



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.20

Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We have enjoyed a busy week at the end of a cold and rainy half term. Today, I walked into a cloakroom to hear a Year 3 boy say, 'Finally, it's the last day of half term!' After more wet playtimes than we are used to I think staff and children are all ready for half term.

This week, children have reflected on safe internet use and the whole school has been reminded of the importance of verifying information and telling a '**trusted adult**' should they see or hear anything online that doesn't feel right.

Our three-year-old Nursery children loved having parents/grandparents join them for their 'Stay & Play' session. Nearly everyone had a visitor and they do love to see you in school so thank you for making time to visit their classroom.

Year 2 had a wonderful China Day! The children designed, made and evaluated puppets inspired by the Chinese zodiac animals. They enjoyed tasting a variety of Chinese foods for lunch such as spring rolls, egg fried rice and noodles which they described as 'yummy'. They were also delighted to welcome Ms Kaur (Amreen's mum), who introduced them to the Erhu, a Chinese two stringed instrument. Everyone looked fantastic in their red and Chinese-inspired outfits - thank you to parents for your support!

Thank you to everyone who came to visit Year 1's Dinosaur Exhibition yesterday afternoon. The children were very excited to share everything they have been learning about during the last few weeks. This was a lovely end to their Dinosaur Day.

Miss Macfarlane has set the whole school a half term challenge linked to World Book Day, Thursday 5th March. Children are encouraged to read in an unusual, surprising, or imaginative place over the half term and send a photograph to the link provided by the 4th March. We hope your children enjoy the challenge.

Thank you so much to all our families who sent in the empty chocolate tubs – 300 in total! All tubs collected will be taken to a plastic reprocessing centre where they're shredded, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers to use in place of new plastics. All money raised from the sale of plastic tubs will be given directly to Macmillan Cancer Support. 2025 saw over 240,000 tubs collected nationally raising £10,916 for Macmillan Cancer Support. With your donations, we are hopeful that Holy Family will have helped to beat that record for 2026!



Easter Holiday Camp will be run by Mr Holder and other school staff between Monday 30th March and Thursday 2nd April. Booking forms will be available immediately after half term.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful half term.

God bless

Mrs Benn

Lent

As we look towards the start of Lent next week, please see below some resources which your family may enjoy:

CELEBRATE Family Activity Pack for Lent: this includes creative ways to help families grow close to God during this season. There are engaging ways to count down the days in Lent, reflective prayer and discussion, craft, games, books and movies to help families draw close to God.

CELEBRATE has also created a **Lent game** this year - **Journey to Easter Joy**: this encourages children to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving, in fun and interactive ways this Lent.

DIARY DATES

February Half Term: 16th – 20th February 2026

Monday 23rd February

Lent Term 2 Starts

	Week 1 of the Menu
	Nursery Book Fair Starts
	PGL Meeting for Year 6 Parents/Carers 6.30pm
Wednesday 25th February	Year 5 Circuits Workshop (In School)
	Year 4 Swimming
Thursday 26th February	Year 5 (Mrs Fox) Class Visiting Langley Grammar School for ICT Experience
Friday 27th February	CAFOD Family Fast Day
	Year 1 (Mrs Hume) Class Assembly
Monday 2nd March	Week 2 of the Menu
	Book Fair In School This Week (School Hall) 8.40-8.50am and 3.20-3.40pm
Tuesday 3rd March	Year 4 Visit to Milestones
Wednesday 4th March	Year 4 Swimming
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Friday 6th March	Year 4 (Mrs Green & Mrs Evans) Class Assembly
Monday 9th March	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 11th March	Year 4 Swimming
Thursday 12th March	School Photographs
	Year 5 (Mrs O'Reilly) Class Visiting Langley Grammar School for ICT Experience
	Optional Parents' Evening 2-6pm
Friday 13th March	Year 3 (Mrs Martinez & Mrs Kukla) Class Assembly
	Nursery (3 Year Olds) Mother's Day Celebration 11.30am and 2.30pm

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 Avia Alphonz Dijo who performed an Indian fusion dance with her friend in front of an audience of 200 attendees. Their performance was met with great appreciation and applause. Well done Avia.

Attendance

Congratulations to Mrs Fox's Year 5 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (99.1%). Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

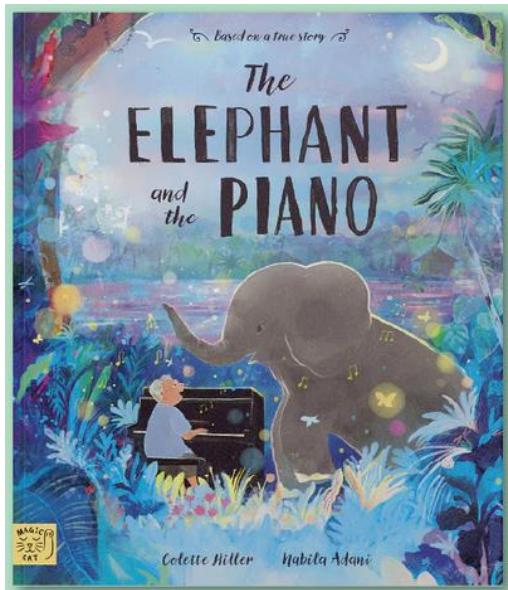
Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 11th February was Safer Internet Day. This was marked in our Key Stage assemblies based around the theme '**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online**'. Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year we cover an online issue or theme that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. Our children were reminded about how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them and the importance of talking to trusted adults when something doesn't feel right or when something has gone wrong.

Thank you, Mrs Martinez – ICT Teacher.

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: Colette Hiller

Illustrator: Nabila Adani

Interest Age: 4-7

An incredible and uplifting true story about how music has healed troubled elephants in a sanctuary in Thailand. The Elephant and the Piano tells the spectacular true story of Paul Barton and the elephants who loved to hear him play.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

World Book Day is always a lively event in school; the theme this year is 'Reading for Fun'. Children usually enjoy coming into school dressed up as a favourite book character – there are plenty of simple ideas online for dress up without the need to spend money on a shop-bought costume; a simple prop depicting a character is enough. Children will spend the day engaged in a variety of activities based on a Waterstone's Child's Laureate. The work that is produced by the children will be displayed in classroom windows or doors. We invite you to enjoy the author trail after school by walking around the outside of the school building looking at classroom windows/doors, celebrating the work that the children have produced on World Book Day.

We will also have the Book Fair in school for the week of World Book Day. All children will be issued with a voucher which entitles them to £1 off their chosen book. The book fair is open to parents and children before and after school and is a fantastic way to browse some books and raise money for books for our school too. The book fair is now cashless, and can be paid for by using our card reader (contactless options available – Apple Pay or Google Pay) or through our online QR code.

'Reading in Random Places' February Half-term Reading Challenge

Children are encouraged to read in an unusual, surprising, or imaginative place over the half term.

What counts as a "strange place"?

- Under a table or desk
- In a blanket fort or den
- On the stairs
- In the garden / park
- On a picnic blanket
- Wearing a silly hat or costume
- Upside down (safely!)
- By torchlight

The **5** children who read in the most random places will be given a £5 voucher to spend at the Book Fair. Please send in a photograph of your child reading in their random place by 4th March to this email: Librarian@8715202.onmicrosoft.com, for their chance to win.

If your child is awarded a £5 voucher they will be able to use it at our Book Fair on either 5th or 6th March in the school hall.

Exciting Author Visit: Colette Hiller, Author of 'Colossal Words for Kids', 'The Elephant and the Piano' and 'The B on your Thumb'!

To celebrate World Book Week, on Monday 16th March 2026, we are thrilled to be welcoming the CLiPPA award winning children's author Colette Hiller who will lead inspirational, enthusiastic and engaging workshops for Reception, KS1 and KS2. Colette Hiller is the talented author of 'Colossal Words for Kids', 'The Elephant and the Piano' and 'The B on your Thumb'!

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to be inspired by Colette's journey as an author. Books, provided by Richmond bookshop The Alligator's Mouth, will be available to pre order on ParentPay. Colette will be doing a book signing during the school day, where children who have pre-ordered books can meet her and receive a signed copy.

Children in **Reception and Year 1** will spend time with Colette exploring her books 'The Elephant and the Piano' and 'The B on your Thumb'. For parents who wish to purchase a copy of 'The Elephant and the Piano', the book is available for just £7.99 through ParentPay. There won't be the opportunity to buy the books on the day. In order for your child to be part of the book signing, you must pre-order your book by **Friday 27th February**.

Children in **Year 2 and KS2** will spend time with Colette exploring her book 'Colossal Words for Kids'. For parents who wish to purchase a copy of 'Colossal Words for Kids', the book is available for just £9.99 through ParentPay. There won't be the opportunity to buy the books on the day. In order for your child to be part of the book signing, you must pre-order your book by **Friday 27th February**.

If you have any further questions please ask Miss Macfarlane. We look forward to a memorable and inspiring visit!

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk!

This Lent our school is supporting CAFOD and joining other schools around the country to help fight poverty around the world.

To raise money, we're going to work together as a whole school to reach our target of walking 200km in 40 days. Each week, every class will be walking to contribute to our combined total. We will be starting after half term. You can make a donation to CAFOD through Parent Pay.



How our fundraising will help

CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, working together with communities all over the world for an end to extreme poverty and global injustice.

Our fundraising will help people like Bayezid and his community in Bangladesh to create floating gardens that are immune to the effects of flooding caused by climate change. You can find out more by watching CAFOD's film on their website: cafod.org.uk/blwschools

We have chosen to support CAFOD as a way for our pupils to put their faith into action. By raising money together, we will be supporting our brothers and sisters around the world and living out our school mission of making the world a better place.

We really appreciate your support and hope that everyone has fun helping us raise money for CAFOD.

For more information about CAFOD please visit cafod.org.uk/families

Parish Mass – Parent/Carer Volunteers

Years 3-6 will be attending the Parish Mass on the following dates:

- Tuesday 24th February: Year 6
- Wednesday 4th March: Year 5
- Friday 20th March: Year 4
- Year 3 TBC

If there are any parents or carers that may be able to accompany the children, please speak to your child's class teacher. Thank you for your support.

Colham Catering Packed Lunches

Following a recent review of the packed lunch option previously offered by Colham Catering for school trips, this option has now been removed from the portal. Going forwards, if your child is attending a school trip that requires them to bring a packed lunch, please ensure this be provided from home. Thank you for your understanding, Mrs Oakes.

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	J- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/EMRGrTa/FLPueHiE V- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/XcOfDELE/G4Y39zn7 D- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/o5TIsWp8/59e7gmJp P- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/pV0CjkSh/vm5eYr9R http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/5e4lfcQ/t3rKTUaW http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/59QIq9fy/oAcrybhq
Mrs Scott	Word Time	http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ytIJFjE/KluuqBL8 http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IGKrhtPd/aAyZfmP3 http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/zTZjC4No/zSmFWqM4 http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YQw4hNs8/VZh8VheP http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rgmP6bsQ/Fws6qX7a
Mrs Mulrooney	Ditties	NG- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QaaK11G2/zyuurPRf CH- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/RM1wPxJ3/xHiOq5ny NK- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kVyiAKww/wIuyAxgx QU- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LNPOpW7/tqRztn12 http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ygKnotLI/iqYMAc7k http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/a5y6Puzl/V9A5treb http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fAzoaAnN/gLwPHfe3 http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/RRKgmCtH/sxt2RvPU
Mrs Keogh	Green	AR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Tg9NAkx6/2eH8eghv OR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8mC1uCGu/dQ1GXzyV AIR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gHjBvnPo/ebqLFyQA IR- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8TytJQeD/3uHZf2h3
Mrs Wilson Mrs Crow Mrs Hogg Mrs Hendy	Orange Yellow Blue Grey	TIOUS- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/aE6G3LiO/ckojQqWD AU- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/aUlvqGI5/ghzG7xTB UE- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jfTpUdcs/STjZwmSe IE- http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uNzMSMj8/INy1qQUs

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

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust Newsletter

Please find attached St Thomas Trust half termly newsletter.

Slough Libraries

Please see attached flyer for details of free half term activities at Slough Libraries.

Slough Parent Carer Forum

Please see attached a leaflet inviting parents/carers in Slough to help shape a **new Parent Carer Forum**. Details on how to express interest and find out more are included in the leaflet.