrC/PScWt6VB http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/L2ue6aQo/cRFXSMhw http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Yoas7pIb/bk0nfToK http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Ue1lcs7t/UenxNIoF
Mrs Keogh	Green	AY- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/28CjM5By/rko3wYT1 EE- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Pt79xeEp/RIjZkdtT IGH- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Sx0V64Sp/Z3wKEXDU
Mrs Wilson Mrs Crow Mrs Hogg Mrs Hendy	Orange Yellow Blue Grey	EA- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YG5gAiYI/JwMwOZNi OI- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/hFgcY2nS/EQ0duF2n A-E http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/pLQQCXoR/SQx3AyxI

PTA (Parent Teacher Association) NEWS

If you want to be involved in the PTA in any way, 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.

OTHER

HomeStart Berkshire East – Upcoming Workshops 2026

Please see attached flyer for further information.