



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.1

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents

Welcome back to all our returning families. On behalf of the whole school community, I extend the warmest welcome to our new Reception families and the eleven other new children who have joined Holy Family this week. We look forward to welcoming our new Nursery children next week.

We hope everyone had a good summer and have returned rested and refreshed ready for the new term.

Children appeared delighted to see their good friends again. There were lots of wide smiles and one Year 4 boy walked in the school gate and declared 'Home Sweet Home!', much to Mrs Chandler's pleasure.

On 1st September, Holy Family ceased to be a local authority maintained school; we converted to an academy and joined St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust. Our new website goes live today and we are awaiting an installation date for new signage and St Thomas bench that will complete our re-branding. Staff look forward to working with our new strategic partners.

Thank you for your generosity to staff at the end of the summer term. It is absolutely not necessary to buy gifts for staff, however, your kind words and gratitude were very much appreciated by all. Thank you for making staff feel valued and appreciated.

Well done to any children who completed the Summer Reading challenge. Mrs Doyle is currently gathering names to enable us to recognise this achievement.

We have an exciting event-filled year ahead and, once again, we invite you to invest in building good two-way communication with your child's new class teacher by attending 'Meet the Teacher' sessions on the afternoon of Thursday 19th September.

We wish all our Year 6's sitting their Bucks 11+ next week calm minds and good sleeps so they can do their best.

Please pray that our whole school community has a good year ahead.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 9th September

Week 2 of the Menu

Tuesday 10th September

Bucks 11+ Familiarisation

Thursday 12th September	Bucks 11+ Exam
Monday 16th September	Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 17th September	Phonics Information Sessions for Parents of Children in Reception & KS1 9-9.30am and 2.45-3.15pm Meeting for New Nursery Parents re. Online Observations and RWInc 11.15-11.45am and 2.15-2.45pm
Wednesday 18th September	Year 5 Swimming
Thursday 19th September	Meeting for Reception Parents re. Early Essence Log In's 2-2.30pm Meet the Teacher – 2.30-2.50pm for KS1 and 2.50-3.10pm for KS2
Saturday 21st September	Berks 11+ Exam
Monday 23rd September	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 25th September	Year 5 Swimming
Thursday 26th September	Year 1 & Year 2 Road Safety Workshops (In School)
Friday 27th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning (children only) - £1 Donation

Please note staff INSET Day on Friday 25th October
(INSET means In-Service Training; school is open for teacher training but closed to pupils).

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 Sienna Monserrate (Year 3) for progressing from Stage 2 to Stage 3 in her swimming classes, having only moved into Stage 2 at the end of May. Well done Sienna.

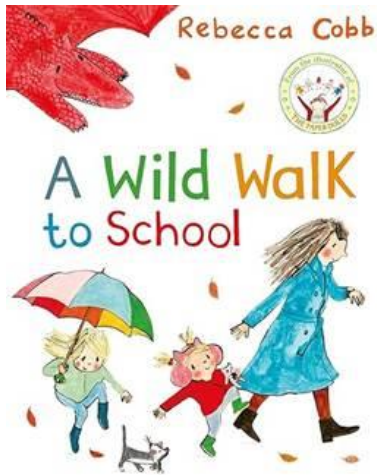
Congratulations to Daniel Brumby for progressing to Stage 4 in his swimming lessons at the beginning of the summer holidays. Well done Daniel.

Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to those children who have completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge! The project runs until 30th September, so you have time to complete it if you've already made a start. Our older children have let their teachers know but if you'd like your child recognised for their efforts, please email bethany.chandler@hfcs.org.uk to let us know once they have finished, if you have not done so already. Thank you.

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: *Rebecca Cobb*

It's time to get ready for school. Mum wants to hurry to get there on time but what she doesn't realise is that there are giants to tip-toe around and hot molten lava to avoid. A witty tale of imagination during the school run. (Age 3+). Mrs Doyle.

Start of Term Reminders

School email address school.admin@hfcs.org.uk.

If there has been any change in your child's health or medical condition, or if you have moved house or changed your mobile phone during the summer please inform Mrs Gonoud – Carole.Gonoud@hfcs.org.uk.

For children who require medication, all **Inhalers and Adrenaline auto-injectors** must be brought into school as soon as possible and given to **Mrs Gonoud in Reception**. Please ensure they are within at least three months of expiry.

Please note drop off and pick up times. The school gates will open at 8.40am. All children in Reception – Year 6 will be expected in class by 8.50am.

Please can parents remind children (and any siblings that come to school at drop off/pick up) not to cycle/scoot on school premises or play ball games at drop off/pick up times. Please can we also ensure that we are being courteous to our neighbours at all times by asking that children do not play football before the school gates open in the morning.

Reporting Absence – Reminder

It is parents' responsibility to ensure children attend school every day. Holidays must not be booked during term time. If your child is absent from school for any reason please inform Mrs Oakes (Attendance Officer) as early as is practical using our dedicated attendance email attendance@hfcs.org.uk You will receive an automated acknowledgement response. Please be assured that if your email requires a more detailed response you will be contacted in a timely manner. Thank you for your continued support. Mrs Oakes, Attendance Officer.

Please can all children have indoor shoes in school for Monday 9th September. Thank you.

Nut Aware School

Please remember that we are a nut aware school, due to some of our children having severe nut allergies. Please be mindful that some spreads and snacks do contain nuts and could be harmful to other children despite not being eaten near them. Thank you for your understanding.

Fruit, Vegetables and Drinks

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive free daily fruit or vegetable.

Children in KS2 may bring their own fruit or vegetables to eat at break time. Please remind children that they must not share food with friends. No alternatives to fruit or vegetables may be brought to school.

Children may only bring water to school in their drinks bottles; no juice or cordial. Thank you.

Book Amnesty

Please can we kindly ask families to see if they have any school reading books at home that can be returned to school. Thank you.

Road Safety

Whilst the slip road is now largely closed off to cars at school drop off/pick up times, please can parents remind children that there is still a need to be vigilant to road safety and potential danger from moving vehicles (staff and neighbours) as the slip road is not a pedestrianised area. Please can parents continue to supervise children closely and guide them not to scoot/cycle down the middle of the slip road. Everyone must remain vigilant to moving vehicles and blind spots caused by corners and parked cars.

To assist with any parking issues, The Toby has very kindly and generously agreed to allow parents to use their carpark around school drop off/pick up times. Parents may park at The Toby from 8.00-9.15am and 2.45-4pm Monday to Friday during term time only. Before parking there for the first time, please ensure that you send an email with your car registration number and car make to The Toby at langleyslough@tobycarvery.co.uk, marking the email for the attention of Wendy, and please park in the main (large) car park and not in the rear (smaller) car park as that is mainly used by Travelodge guests and for deliveries.

Thank you for your continued support.

Flu Immunisation for Children in Reception – Year 6

The date currently scheduled for your child to receive the flu immunisation in school is 17th October 2024. An online consent form from the NHS Berkshire Immunisation Team has been emailed to parents of children in Reception-Year 6 today. Consent needs to be given before 9am on 16th October 2024. Please see the letter you were emailed for further information and details regarding how to give your consent. Thank you.

Year 6

If Year 6 children are sitting the Buckinghamshire 11+ next Tuesday and Thursday mornings, please email attendance@hfcs.org.uk to notify school if you haven't already done so. Children are expected to return to school after taking both the familiarisation and 11+ exam. We wish them all good luck.

Please also notify Mrs Oakes (Attendance Officer) if your child is attending secondary school open days this term. As above, please minimise absence by returning children to school promptly after school visits.

Open Evening for Secondary Schools September 2025 Entry

If we receive any further information, or flyers, about local secondary school open evenings they will be forwarded directly to Y6 parents.

St Joseph's Catholic High School –

Please see the attached information leaflet for further details.

Uniform Reminders

On joining Holy Family School, all parents sign a Home School Agreement and part of this is an agreement to adhere to our uniform policy. Branded items are available from Aqua uniform shop in Langley and unbranded items are usually available from supermarkets.

Our uniform policy can be found here <https://www.holyfamilycatholicschool.org.uk/Uniform/>.

Thank you to everyone who has ensured children's uniform reflects our policy. All children should have indoor shoes, or slippers, as much of our school is carpeted and as soon as the weather changes it prevents mud being brought into the classrooms. PE sweatshirts must not have hoods and no jewellery, other than small stud earrings, may be worn.

Thank you for your continued support.

Meet The Teacher

On Thursday 19th September, you are invited into your child's classroom for a short meeting with their class teacher. KS1 teachers will welcome parents 2.30-2.50pm and KS2 2.50-3.10pm. If you have two children in the same key stage please feel free to spend just ten minutes in each class. This is a good opportunity to hear the expectations for your child's new year group, ask any questions you may have and get to know your child's teacher.

Raising Concerns

If you have any concerns during the academic year your child's class teacher, and/or member of support staff, should be your first contact and the most likely people who will be able to answer your query or solve your problems swiftly. If, after raising concerns with the staff who work with your children daily, issues are not resolved please contact Mrs Gonoud (School Receptionist Carole.Gonoud@hfcs.org.uk) to make an appointment with your child's Phase Leader. Thank you.

Phase Leaders

Mrs Scott is phase leader for EYFS (Nursery and Reception)

Mrs Powell is phase leaders for KS1 (Years 1 and 2)

Miss Dardis is phase leader for Years 3 and 4

Mrs Fox is phase leader for Years 5 and 6

Extra Curricular Activities

Extra Curricular Activities commence from Monday 16th September. Parents will be contacted directly by the Activity provider or our new Get Active PE Teacher, Mr Holder, and told which activities their child has been enrolled by the end of next week.

KS2 Invite Only Clubs

Please see the attached letter regarding lunchtime trials for the invite only clubs. These are scheduled to take place next week at lunchtimes.

PE Kits

From next week, the children need to come into school wearing their PE kits on the days that they have PE. They do not need to bring uniform to change into and will stay in their kits for the whole day. Please see the table below to check what days your child has PE lessons.

Teacher	Day/s
Reception Mrs Harris	Tuesday
Reception Mrs Scott	Monday
Y1 Mrs Hume	Tuesday and Thursday
Y1 Mrs Hendy	Monday and Thursday
Y2 Miss Macfarlane	Tuesday and Friday
Y2 Mrs Powell	Tuesday and Thursday
Y3 Ms Iqbal	Tuesday and Wednesday
Y3 Mrs Martinez / Mrs Kukla	Monday and Wednesday
Y4 Miss Dardis	Monday and Thursday
Y4 Mrs Green/Mrs Evans	Monday and Friday
Y5 Mrs O'Reilly	Wednesday and Friday
Y5 Mrs Fox	Wednesday and Friday
Y6 Miss Caswell/Mrs Doyle	Thursday
Y6 Mrs Ragg	Thursday

Please note there may be special events, e.g. attending mass at Holy Family Church, when children will be required to bring uniform or a PE kit to change into. Thank you, Mrs Hume.

Meal Portal

If your child is new to the school, please register your child on the meal portal as soon as possible so meal selections can be made. May I ask all parents to go onto the portal to check that your child is in the correct class and change it if necessary.

A gentle reminder that:

- if your child is in Reception to Year 2 and in receipt of Universal Free School meals, you still need to register and make meal selections please
- if your child is in Year 3 to Year 6, lunches are payable at £2.35 per day unless your child is eligible for Free School Meals. Payments are made directly to Colham Catering
- if your child is eligible for benefit related Free School Meals, please register on the portal then email them using the address below to notify them of this. They will then indicate receipt of FSM and you can then make meal selections

Please be aware that the meat options have Halal available. This is indicated by a small icon to the left of the meal choice.

The portal ordering closes every morning at 9am, after which changes for that day cannot be made. Meal selections can be made in advance for the entire term.

If you are experiencing any issues, please contact Colham Catering direct via email Colhamcatering@colham.org.

Thank you for your continued support. Mrs Fletcher-White

Other

Toilet Training Intervention Workshops For Parents Of Children With Additional Needs Over 4 Years Old

Please see the attached flyer for further information.

Full Court Connections Basketball Club

Please see the attached leaflet if your child is interested in playing basketball.