



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.11

Friday 29th November 2024

Dear Parents,

We've had a wonderful and very busy week in school. It has been a joy to see children begin to make Christmas decorations and see the hall busy with children rehearsing for their Christmas nativities.

Thank you to all those who celebrated the Feast of Christ the King at the 11.30am Youth Sunday Mass at Holy Family Church last week; it was lovely to see past pupils and staff again. Thank you also to our Year 6 Faith Ambassadors who spoke after the Gospel and signed the Hail Mary; you all did a fantastic job and represented our school so well. To have the opportunity to reconnect with staff and children who have left our school was lovely and hopefully we will continue to strengthen the ambition of lifelong belonging to our school and parish community through an annual reunion/alumni Mass on the Feast of Christ the King.

Year 6 had a wonderful day on Monday, as they came to school as World War II evacuees! They looked fantastic in their costumes and many had made gas mask boxes and evacuee labels to wear. During the day the children had the opportunity to make their own gas masks and create some Blitz art, amidst being interrupted by the air raid siren and having to cower under desks! They ended their day with learning the lindy-hop as part of a tea-dance, and having a World War II sing-a-long.

On Wednesday, our Year 6 children also enjoyed an afternoon at Langley Free Church where they learned about the true meaning of Christmas in a fun, interactive way. The children enjoyed many activities such as: making Christmas cookies, learning a rap and even took part in a couple of quizzes. They thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon, saying it was 'an amazing experience' and 'it was incredibly funny.' Thank you, Langley Free Church for the effort and enthusiasm you put into the Christmas Unwrapped afternoon for our children every year - we really appreciate it!

Today, our Nursery children learnt about St Andrew and how he became the Saint of Scotland and fishermen. They looked at where Scotland is on a map, looked at the Scottish flag and made their own, and decorated bookmarks that the Faith Ambassador for Nursery, Hollie (Year

6), gave to them as a gift to colour in and keep. They enjoyed wearing their blue and white clothes to school too.

Thank you to all our Parents who support events in school by providing costumes, assisting classes walk to the library, supporting football fixtures and much more.

Senior leaders spent Wednesday hosting two visiting professionals from St Thomas Academies Trust as we completed a collaborative Early Reading Review. The focus was how well we teach reading to our youngest pupils in addition to how the teaching of reading is continued throughout KS2. The review was very successful and provided external validation that staff are knowledgeable and highly skilled at teaching reading from Reception to Year 6. It was also noted that the culture of behaviour and conduct means children are enabled and "children's daily diet is really reliable, resulting in cumulative knowledge and skills".

A gentle reminder that we are inviting children to wear their own clothes to school next Friday (6th December) in exchange for bringing in donations to support our Love Christmas Campaign (further details in this newsletter). Thank you.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless,

Mrs Benn

Prayer

This Sunday marks the start of Advent in the Catholic Church. As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, may I encourage you to pray an Advent prayer with your children. In the lead up to Christmas, your family may also like to consider using an Advent Calendar with a daily reflection, or completing some of the advent activities from the links below.

Children's Advent Prayer

My little Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You for this Advent season. Please help me to understand all that You have done for me. Your loving mother held You in her heart and brought You into this world. Help me to do the same.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. Draw me close to You and help me to see my sins so that I can change the things that You want me to change.

Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent so that I may do all that God wants me to do. You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you. Please pray for me that I may do the same.

Come, Lord Jesus,
I love You, Jesus.
Amen.

CAFOD Interactive Advent Calendar: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

CELEBRATE's Online Family Pack for Advent

www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks It's packed full of things to do, pray, read and watch to help families prepare for the Feast of the Nativity.

The Advent Matchbox Manger is a prayer resource that can be used in families, schools and in children's liturgy. Children can download and cut out the manger and baby Jesus.

www.celebratetrust.org/celebrate-prayer-resources

DIARY DATES

Sunday 1st December	First Sunday of Advent
Monday 2nd December	Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 3rd December	Year 6 Class (Mrs Ragg) Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 4th December	Year 6 Visit to Battle of Britain Bunker Year 5 Swimming PTA Pantomime – Dick Whittington at The Theatre Royal Windsor 7pm
Friday 6th December	Mufti Day (if you are able to, please bring in a donation for the Love Christmas Campaign)
Sunday 8th December	Second Sunday of Advent
Monday 9th December	Week 2 of the Menu Extra Curricular Activities Finish This Week
Tuesday 10th December	EYFS Nativity for Parents 2pm
Wednesday 11th December	EYFS Nativity for Parents 10am Year 5 Swimming
Thursday 12th December	KS1 Nativity for Parents 10am KS1 Nativity for Parents 2pm
Sunday 15th December	Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday
Monday 16th December	Week 1 of the Menu EYFS Party Day & Magician Year 2 Explorer Day
Tuesday 17th December	Year 1 – Year 6 Party Day (Children may wear Christmas jumpers and/or own clothes)
Wednesday 18th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch (Children may wear Christmas Jumpers and/or own clothes)
Thursday 19th December	Term Ends for Nursery Year 6 WW2 Christmas Show for Parents 6pm (At School)
Friday 20th December	Advent Term Ends for Reception to Year 6 12.15pm
Christmas Holidays: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025	

Monday 6th January 2025

Lent Term Starts for Nursery – Year 6 / The Feast of the Epiphany

Monday 20th January 2025

SCHOOL CLOSED – STAFF INSET DAY

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 for reaching Stage 5 in his swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Igor Malec who plays for Slough Hurricanes U7's and showed great focus and commitment during his recent match and was named Man of The Match.

Congratulations to Jessica Borah for achieving her Black Belt in Choi Kwan Do.

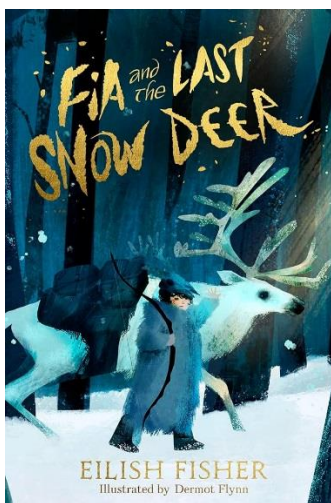
Congratulations to Charlotte Chandler for moving to the next level in her swimming lessons.

Weekly Sports Update

Our Year 5 & 6 Girls Football team were put to the test this week against a great Langley Heritage team. Despite nearly all of our team being a year younger than their opponents, they showed grit and determination throughout the whole match. Nifemi and Evie both had outstanding performances in goal, with both of them making multiple top tier saves. Well done girls, we go again next time! 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: Eilish Fisher

Illustrator: Dermot Flynn

Set in prehistoric Ireland during an endless winter, Fia and her snow deer set out on a perilous adventure to find the Deer Mother and bring warmth and hope back to her people. (Age 9+). Mrs Doyle.

Wednesday Word

Nathan in Year 6 has written a beautiful letter to us all this week.

Dear Parents/Carers,

This Sunday is the start of the season of ADVENT, a word which means 'important arrival'. ADVENT is the time to start making preparations to celebrate Christ's birth – God's momentous arrival into our world in the person of Jesus. The Gospel reminds us that there is no time to lose. We shouldn't put off our good resolutions until New Year. Now, ADVENT, is the time to think about the way we live our lives and begin to make any necessary changes.

ADVENT reminds us that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, into our world. Let's use this season of ADVENT to be open to welcome him, to make a fresh start and to draw closer to God, through living a good life!

Wednesday Word is ADVENT.

Jesus said to his disciples, "There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars. Then people will see the Son of Man returning in the clouds with power and great glory. You must always be ready, because only my Heavenly Father knows when this will happen."

ADVENT is a journey towards Bethlehem. The Birth of Jesus brings us the good news that we are loved immensely by God. Each ADVENT we think about Mary and Joseph's difficult journey to Bethlehem. This ADVENT, let us pray especially for all those people who have been forced to make dangerous journeys, similar to that of Mary and Joseph, to find safety.

Thank you all for listening to me.

Yours sincerely, Nathan Philmon (Faith Ambassador)

Jubilee Year

Next year - 2025 - is a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church and Pope Francis has called it a 'Year of Hope'. On Monday our recently appointed Faith Ambassadors led our KS2 assembly all about this special event. They explained a Jubilee Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026. The launch date for schools is Friday 24th January 2025. We will be planning events to mark this special Jubilee. We look forward to the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Year 6 PGL Trip

A polite reminder that the next installment for the May 2025 residential trip is due by 30th November and can be paid via ParentPay. Thank you.

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- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JVeDu9GL/iQKdSeKe B- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rIE3sJt7/piDIDXPm F- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qoKFXKpz/wiTGlM76 E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IWdojHMx/AT8jhRdI
Mrs Scott	Set 1	E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IWdojHMx/AT8jhRdI J- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/TaPBcaMg/GrULiJHP X- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IBR3pFj6/5NrUTvCq G- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rOeNtzDB/H3jTPV4C
Mrs Mulrooney	Word Time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/zjdV1jhH/k2nemi4m https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/UspbWyNB/tibEm8yf https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1SGYUzSj/RGu6c5NP
Mrs Hendy	Ditties	CH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/cCl1nvAQ/RTkkcJUc NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/X1AnpJ81/9aZ9INds QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/hmhTseFM/QW1sRIFT TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/iymsGc6D/RiHhxD7
Mrs Crow Mrs Keogh	Green Pink	AY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/U1V7WIVC/M9dBCh2Q EE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qhIPsL0t/LuzZnNBw IGH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4rbclWxb/u9TXF8qG OW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yfa5dc01/50YQJfeo
Mrs Wilson Mrs Birch Mrs Hogg	Orange Yellow Grey	OA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/zXxi59su/7QIE14JT EW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/oPujJRnz/psxVjOeb IRE – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Vje1T9QJ/UHwLmR5R EAR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dj3pg3qK/CyZqX0zo

Year 1 Jolly Post Office Opens Monday 2nd December

Year 1 are running a Jolly Post Office this Christmas to deliver the Christmas cards in school.

If you would like to use it, please follow these instructions.

1. Put the name on the envelope for who it is for.
2. Add a surname or initial if there are two children with the same name in the class.
3. Put on the **class postcode**, so you don't need to write the teacher's name.

(It also makes it easier for the Year 1 sorting)

Class Postcodes:

NAM – Morning Nursery	NPM – Afternoon Nursery
REH/ES – Ms Herring and Mrs Scott	RDH – Mrs Harris
1LH – Mrs Hume	1CH – Mrs Hendy
2MM – Miss Macfarlane	2DP – Mrs Powell
3MM/RK – Mrs Martinez and Mrs Kukla	3SI – Ms Iqbal
4CD – Miss Dardis	4MEG – Mrs Green/Mrs Evans
5TF – Mrs Fox	5DO'R – Mrs O'Reilly

4. Post them in the post box, which will be outside the main front door at the start of the day. The post box will be open from **Monday 2nd December** until **Wednesday 18th December**. We hope you use it, as we are looking forward to sorting and delivering the cards. Thank you, Year 1.

EYFS/KS1 Nativities

We are looking forward to seeing our EYFS and KS1 parents attend their children's nativity during the week beginning 9th December. Please note that we will not be filming our nativities. We want you to come and enjoy them. Parents are welcome to film if they stand at the back of the hall. Parents must not stand in the seating area, or hold phones or iPads up to film from the seating area, as this obscures the view of those behind. No photograph or films may be posted on any social media site. This would be a breach of privacy. All photographs and/or recordings may only be taken of you own child for personal use. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

Christmas Party Hats/Clothes/Food

Please can your child make a Christmas Party Hat to wear on their Christmas Party Day, which will take place on:

Monday 16th December: EYFS

Tuesday 17th December: Year 1 - Year 6

Children may wear Christmas jumpers and/or their own clothes on party day. Please note, break times will be as normal so warm clothes are essential. Only flat, sensible shoes that children can run around in may be worn.

It will be normal school lunch arrangements on party days. Thank you.

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper/Own Clothes Day

Whole-school Christmas lunch will be served to all full time pupils on Wednesday 18th December free of charge, this includes our full time Nursery children. A letter was sent home with children this week detailing the meal options. Please complete the reply slip on this letter and return it to your child's class teacher no later than Wednesday 11th December. Please note if you have already ordered a lunch for this day on the Colham Catering Portal you need to untick to cancel the order. Orders will not be taken from their system for Christmas lunch so you must complete the reply slip on the letter sent home. A copy of this letter is attached to the newsletter.

On this day, children may wear either a Christmas jumper and/or their own choice of clothes.

Thank you.

Love Christmas Campaign – Bags of Kindness – Friday 6th December MUFTI DAY

We would like to build on your wonderful generosity last year and request your help in supporting the Diocesan Love Christmas Campaign again this year. On Friday 6th December, we invite children to wear their own clothes to school in exchange for bringing in donations of much needed gifts to put smiles on the faces of young families, children and the elderly living in isolation and poverty, as well as young people leaving the care system and living

alone, and young carers who do so much all year round for others and have little time to actually be a child.

Donations needed include a range of small items such as: selection boxes, small toys, books, games, colouring books, puzzles, shortbread, biscuits, sweets or chocolate, clothing such as scarfs, hats, gloves, games that can be played as a family, make up, nail varnish, hand cream and other treats, with the goal of both helping each recipient to feel the warmth of human connection and the joy of Christmas and to know that someone is thinking of them and cares for them.

Please can we kindly ask that all donations be brought into school on or before Friday 6th December and passed to either your child's class teacher or the School Office (please do not wrap any gifts).

Please contact Mrs Chandler (bethany.chandler@hfcs.org.uk) if you have any queries.

We will be very grateful for any donations received, whether it be one item or several. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Nursery and School Admission for September 2025

Admission to Reception September 2025

The above admission round is now open and closes on 15th January 2025. You must apply via your local authority website completing a Common Application Form (CAF) for a place in a Reception class to start September 2025.

In addition to completing a CAF, please complete our Supplementary Form (Called 'Reception School Supplementary Form 2025 2026' on our website) and return with the relevant supporting documents to Holy Family Catholic School by 15th January 2025. Reception Supplementary Forms can be obtained from the school website or the school office.

Admission to Nursery September 2025

The Nursery 2025 admission round is now open. Nursery application forms can be obtained from the school website or the school office; please complete our Application Form and return with the relevant supporting documents by 15th January 2025.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Pantomime Update – Tickets Have Been Put In School/Book Bags

Thank you to EVERYONE who bought tickets for the pantomime at The Theatre Royal Windsor, which will be a performance of Dick Whittington on Wednesday 4th December at 7pm <https://theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/dick-whittington-24/>. Your tickets were sent home in your children's school/book bags this week, so please look out for them. If you purchased Pantomime tickets and have not received them, please contact school (at School.Admin@holyfamilycatholicschool.org.uk) asap. Thanks for your support – Holy Family PTA.

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

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust are pleased to launch their Train to Teach programme for September 2025. If you are thinking about becoming a teacher, this is a fantastic opportunity to train in one of our schools with great help and support along the way. We will be hosting a number of open mornings in December, January and February, which is the perfect opportunity to find out more about what the training programme involves and how to

apply. More information is available in the leaflet attached or go to www.stcat.co.uk/become-a-teacher for further information.

OTHER

Langley Football Club U7s/U9s Are Recruiting

Please see attached flyer for more information.

Volunteering Opportunities in Slough

If you are interested in volunteering, please see the information attached to this newsletter about a forthcoming volunteer fayre being delivered by Slough CVS in conjunction with Slough Family Hubs.