



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Pentecost Term

Newsletter No.36

Friday 4th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Another week of fantastic weather and a busy school timetable has passed!

Well done to all children in Nursery – Year 4 who competed in their respective Sports Days this week. Children appeared to be having a fantastic time and really enjoy all of the events. Thank you to family members for coming along to support the children and to Mr Holder for organising these days.

It was lovely to see parents attend the PTA coffee morning on Wednesday. It is a delight to see new faces, who come with new ideas and initiatives, and offer support to our school community. Please read further in this letter for information regarding decisions that have been made.

On Tuesday, the school felt particularly quiet as the vast majority of Year 6 children were on a transition day to their new secondary school and Year 5 were enjoying a fantastic day out to Longridge Activity Centre. The Year 6 children seemed excited about their transition and hopefully came away from their visit looking forward to their new adventure in September. Our Year 5 pupils spent the day involved in a variety of outdoor activities, including climbing and dragon boat racing. Despite the incredibly hot weather, they had a fantastic day and many were speaking excitedly about their upcoming PGL trip next May as they got a taste of what it might be like. Thank you to staff for organising this opportunity for our children, and to parent volunteers for helping to facilitate it.

Children from Nursery to Year 5 have received their end of term school reports today. We hope you agree that these reports honestly reflect your child and their progress and the information is not of a surprise to you. Please see further in the newsletter for more information regarding what to do if you would like to speak to your class teacher following reading your child's report. Year 6 reports will be sent home on Wednesday 9th July, once SATs results have been available.

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to two members of support staff, Mrs Palmer and Mrs Healy, as they are both retiring. They have been with us for 19 and 27 years respectively, and they will be greatly missed by staff and children alike. We know you will join with us in wishing them a happy and healthy retirement.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God Bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 7th July

Week 2 of the Menu

Final Week of Extra Curricular Activities (Except Gymnastics)

Tuesday 8th July

Nursery Stay and Play 11.15-11.45am and 2.15-2.45pm
Parents Welcome

Year 6 Class (Mrs Ragg) Visit to Langley Library

Wednesday 9th July

Year 3 Swimming

Reception Stay and Play 2.30-3.00pm Parents Welcome

Thursday 10th July

Year 5 & Year 6 Sports Day 9.30-11.30am Parents Welcome

Optional Parents' Evening 2-6pm

Friday 11th July

Jubilee Pledge Day & donations for Slough Foodbank

Monday 14th July

Week 1 of the Menu

Tuesday 15th July

Reception Children (New Sept 2025) Induction Morning

Wednesday 16th July

Year 1 UK Day

Thursday 17th July

Year 6 Production to Parents 9.15am

Friday 18th July

Y4 Visit to Milestones

Y5 Brazil Day (In School)

Nursery Teddy Bear's Picnic Parents Welcome 11.30-12.30pm

Monday 21st July

Week 2 of the Menu

Tuesday 22nd July

Last Day of Term for Nursery

End of Year Mass at Holy Family Church 10-11am (Year 6 Parents Welcome) *Winter uniform please*

Year 6 Leavers' Party at Richings Park Sports Club 7-9.30pm

Wednesday 23rd July

**END OF TERM FOR RECEPTION – YEAR 6 -
SCHOOL CLOSING TODAY AT 12.15PM**

(Summer Holidays: Thursday 24th July – Tuesday 2nd September 2025)

Holy Family Summer Camp: Thursday 24th July – Wednesday 6th August 2025

Wednesday 3rd September

SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET DAY

Thursday 4th September

Start of Advent Term for Reception – Year 6

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 Adikrit Singh who played his first tournament under Slough Cricket Club under 9's team last weekend. Slough Cricket Club won the three matches they played and so won the tournament. Well done Adikrit.

Congratulations to Laila and Sofia Williams on being awarded their first badge/medal in gymnastics last weekend, as they achieved their Level 1 working together gym badge. They are really enjoying their time at Basingstoke Gymnastics. Well done Laila and Sofia.

Congratulations to Carla Williams who has now earned her third award in gymnastics as well as also achieving her Level 1 'Working Together' badge. Carla has also been successful in her trials where she has been invited to join the 8 to 11 year olds advance girls class, where she will start training and competing in a competitive manner from September. Well done Carla.

Weekly Sports Update

This week Nursery - Year 4 all had their sports days. Despite the rain, Nursery and KS1 children all did really well, and it was so nice to see them all enjoying themselves. Year 3 and 4 children had much better weather for their sports day, and again did fantastically. It was a joy to see all the children enjoying the events. Thank you to all the parents/carers/siblings and everyone else who came to watch as it makes the day that little bit more special for the children. Year 5 and 6 have their sports day next week on Thursday (10th July) and I am confident that they will match the effort and perseverance that we saw with the younger years.

Children have been given a letter stating which colour team they will be in for their Sports Day. If children happen to have a T-shirt in the colour specified at the top of the letter they have brought home, please can they wear that colour top on their Sports Day. However, please do not go to the expense of buying any new tops – usual PE kit is absolutely fine. Also, for the Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Day, after dropping children to school, please can parents wait at the front of the school premises until 9.30am (when the gate by the Year 3 classrooms will be open). Thank you, Mr Holder.

Year 5 Trip to Longridge Activity Centre

On Tuesday this week, Year 5 went to Longridge Activity Centre in Marlow for their school trip. Despite it being the hottest day of the year so far, the children had the most amazing time and did not let the heat stop them from getting totally engrossed in a range of exciting water sports and land-based activities. The day started with team challenges where they had to work together to solve puzzles and problems. After that, they moved to the climbing wall and Jacob's Ladder, and the day finished with Dragon boating on the River Thames around the nearby lake. It was truly wonderful to see the children cheering each other on and the sight and sound of children chanting 'heave ho' as they paddled their boats down the river was simply joyous! Thank you to the parents who volunteered to come on the trip and to all of our Year 5 parents who prepared their children for the fun filled day.

Emotional & Physical Safety

Staff at Holy Family understand that keeping our children safe is our number one priority. As such, we would like to share some information with you, and ask for your support. We ask that, should any problems arise between your child and another, that you approach your child's class teacher in the first instance. Please do not address another child in the playground or outside school to sort out any difficulties.

Children who are cycling to school must be wearing a bicycle helmet at all times. Parents are responsible for ensuring that bikes and scooters are roadworthy; please check the brakes. We also ask that parents support us in ensuring children are not riding bikes or scooters on the school site at all. This is to avoid accidents, as our school site can be a very busy place.

When cycling on the slip road, please make your children aware that pedestrians will not always hear their bell or move aside even if they do hear it. We would like to avoid accidents wherever possible, so please be aware of how to cycle safely and ensure your children are aware of their own responsibility as a cyclist.

Finally, please remember the slip road is not pedestrianised and neighbours still drive up and down during the period when parents are restricted from entering in cars. Families must be road aware at all times. Thank you for your support.

Safeguarding Audit

This week, school was subject to a safeguarding audit by the Leader for Inclusion at St Thomas Catholic Academy Trust, Michelle Chappell. Michelle spent the day looking at policies and procedures, as well as speaking to staff and children. She was very pleased with what we have in place to keep our children safe. One observation she had that we can look to improve is that our children are not always forthcoming in describing the ways they can keep themselves safe and sharing messages regarding safety. We will continue to work on this during assemblies and in classrooms so they can better articulate what they know.

Summer Reading Challenge

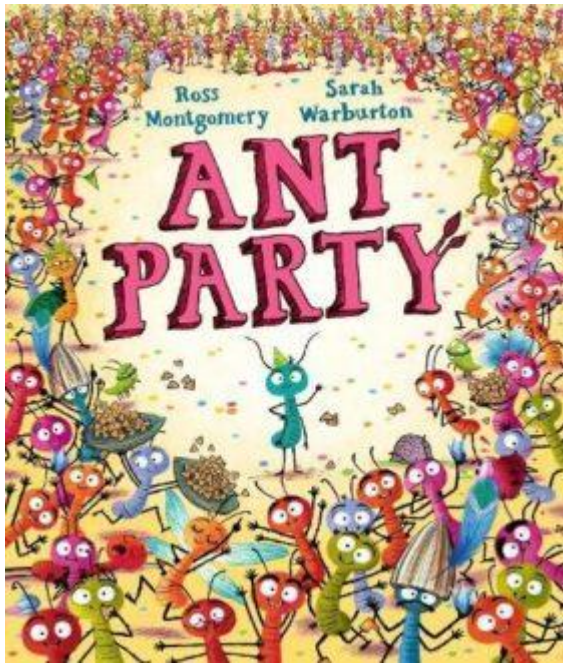
This year's popular Summer Reading Challenges begins on 1st July until 13th September, and the theme this year is Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors! We will be promoting this challenge as a way of encouraging all of our children to keep up their reading habits over the long summer holiday. Please find more information about how to sign up and what's involved by visiting <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> or by visiting your local library.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Update

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the coffee morning this week. The first mini project of the new group will be to organise a free uniform swap before the end of term, so please look out for updates in the newsletter. If you were unable to attend the coffee and want to be involved in the PTA or support the uniform swap please email Halima, goshhalima@gmail.com. Thank you.

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: Ross Montgomery

Illustrator: Sarah Warburton

Interest Age: 3-7

Reading Age: 7+

Andy the ant wants to have a small birthday party. But, before long, the whole colony turn up at his home! Can the ants work together when an uninvited guest crashes their fun?

School Reports and Optional Parents' Evening –Thursday 10th July 2pm-6pm

The Optional Parents' Evening for all classes from Nursery – Year 6 will take place on Thursday 10th July from 2pm-6pm.

Teachers have put a lot of effort into collating accurate and informative reports and these have been sent home with all children in Nursery – Year 5 today. Year 6 SATs results will arrive in school on Tuesday 8th July so we will release Year 6 reports on 9th July when we will be in a position to include test results. We kindly request that parents wait to read their child's report before making an appointment with the teacher, and then only make an appointment if there are issues that need to be addressed. If, after reading your child's report, you would like to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher to address a concern, please email carole.gonoud@hfcs.org.uk to request an appointment. Please clearly state your child's name, year group and teacher. Appointments will be in person and take place in the school hall.

Year 2 – Miss Macfarlane's class

For all parents of children in Miss Macfarlane's class, please be aware that a separate letter will be sent to you advising you of a classroom move from Friday 18th July. For the last three days of term, this Year 2 class will move to the AOC in order to accommodate our new 2-year-old Nursery provision that opens in September. Thank you

"Past, Present, and Future" - A Creative Response to Faith and History

To mark the 150th anniversary of the St Bernard's Chapel, Holy Family's Faith Ambassadors were invited to take part in a special visit as part of the school's "Past, Present, and Future" celebrations.

During the visit, we explored the chapel's rich history and took time to reflect on its evolving role as a place of worship and community. We also took part in a session on stained-glass windows, learning about their artistic and spiritual significance in places of worship across time. Inspired by the chapel's stunning windows and our own faith journey, we returned to school to create original artwork.

The piece on display here depicts our thoughtful response to our visit – in particular to the newest stained glass window in the chapel – designed around the St Bernard's school emblem.

We decided to 'deconstruct' our school badge to represent the spirit and identity of Holy Family School. You will see the hand of God is central to our window – God will guide us in our faith, our education, our home and our future.

We are so pleased that our work will form part of the special exhibition about the history of the chapel, celebrating both the legacy and the future of faith in both of our schools.



Jubilee Pledge Day – Walking in Hope and Kindness

As part of the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year, we are excited to announce our Jubilee Pledge Day on Friday, 11th July. This is a wonderful opportunity for our whole school community to live out our faith by helping others — especially those in need from our local area.

On this special day, we are inviting all our families to donate items to Slough Foodbank, who provide food and essential items to people who are struggling. This is a simple but powerful way to show love and care to our neighbours, just as Jesus teaches us.

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

— 1 John 3:18

Slough Foodbank URGENT Wish List:

Food:

Tinned Meat
Long-life Cooking Sauces
Long-life Fruit Juice
Long-life Milk
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Tuna
Tinned Vegetarian Meals
Tinned Vegetables
Long-life Rice Pudding
Instant Mash

Toiletries & Household Items:

Deodorants
Sanitary Pads
Toilet Rolls
Washing-Up Liquid
Shampoo
Shaving Foam/Gel
Laundry Capsules
Nappies (Sizes 7 & 8)
Strong Carrier Bags

All donations can be brought into school next Friday morning. Our Faith Ambassadors helpers will be ready to collect donations from our classrooms during the day.

Let us come together as a school community to share hope and help make a meaningful difference. Together, as Pilgrims of Hope, we will walk in kindness and compassion.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Mrs O'Reilly

St Thomas Catholic Academy Trust News

At the end of this term, our current CEO, Joe Richardson, will be leaving his post following a location change for him and his family. The newly appointed CEO is Mark McLaughlin. We look forward to working with him.

Two-Year-Old Nursery Provision

We are now receiving applications for our 2-year-old provision which opens in September 2025. We will allocate on a weekly basis until we are full.

Please visit the [Admissions Section](#) of our school website for all necessary information and documentation should you wish to apply.

Are you eligible for 15 hours funded 2-year-old childcare?

In England, there are three government-funded early education schemes that offer free childcare for children aged two, three and four:

- 15 hours free education and childcare for 2-year-olds (families on certain low-income benefits or children with additional needs)

- 15 hours free childcare for all 3 and 4-year-olds (universal entitlement)
- 15/30 hours free childcare for eligible children between 9-months to 4 years-old (working parents)

Each of the free childcare schemes has different eligibility rules so it's important to check which of the schemes is right for you. Please look at the Terms and Conditions documents on our website for the links to check eligibility.

Lost Property

As we near the end of this school year, please claim any missing items from the Lost Property container (by the metal gates outside main Reception leading to playground/Year 3 classrooms). The container will be emptied at the end of term and any unnamed items will be disposed of. Thank you.

Holiday Camp at Holy Family

For anyone who would like to book a place for their child on the Holiday Camp taking place here at school in the first two weeks of the holiday, please be aware that the booking period has been extended until Friday 11th July. This is to ensure that our staff:child ratios can be met in good time.

Attendance

Well done to Ms Iqbal's Year 3 class for achieving the highest attendance this week (99.3%). Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

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	V- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/AQ2pgcUY/amSnj0Ns SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/iQ5a3JyR/K26rUeks https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OLX5eQ9f/ew1sAwYa https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/r7sVhswf/KHtvz61W https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gHHjP3nt/NpM0M7YA https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xsCNROgF/IS2lafAW
Mrs Scott	Ditties	SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/iQ5a3JyR/K26rUeks QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kbR03rDR/sj61YUZd CK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1hO4RBmn/iZiOfJJN
Mrs Birch Mrs Keogh	Green Purple	OW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OMHfxE19/imSMNE2l OO- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GKRpeX64/Th0UwTMa OO https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jv15vBOX/XKeITOGD
Mrs Wilson Mrs Crow Mrs Hogg	Orange Blue Grey	IRE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/AhF7iI7h/2cMbl2p5 EAR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/nEQnvsrM/PGfT90F6 URE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ec5T0LRw/gGGBwyJd

Mrs Hendy		TION- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/i7Kf8zjR/wxzk8Z9m TIOUS/CIOUS- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/U1NyDtb9/dJIhxXMO EA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DAfXEYHG/6vthDiIR OI- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/hNFZu5jU/q9ECt2dE
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OTHER

Stroud Theatre Arts

Stroud Theatre Arts are opening a new branch in Langley. To celebrate their launch, they are holding a Free Open Day on Saturday 12th July 2025. Please see attached flyer for further information.