



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.3

Friday 20th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a wonderful sunny week in school this week, as children and adults are settled and routines are established. The busy-ness of our school has resumed with many extra-curricular clubs happening before school, at lunchtime and after school – it is wonderful to see so many children engaged in the clubs that we offer.

We have welcomed many visitors this week. Three strategic leaders from St Thomas all visited separately with slightly different remits. They were all super impressed with the teamwork that was evident amongst staff and the happiness and confidence of your children.

Thank you to those parents who have visited school during this week for the various meetings we have held: EYFS parents attended a meeting about our phonics programme: Read Write Inc, and many parents came to 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. If you were unable to attend any of these meetings, please – in the first instance – check our school website for any relevant information and then contact your child's class teacher if you have any further questions.

We are thinking especially of a number of our Year 6 children this week as many of them have been sitting various 11+ exams. The Slough Consortium exam happens this weekend; we keep these children in our thoughts and prayers, as we remind them that they can only do their best and trust in God's plan for them.

We would like to remind parents and pupils about our uniform policy, particularly in regards to jewellery. As a reminder: Earrings should be small, plain studs; they should not be worn on days when there is PE or Swimming. No other jewellery should be worn. We ask for your support in upholding this policy. A small number of children are also wearing smart watches to school. We ask that no watch that connects to another device, such as a phone or tablet, be worn in school. Thank you.

On Friday of next week, 27th September, we will be raising money for Macmillan with our annual cake sale. Contrary to what was shared in last week's newsletter, could all cake donations be brought by the children into their classrooms on Friday morning. All cash donations should be made via ParentPay. Please see below for more information about this event.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

Prayer

As the 21st September is the International Day of Peace, we pray for peace around the world. The theme for this year is 'Cultivating a Culture of Peace', so we use the word of St Francis of Assisi to help us pray:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 21st September	Berks 11+ Exam
Monday 23rd September	Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 24th September	Year 6 Stixx Workshop (At School)
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 via Parent Pay (please no cash donations)
Monday 30th September	Week 2 of the Menu
Wednesday 2nd October	Year 5 Swimming
Friday 4th October	Reception Class (Mrs Scott/Miss Herring) Saint's Day – St Francis of Assisi CAFOD Family Fast Day Mass at Holy Family Church 10am (KS2 only)
Monday 7th October	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 9th October	Year 5 Swimming
Thursday 10th October	Year 6 Talent Show Parents Welcome 9am
Friday 11th October	Year 6 Class (Mrs Doyle/Miss Caswell) Saint's Day – Blessed Carlo Acutis

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

We have several fantastic achievements to celebrate this week.

Congratulations to Taksh Jain (Reception) for completing his Pre-School swimming lessons and continuing with Stage 1.

Congratulations to Megan Stanczuk (Year 1) and Anthony Armstrong (Year 2) for progressing from Stage 1 to Stage 2 in their swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Zyana Masih (Year 3) for progressing from Stage 2 to Stage 3 in a short time in her swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Abigail Dsouza (Year 3) for progressing from Stage 4 to Stage 5 in her swimming lessons.

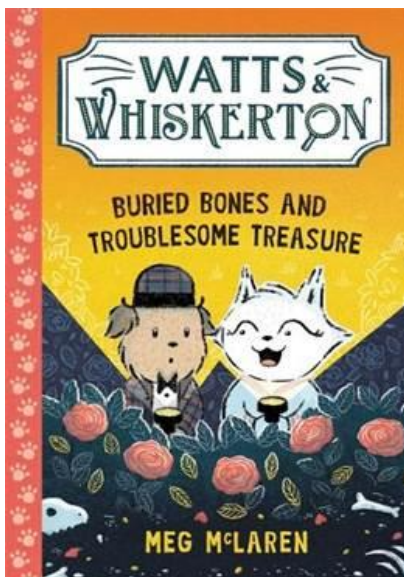
Congratulations to Elsie Davies (Year 4) for being selected to be a dancer in the Annie musical at the Wycombe Swan. Elsie is also in the School of Rock production with the Richings Players.

Congratulations to Reese Singh (Year 5) for completing her Stage 6 swimming lessons and moving to Stage 7.

Congratulations to Tashi Jain (Year 6) for completing her Level 5 swimming lessons and moving to Stage 6.

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: *Meg McLaren*

Watts the dog and Pearl Whiskerton the cat investigate the mystery of the bones buried at Whiskerton Manor. Will they save the day? (Age 6+). Mrs Doyle.

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Congratulations to the following children from Nursery – Year 6 who completed the Summer Reading Challenge this year: Alice Brumby, William Chandler, Max Stacey, Ellie Rana, Haleema Ahmed, Nick Brumby, Maria Teresa Kiran, Krishab Khanal, Clara Ainsworth, Abigail Dsouza,

Zyana Masih, Noah Iftikhar, Daniel Brumby, Charlotte Chandler, Ananya Gunanathan, Anniyah Sheikh, Teya Stacey, Reese Singh, Jovan Nzekwe, Nifemi Tijani, Martina Gomez.

Thanks to those parents who were able to support us in this. Mrs Doyle.

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2024 (Children Only)

On Friday 27th September, the children will be taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. All children will be given a cake/doughnut and we would like to suggest that, in return, children make a voluntary donation (suggested donation £1).

In order for this to be a success we would appreciate any donations of cakes for the children to enjoy with their friends in their class. **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. Please can cakes be brought to your child's class on the day and not the AOC suite as previously mentioned - apologies for any confusion.

As we are now a cashless school, monetary donations will need to be made via Parent Pay please. Please help us raise as much money as possible for this worthy cause. Many thanks for your support.

Year 1 Behaviour Steps

As children move from Reception to Year 1, our approach to maintaining and encouraging good behaviour changes. Today, Year 1 children have brought home a copy of the Behaviour Steps which are used from Year 1 – Year 6. Our full Behaviour Policy is available in the Parents' Information section of the school's website.

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 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.

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. 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.

PARISH NEWS

HARVEST FESTIVAL: WEEKEND OF 28th/29th SEPTEMBER in support of SLOUGH FOODBANK

We will be asking you to bring three items to whatever Mass you attend next weekend as donations to Slough Foodbank.

Furthermore, you are invited to wear national costumes to our 11.30am Mass on 29th September.

Reference form for St. Joseph's Catholic High School. If your daughter or son is now in year 6 and you are considering applying for a place at St. Joseph's School for next year you will require Fr. Kevin to sign a reference form stating that you attend Mass at Holy Family on a regular basis. You can bring the form **any Tuesday evening during October (between 6pm and 8pm).**

IF YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER IS YEAR 3 YOU MAY WISH TO ENROL HIM/HER IN OUR FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME.

Enrolment will take place on 4th, 5th and 6th November (4pm – 6.30pm) but you will need to book an appointment. Please ring Lisa or Kieran (01753-543770) any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 9am and 2pm.

First Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, 8th March 2025 at 10am

First Holy Communion weekend will be 14th/15th June

OTHER

HomeStart Berkshire East – Volunteer Training Course

If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours a week to support a local family, please see the attached leaflet.