



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.25

Thursday 28th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had yet another busy week in school, with lots of lovely things happening for our children. The children have enjoyed taking time to reflect on the season of Lent in different ways during the week; many year groups have participated in the Big Lent Walk, visiting various reflection points that have been dotted around the school. Years 3 and 4 have, today, come to school wearing their pyjamas in order to raise money for CAFOD, the global charity that we support as a school. Other year groups will complete their fundraising activities next week.

On Tuesday, Year 4 celebrated Roman Day – it was delightful to see the children coming into school with some fabulous outfits and/or accessories. Thanks to parents for supporting us in our curriculum days – they mean so much to the children, help embed learning and create lasting memories.

On Wednesday, our girls' football team took part in a tournament at Marish School and left us all feeling proud of how much they have improved as a team. Many of the girls involved are new to football and most don't play outside school, yet they continue to turn up each week to training and give it all their effort during the games that are organised for them. Well done girls – keep up the good work!

Also on Wednesday, Year 6 visited Langley Free Church to take part in their annual programme, Easter Cracked. Here they learned about the true meaning of Easter, and had time to reflect and celebrate this most special time in the liturgical calendar. It is a great opportunity to link with other denominations within the Christian Church and engage with the wider community.

There have also been gymnastics displays happening in school this week, and we were delighted to see so many parents coming to watch their children show their newly-learnt skills; I hope you feel proud of the progress they are making.

Today we had a number of mothers and grandmothers visit our Nursery as part of a Mother's Day celebration. Your children are always delighted to see you in school, so thank you very much for attending where work and other commitments allow it. We wish all Mothers and Grandmothers – as well as those who are mothering in a variety of different ways – a lovely, blessed day on Sunday.

We would like to thank parents for their continued co-operation as we aim to ensure our school site is as safe as it can be. We appreciate that some of our procedures around picking up from clubs have become less open and friendly, but we also have a duty of care to our children and their safety has to be of paramount importance in our decision-making. We may continue to tweak arrangements and we thank you in advance for your patience while we find the best solution. Daily drop-offs and pick-ups are now returned to normal, as our boiler room has now been sorted, and we hope to have all taps fully-operational by Monday.

We look forward to another busy week next week – our final week in school before Reception – Year 6 finish at 12:15 on Friday 4th April. A polite reminder that Nursery closes at normal time on Thursday 3rd April.

God bless

Mrs Benn

Prayer

Thank you God for the love of our mothers: thank you God for their care and concern; thank you God for the joys they have shared with us; thank you God for the pains they have borne for us; thank you God for all that they give us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIARY DATES

Monday 31st March

Week 2 of the Menu

No Extra Curricular Clubs This Week

Y3/4 Boys Football v Cippenham (at HFCS)

Y6 PGL May 2025 Residential Trip Meeting 6.30pm

Tuesday 1st April

Y3 Visit to Hampton Court Palace

Y5 Stations of the Cross Parents Invited 9.15am

Wednesday 2nd April

MHST Coffee Morning for Parents – Supporting Anxiety 9-10am

Fashion Workshop for Year 6

Year 4 Swimming – Not This Week

Netball Match at Marish 3.15-4.30pm

Thursday 3rd April

EYFS & KS1 Easter Bonnet parade

Term Finishes For Nursery (Usual Time)

Friday 4th April

Term Ends for Reception – Year 6 12.15pm

Easter Holidays: Monday 7th April 2025 – Monday 21st April 2025

Tuesday 22nd April

Pentecost Term Starts for Nursery and School

Wednesday 23rd April

Year 4 Swimming

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please see attached the extra-curricular activities schedule for the Pentecost term 2025. HFCS booking forms need to be returned by Friday 4th April. Thank you.

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, who will award them a marble for the class jar, and Mrs Benn, who will issue a 'Head teacher's Award' certificate. If you send a photo of your child's achievement it will be posted on Mrs Chandler's 'Wall of Fame.'

Amazing Achievements

Congratulations to Alberto Staffiere who has progressed to the next level at swimming having worked hard over recent weeks, really focusing on his technique and stamina. Alberto is pleased to be learning new challenging things in this more advanced group. Well done Alberto.

Congratulations to Martin and Megan Stanczuk who both had a successful karate assessment and grading yesterday and have now moved from white belt to yellow belt. Well done Martin and Megan.

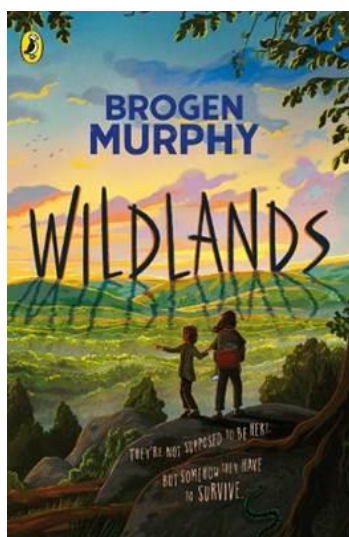
Congratulations to Seren Yarrow who was awarded 2nd place at her end of term Gymnastics competition earlier this week. Seren learnt and performed a routine which was then judged. Well done Seren.

Weekly Sports Update

The Year 5/6 girls' teams travelled to Marish this week to play a tournament against 5 other schools. We managed to secure our first points for the league this season with 2 draws, and we also scored our very first goal of the campaign, scored by Julia Szulc. Well done girls! Mr Holder.

Book of the Week

Each week, I will recommend a lovely new book, which will hopefully inspire our children to broaden their reading tastes.



Author: Brogen Murphy

Interest Age: 9-11

Reading Age: 7+

Set in a utopian landscape and addressing big questions about humanity's relationship with the environment, this is a gripping and refreshingly original story of survival against the odds.

Wednesday Word

Tisha writes for us this week:

The Wednesday Word this week is FORGIVENESS.

We're all human, and it's only human to make mistakes. Sometimes we make mistakes that upset others or others make mistakes that upset us. Forgiveness is like a super power God gives us at birth. It means we can forget those upsetting things, and let them go. And it's amazing – it can change lives in some cases! There are times when we want to find something to hold against people and we have two choices: hold grudges or just forget it. If we are truly children of God, we will leave it and start over; a fresh start. I hope you find this inspiring. Have a great week!

Tisha, Year 6 Faith Ambassador

Easter Holiday Camp

Mr Holder will be running our popular Easter Camp during the first week of the Easter holiday. Please complete the booking form (attached to this newsletter) by 31st March; places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The Easter Camp will run from 7th-11th April and is open to children from Reception to Year 6. We reserve the right not to go ahead with this club if we do not receive sufficient bookings by Monday 31st March.

Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move

Our Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move chaplaincy initiative has finished for another year. A big well done to all children who managed to create, organise and run a club each week for the entire four weeks – this is no mean feat! We believe that we are giving children the opportunity to have their voice heard, follow their passions and take charge of organising something from beginning to end: these are valuable life skills that they are learning at a young age, and they should feel really proud of themselves and their successes.

Pilgrims of Hope

As you may be aware, Catholic schools have been asked by Pope Francis to take part in the Jubilee 2025 celebrations, an opportunity to reset, renew our faith and commit to building a fairer world where all people may flourish; the children have thoroughly enjoyed what we have done so far. Along with our Lenten Walk, the children have been fundraising in a variety of ways this week, and will continue to do so next week too. We are raising money for CAFOD during the period of Lent, and any donation from families would be very welcome – as we are a cashless school, please make any donation – however small – via ParentPay. Next week, our Holy Door arrives in school, which will be decorated to mark this important year. We will be asking the children to get creative over the Easter holiday to design and make some art work that will help create a display to go alongside our door – more information to follow.

Also next week, we welcome Josh and Azleen, parents of Zyana in Year 3, to work with our Year 6 children in an 'anti fast fashion' workshop. This generous offer from them ties in perfectly with our school community's bid to reduce, recycle and reuse what we already have, rather than buying new. We are excited to see the creations that our children are inspired to design and make, all with things they already own or can share with one another. Year 6 children have been sent home today with a letter to further explain this to their parents.

Two-year-old Provision

We were aiming to have our application process shared with parents by Easter, although this is now looking unlikely. Plans for the two-year-old provision are going well and without major difficulty, but there has been a slight delay in getting approval from the Department for Education. We fully expect to have approval granted in good time to get all applications processed, but we cannot go ahead in taking applicants without a formal approval. We will write to parents as soon as permission is granted and the application process can begin. Thank you for your patience.

Social Media, Adolescence and Misogynistic Culture

You may have seen much reported in the press this week regarding the Netflix show Adolescence and, leading on from this, an increase in discussion around the use of smartphones and social media by our young people. We have noticed a sharp decline in Year 6 children bringing phones to school, which is fantastic for us, but are also regularly dealing with issues that happen via phones between our children in the evenings and weekends. We urge you please to check your child's phone on a regular basis to ensure they are kept safe. When issues about phone use are brought to our attention, we act in line with our school behaviour policy: children are reminded that foul and inappropriate language are unacceptable, as is taking and sharing photos of other children and/or staff without their knowledge and consent. Please reiterate these messages at home so that our children begin to understand the impact their online behaviour can have on those around them.

Attached to this newsletter you will find some information regarding the rise in 'incel' culture and how young people can be best supported when navigating what they see online. As part of the Richard Dimbleby lectures, Gareth Southgate (former England men's football manager) speaks knowledgeably and eloquently about the crisis facing our young people, and boys in particular, due to their access to social media and outside influences. As parents, it is worth a watch: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00293l5/the-richard-dimbleby-lecture-sir-gareth-southgate>

Attendance

Well done to Mrs Hume's Year 1 class and Mrs Powell's Year 2 class for achieving the highest attendance (99.6%) this week. Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

With regards to leave in term time, please kindly note that we no longer accept requests for leave via email. Please complete a 'Withdrawal from Learning Form' which can be found on our website or collected from main Reception. Thank you.

Easter Bonnet Parade for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – Thursday 3rd April

This year, our Easter Bonnet Parade for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will take place on Thursday 3rd April. Children are asked to come in to school on that day wearing their Easter Bonnet that they have made at home. Children will get the opportunity to parade round school to show off their wonderful creations. Thank you for your support.

Exciting Author Visit: Dr. Fuzz, Author of Poppy the Pea!

We are thrilled to announce an exciting upcoming visit from Dr. Fuzz (Tuesday 29th April), the talented author of Poppy the Pea! Dr. Fuzz is passionate about sharing the heart-warming story of Poppy and the important themes of courage, resilience, and following your dreams. During the visit, Dr. Fuzz will lead engaging assemblies and workshops where students will explore these themes through interactive discussions and fun activities.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to be inspired by Dr. Fuzz's journey as an author and to discover how they can apply these positive values in their own lives.

For parents who wish to purchase a copy of Poppy the Pea, the book will be available for just £7.08 through ParentPay. To make it even more special, if you pre-order your book by Tuesday 22nd April (one week before the event), your child will receive a signed copy from Dr. Fuzz during the visit!

Children will have the opportunity to collect their signed copies at the book signing event, which will take place from 3:20 to 3:50 PM in the school library, The Whispering Pages. This is a wonderful chance for young readers to meet Dr. Fuzz, get their books signed, and share in the excitement of the visit.

We look forward to a memorable and inspiring visit!

First Holy Communion

We have two holy communion dresses in school that children may borrow. If interested, please contact Mrs Gonoud carole.gonoud@hfcs.org.uk.

St Thomas Catholic Academies Association - Parent Surveys

All parents/carers will have received an email last week regarding a parent/carer survey that St Thomas has asked us to issue to parents. Please note the deadline for completion of the survey is Friday 4th April. It can be accessed <https://forms.office.com/e/WvpTY7wnL7>. Thank you

School Class Photographs

If you wish to purchase your child's class photo please order online **by 31st March**. Thank you.

Year 6 PGL Trip May 2025

We would like to invite all parents/carers of children who are attending this residential trip to a meeting at school on Monday 31st March 2025 at 6.30pm. Thank you.

SEND Information

Our school website has up to date information in relation to SEND at HFCS as well as some useful links. Please do take a look.

<https://www.holyfamilycatholicschool.org.uk/about-us/send-information/>

Studybugs - New System for Reporting Absences

Following a successful trial of the Studybugs absence reporting app with Year 6, we will be rolling this out across school for all pupils from April 2025. This app is used to report absences to school. We will be asking all parents and carers to download the app and use this instead of emailing or calling school to report absences. A letter with further information/instructions will be sent home with children next week.

Multiplication Tables

Year 4 parents may already know that there will be a Multiplication Tables Check for all Year 4 children in June. There will be 25 questions of mixed times tables up to 12 x 12. All schools will be taking part in the check each year as it is now part of the standard testing for schools.

All Key Stage 2 children should be practising their times tables weekly as part of their homework and can use Times Tables Rockstars to do so. This is especially important for Years 3 and 4. We recommend using <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> as it is similar to how the Times Tables Check will look. Please encourage your children to practise regularly.

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	E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/cR8NpPqg/ktB9VM5d I – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9EIUFi5F/95fiNVFz J – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WB8PXRhm/sATdiHxk D - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7ef6qXJ1/DFQOqOSc
Mrs Scott Mrs Crow	Ditties	NK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8XjsPj1S/81XyP25O CK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/vsX4j1z8/qBT0RMm3 SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dR6Tya8M/gMtrJk2J TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/BBjY3WGu/QKW8kr9I
Mrs Mulrooney Mrs Keogh	Green Purple	AY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/meHfCq3G/Zwo9CyX8 EE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3FtLU9Ao/9l2aR8bN IGH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lsLIrJ0M/RhoM2YTv OW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/wZICNvma/KhXhN5mi
Mrs Wilson Mrs Birch Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg	Orange Yellow Blue Grey	OA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4csc4QPk/X0zCsuoB EW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/KsfxjBXk/MdSZzW2Y IRE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ouk8yjan/l1axFdMz EAR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/29XAm06Z/S8MNsLEK KN- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/29XAm06Z/S8MNsLEKB

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust (STCAT) – Train to Teach 2025

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust will be hosting a number of open mornings in April and May, which is the perfect opportunity to find out more about what the training programme

involves and how to apply. Please go to www.stcat.co.uk/become-a-teacher for further information.

OTHER

MHST Coffee Morning – Supporting Your Child With Anxiety

We are hosting a coffee morning and informative workshop at our school on Wednesday 2nd April from 9-10am. The topic is supporting your child with anxiety. Please see the attached poster for further information.