



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.16

Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a lovely week in school, with children and staff settled back into routines; school is calm and focused. The wet weather has meant that children have been kept inside for a number of their break times but, despite this, behaviour has been positive and staff have worked hard to ensure that children have the much-needed movement time so we didn't go stir crazy!

Many year groups have started new topics this term, and are enjoying their learning. Year 3 have enjoyed learning about Tutankhamun, particularly because he was only eight years old when he became a king, and they could imagine themselves in that position. Year 6 spent this afternoon with the paints and screen printers, with some of them completing their Banksy-style designs.

This week, we received news that three of our Year 6 children – Oscar, Julia and Jovan - have been selected to represent Berkshire, having represented our school in one of the Sunday athletics competitions at Thames Valley Athletics Centre. A huge well done to these children, and a big thank you to Mr Holder for spending his weekends accompanying children to competitions. We look forward to hearing about how they get on in future events!

Starting on Monday, the new building for our 2-year-olds will be under construction, which we have been waiting patiently for since September. The build is likely to continue all term, and there will be times when it is unsafe for us to use sections of our car park or pathways. Please follow all signs around the grounds when building begins. Speaking of our 2-year-old provision, we still have spaces available for a September start, so if you know of any parents of this age group, please encourage them to come and visit and consider applying for a place for next academic year.

Due to some of the foundation governors of our local academy committee having been on the board for a number of years, they are having to step down, so we are again looking to recruit new foundation governors. If you are a practicing Catholic, please consider supporting us by becoming a school governor and bringing your skill set and a fresh perspective; please contact the Clerk, Maxine Gilmartin mgilmartin@stcat.co.uk, or approach Mrs Benn if you think you may be interested.

A big thank you to all our families who have been donating empty chocolate tubs, and a special thanks to Oliver from Year 1 and his family for the very large donation. Please keep the donations coming.

Our Term Dates for 2026/2027 are now published and a copy is attached to this newsletter. Thank you for your patience whilst we finalised the dates.

Please remember that Monday 19th January is an INSET day for us. Staff will be onsite completing some training, but school is closed to all pupils. We look forward to all children returning on Tuesday.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Doyle

DIARY DATES

Monday 19th January	SCHOOL CLOSED – STAFF INSET DAY
Tuesday 20th January	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 21st January	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 26th January	Week 2 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
Monday 2nd February	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 4th February	Year 4 Swimming
Friday 6th February	Year 5 (Mrs O'Reilly) Class Assembly Parents Welcome 9am

Term Dates 2026/2027

Please see a copy of the 2026/2027 Term Dates attached. A printed copy will be sent home with children next week.

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 Rosa Di-Giuseppe for receiving the Dancer of the Week trophy on her first week back in ballet and tap. Well done Rosa.

Congratulations to Bryan Rodrigues for passing his Musical Theatre Examination with a distinction. Well done Bryan.

Weekly Sports Update

Last weekend, our athletics team took part in the Berkshire Championship Finals. Both the girls and boys teams did incredibly well, especially being the only school there and participating against athletics clubs. The boys came 4th out of 10 missing out on the top 3 by only 2 points. The girls also performed very well, coming 7th out of 10, beating 3 athletics clubs. Through this competition, 3 of our children were also invited to join the county athletics team, which is a huge achievement; well done to Julia Szulc, Jovan Nzekwe and Oscar Chukwurah for making the team!

A big well done to the rest of the team as well: Jacob Henriquez, Devante Romney, Nicholas Somide, Patrick Karasinski, Evie Kulczykowska, Evie Forrest, Nifemi Tijani, Skye Fenton and Sophie Loughman.

Attendance

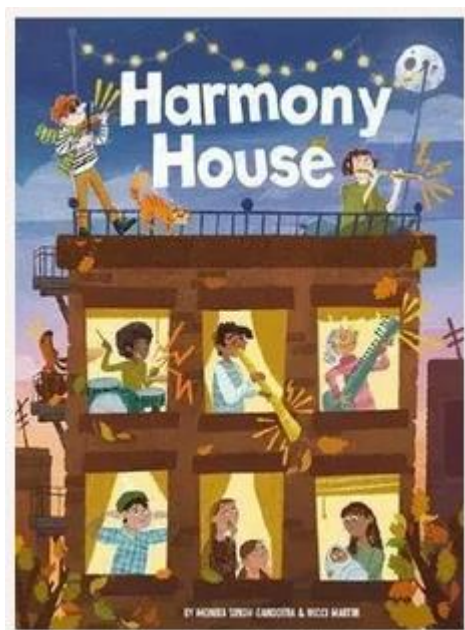
Congratulations to Mrs Martinez and Mrs Kukla's Year 3 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (100%). Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

Anyone whose attendance is recorded as less than 90% between 4th September – 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% may be spoken to by the class teacher.

Anyone who has seven or more lates between 3rd November – 19th December should also expect to receive a letter about punctuality from Mrs Oakes.

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: Monika Singh Gangotra

Illustrator: Nicci Martin

Interest Age: 3-7

A lovely, music-themed book about tolerance, diversity and working together highlights urban living, cultural diversity and a brilliant range of different musical instruments in a gorgeously illustrated picture book.

Wednesday Word

Sophie Loughman, Year 6 Mission Team, writes for us this week:

Hello, my name is Sophie. This week the Wednesday Word is Witness.

In this week's Gospel, John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and John said, "Look, there is the Lamb of God! He is the one who will take away the sin of the world". God had said to John, one day when you are baptising with water, you will see the Spirit come down and rest upon a certain man. He will be the one who will baptise people with the Holy Spirit. Then John said, "I saw this happen and I am the witness that Jesus is God's chosen one".

Our mission this week is to witness Jesus too and follow his way – live the way He showed us. Choose a special way to be a witness and showing love to everyone you meet. Let's remember to be kind and loving to everyone in school and at home this week.

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!



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	U- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IbUfqW9Q/pyxeBEOR E- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IGANTDWw/834fVlJ0 Y- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kVR87Qps/Cu9x7YjV H- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rkiqKEuC/cvCjHv2x http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SwughvW6/kuzUHE1D http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/28AzTYSe/RkCVf4PR
Mrs Scott	Word Time	http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Q3eFgcpJ/jLq55fkH http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dcPAbGwv/ozIv5CDN http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/zofAKjMT/mjzVgSH0 http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Z53o9dwR/QU9bpC6w http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/40QRujRl/ZbAHilrx http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yUHfHwwR/8ZZYVtiy
Mrs Mulrooney	Ditties	CK- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4txgmWX4/IPH57V5g NG- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/faZKBmQd/9RHlvQGy NK- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4oZIGeu2/SAQENG7z SH- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/efKMjYPc/OW9wDhnr http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/wFfLZPAW/yPz5sTpQ http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1hSsbe2y/RCp9M7xW http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/tBUYdjo9/SieP0vt6
Mrs Keogh	Green	OW- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SZI3YX02/1QxfGIRi

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Mrs Wilson Mrs Crow Mrs Hogg Mrs Hendy	Orange Yellow Blue Grey	I-E http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/egQIZIUE/5rAUGe1n O-E http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FdWND66r/uLRSvTJE U-E http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/XYuRVHxL/Tua6IyNy AW- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Ge5h8xAA/ii6UtQ1f

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.