



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.12

Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

A big thank you to everyone for your overwhelming generosity to the Caritas Northampton Love Christmas 2024 Campaign. Thank you for providing gifts and edible treats to be included in 'Bags of Kindness' for people living in poverty and/or loneliness in our local area. One of the AOC rooms is now full of donations. We really appreciate your tremendous kindness when there is a cost of living crisis and so many other pressures on families.

School now looks very festive. Children enjoyed touring school this morning to look at all the beautiful decorations they had made earlier in the week. Thank you to staff for decorating the school last night amidst a busy week of Nativity rehearsals, school trips and the usual teaching workload of the school week.

Kieran, our parish worker, came into school on Monday of this week to lead two beautiful Advent Liturgies – one for Nursery – Year 2 and a separate one for Years 3-6. He reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas, and what is required of us during Advent, the time when we prepare for Jesus' birth. We lit our Advent Wreath which will stay on display in the hall until the end of term.

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the RAF WWII Bunker in Uxbridge on Wednesday of this week where, as always, they represented our school beautifully. You can read more about this event later in the newsletter.

We have received thanks from the Cippenham Royal British Legion Branch for supporting the Royal British Legion Slough Poppy Appeal 2024. With your generous support, we raised £250.26 from the sale of poppies and other poppy items. Thank you to Eliza and Sara from Year 6, who are our school councillors, and who did a fantastic job of supervising the collections each morning and afternoon.

Many of our families enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Pantomime (Dick Whittington) at the Theatre Royal Windsor on Wednesday evening thanks to Melanie White (Jude's Mum), who for several years now has organised this event; this entails a large amount of work, which has

already started for next year. We sincerely thank Mel for being so generous with her time so that our families can enjoy such a brilliant night - thank you!

Wishing you a joyful weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

Children's Advent Prayer

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>

DIARY DATES

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 (Final Week)
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

Sunday 22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Extra Curricular Activities

Please note that this term's Extra Curricular Activities finish next week (Friday 13th December). A letter will be sent home next week detailing the clubs for the Lent term.

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

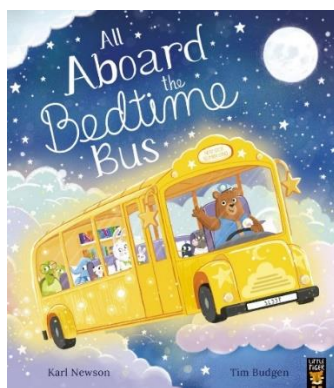
Congratulations to Philo Anthony who recently participated in a Fancy Dress Competition as part of a Christmas celebration organised by Reading Tamil Catholics Group. Philo played King Caspar, one of the magi who visited baby Jesus.

Congratulations to Taksh Jain who has progressed from Stage 1 to Stage 2 in swimming lessons within a very short time.

Congratulations to Xavier Smith for scoring all three goals for Ascot United U7's team in their win at the weekend. Xavier worked tirelessly throughout the game in both attacking and defending, and was named Man of the Match.

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: Karl Newson

Illustrator: Tim Budgen

It's time for bed, and what better way to get there than on the bus to Snoozyville and Slumber Land? All aboard! A cosy bedtime book with a rhyming text, perfect for helping with the bedtime routine. (Age 3+).

Wednesday Word

We have a beautiful letter written by Sara (Year 6) this week:

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we all know, we are coming to the end of the first week of Advent, and all the classrooms are preparing for Christmas, but, many years ago, John the Baptist, a Prophet, did the same thing. He was preparing everyone for Jesus' birth.

John did it in a very different way though. He crossed the whole Jordan district, baptising people to wash away their sins, preparing them for Christ's birth.

Our Wednesday word is Preparation.

"At the time when Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor of Judaea, there was a man called John who lived in the desert. God spoke to him and told him to preach to the beloved people of God for the coming of Jesus. He told him to change their lives and turn it back to God".

This week of preparation is the time to wash our sins, ask for forgiveness and renew our relationship with God and Christ. It's a time to remember that Jesus was born to die for us.

Thank you for listening to me.

Your Faithful Faith Ambassador,

Sara

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 Battle of Britain Bunker Visit

On Wednesday, Year 6 visited the RAF Bunker Museum in Uxbridge, and had a wonderful time. They spent half the day in the on-site classroom, where they learned all about the Battle of Britain and the crucial role that the Bunker played in Britain's victory. They spend the other half of the day visiting the museum, looking at the artefacts and equipment that was used by the people working at the bunker during the war. They were also able to go down the 76 steps into the underground bunker itself, and look where Winston Churchill watched while planes were expertly deployed to defend Britain from the Nazi Luftwaffe. The trip added a great insight into WWII and enriched their History topic.

Year 6 WWII Christmas Show

We are looking forward to seeing our Year 6 parents attend their children's WWII Christmas Show on Thursday 19th December at 6pm. Parents are welcome to film the show if they stand at the back of the hall. Parents must not stand in the seating area, or hold phones or iPads up to record from the seating area, as this obscures the view of those behind. No photographs 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.

Year 6 PGL Trip

A polite reminder that the next installment (to be paid via ParentPay) for the May 2025 residential trip was due by 30th November. 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	J- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/havZiIqW/0roVgRoq R- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xBwjNto5/kmC5ajDF H- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Kt6TdZZS/YBp6cRES L- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GA6jSo5H/0NSJ4uhM
Mrs Scott	Set 1	N- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HORA4XcR/NrHQZv5W F- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OldqqSwS/wYKtFt1c E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/AihBjKil/xqFeeS4T V- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MRFn3hML/iHSyIcFg
Mrs Mulrooney	Word Time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/TYKx7V1c/2NrfGVOJ https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0E7prDTj/hev97e6T https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/PynGVPJW/9x3W0dN9 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rxnTN0Pz/kdEGIIiR
Mrs Hendy	Ditties	NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/z8kpuinp/JCJowGUt NK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/t61KjdpH/Wevm2nGp QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JWrmderp/K8ezvQxx TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/eTw94LHQ/78SY0PGi
Mrs Crow	Green	OO - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xOfnivlu/xfgwIBIm OO- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FL5kwe7R/We5OKEGB AR - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MxbOx6TP/LdFW58Ww OR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HI8q1DaC/EXL7r4bI
Mrs Keogh	Pink	EA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/j96d1o3t/8s0tHW3D A-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/np83jbW2/8LtbFQ8f I-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4pUQXb8S/Bkfa8omb O-E - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/z5FqbPWS/S7fkbQPT
Mrs Birch	Yellow	URE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/iZRAxa8o/xIvmaOYn TION- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DGyghStT/KhSRPhWb EA – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Z1C3GID3/EFTt5HCA A-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4E7oPknq/qnOjccBP

Mrs Wilson Mrs Hogg	Orange Grey	URE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/iZRAXa8o/xIvmaOYn TION https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DGyghStT/KhSRPhWb TIOUS https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QChtZtbp/hwR4CTzC AU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2J3HaWt5/UcecOcaH
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Year 1 Jolly Post Office

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
6SCD – Mrs Doyle / Miss Caswell	6SR – Mrs Ragg

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 next week. 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.

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

Thank you so much to all our children and their families and Holy Family staff who joined us at Dick Wittington at the Theatre Royal Windsor on Wednesday night. It was a truly wonderful evening as always and really got everyone in the mood for Christmas!

We had Charlotte from Year 4, someone from Mrs Fletcher-White's family, and Keeley from Year 6 join Kevin Cruise on the stage with their Golden tickets, and we also enjoyed a big shout out to Holy Family School and a birthday mention for former HFCS pupil Ollie Ford.

This event raised nearly £1500 for the PTA, money that will directly benefit your children and Holy Family school, while still offering you very competitively priced tickets.

We have already secured our tickets for next year's performance of Cinderella on Wednesday 3 December so please Save The Date!

Thanks so much for your support from the Holy Family PTA

Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas cards and other items with their child's artwork on. A total of £299 was raised for the school. Thank you for your support.

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

NHS Berkshire – The Health Bus

The Health Bus will be visiting Slough on 9th December to deliver the flu vaccinations for those who have already completed a consent form but missed their school session – please see attached poster for further details.