



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.2

Friday 13th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The whole school is far more settled than this week's weather! We have experienced all four seasons. Children are settling into good routines and everyone is becoming more familiar with their new year groups and staff teams. We are most impressed with how well Reception have adopted the myriad of new routines they have faced. We have enjoyed meeting and welcoming all our new Nursery children (and families) who have started this week. We hope our youngest children soon make friends and feel comfortable with our staff. Our newsletter is emailed to all parents weekly, in addition to being added to the website. This aims to be our main communication with parents.

Next week brings multiple opportunities for parents to engage with teachers and start/continue working in close partnership with staff to ensure children get the best school experience possible. Two Read Write Inc sessions will be held on **Tuesday** and 'Meet the Teacher' meetings take place at various times next **Thursday**; parents are warmly encouraged to attend. **Please note the Nursery and Reception Online Observation meetings have been cancelled until further notice.** Education is a three-way partnership between staff, parents and children. Children make most progress when they are willing participants and adults facilitate and support learning. We implore all parents to find ten minutes daily to practice phonics or listen to each child read. Thank you in anticipation.

We kindly ask everyone to pay attention to our uniform policy and ensure children meet the expectations by the end of September.

Today, a number of our Year 6 children sat their Buckinghamshire 11 +. They have worked hard through the summer in preparation, and so please join with staff in praying they stay calm and are able to do their best in their assessments.

Much of this week's newsletter is repeated from last week as some parents reported not receiving the emailed newsletter last week and Nursery have joined over the course of this week. If you stop receiving our weekly emailed newsletter, please let Mrs Gonoud know.

Extra-curricular activities start next week and we hope children enjoy them.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

God bless,

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

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
Wednesday 18th September	Year 5 Swimming
Thursday 19th September	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
Monday 30th September	Week 2 of the Menu
Friday 4th October	CAFOD Family Fast Day Mass 11am (KS2 only)

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 Avia Dijo (Year 2) for successfully completing Beginner Chess Level.

Congratulations to Sienna Bachetta (Year 3) who recently progressed to Stage 3 in her swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Jessica Borah (Year 4) for progressing to Stage 5 in her swimming lessons and showing tremendous commitment towards completing lessons on Reading Eggs.

Congratulations to Samuel Hill (Year 4) for passing his Bronze Street Dance exam with a Commended grade.

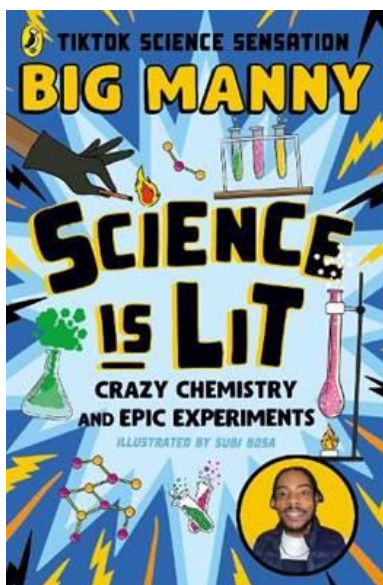
Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-Curricular Activities commence from Monday 16th September. Parents should have already been contacted directly by the Activity provider or our new Get Active PE Teacher, Mr Holder, to confirm which activities their child has been enrolled on.

Mr Holder had a great response for the KS2 club trials held this week and distributed letters for the invite-only clubs yesterday. We are sorry for any disappointment caused yet hope parents and children understand that each club has a maximum number for after school clubs. If places become available, they will be offered to KS2 children. 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: Big Manny

Illustrator: Subi Bosa

A super-fun and highly educational book which makes science accessible, cool and shows children that they don't need fancy equipment to have a lot of fun with experiments. (age 9+)

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2024 (Children Only)

We would like to support the Macmillan Coffee Morning in school.

All children will be given a cake/doughnut on Friday 27th September and we would like to suggest that, in return, children make a voluntary donation (suggested donation £1).

If families would like to donate cakes or doughnuts to be given out on the Friday, please can these kindly be brought into school on Thursday 26th September and taken directly to the AOC (the classroom opposite the dining room). **All items must be nut free and clearly display all ingredients.** If you need any containers to be returned to you, please ensure these are clearly labelled with your child's name and class. Thank you for your support.

Children's Safety at the End of the Day

Please can parents remember to pass a signed consent form to Mrs Gonoud if they intend for their child to walk home from school unaccompanied. The forms can be obtained from reception. Please also remind children that they should return to school immediately if they are outside school and have become separated from their parent/carer or experience any other issues.

Please be reminded that children are not allowed to play on the adventure playground or with playground equipment when waiting at the end of the day. They are only allowed to play on the climbing equipment when accompanied by a member of school staff and we would appreciate you reminding your children to wait with their adult if waiting for older siblings.

Year 6 Secondary Transfer and School Visits

Year 6 children will need to complete a **Common Application Form** for secondary school **before 31st October** via your own local authority. Any parents of pupils who attend Holy Family School but live outside Slough should contact their home authority for a CAF.

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

Nursery and School Admission for September 2025

Admission to Reception September 2025

The above admission round opens on the 15th of September 2024 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 Application 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.

E-safety

This week in school children have been considering e-safety, and the safe and responsible use of technology. E-safety is about behaviour as much as electronic security. As parents, it is important to have clear, simple rules for the technology your children have access to, to be aware of what they are using and to keep communication open. Talk to your children about online behaviour. Throughout our e-safety lessons we emphasise that children should tell an adult if they are upset by what they have seen online.

We have used resources from thinkuknow.co.uk and childnet.com which both have resources and advice for parents and carers and copies of some videos we have used.

Please take the time to ask your children what they have talked about.

Non-smartphone (Dumb) Phones

With Christmas approaching and possibly phones on some of our older children's wish lists, which phone to purchase is worth careful consideration. With the potential 'over-exposure' to some adult content, the challenges of monitoring phone usage and the sometimes negative impact on impressionable young minds, there is a move to recommending 'Dumb' phones over Smartphones. Although the word 'Dumb' not acceptable language in school, the idea of phones that are limited to the 3Ts of Talk, Text and Track are worth considering as a first phone.

The remainder of this newsletter is a repeat of last week's newsletter; mainly start of term reminders.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

PE Kits

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

Year 6

Please 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.

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 bask