



## Holy Family Catholic Primary School

**Advent Term**

**Newsletter No.5**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Dear Parents,

We have had a great week in school, and we hope you have had a good week too.

Thank you so much to all our parents and children who supported CAFOD Family Fast Day today by donating money and allowing your children to come to school wearing something bright. A CAFOD strap line is: A better, brighter world takes all of us. Children in Years 3 – 6 walked to church to join the parish mass and behaved impeccably and reverently; they were all a credit to you. It really was a beautiful mass. Readers were clear and confident. Hymns were joyful, especially our final hymn which was Rise and Shine. Once again we see the impact of working in partnership: Miss Caswell and Mrs Fox rehearsed hymns with KS2, Mrs O'Reilly planned the mass with Kieran and rehearsed readers and parents helped supervise children walk to church. We are definitely at our best when parish, home and school work together. Our younger children enjoyed walking laps of the playground to show solidarity with their global brothers and sisters.

Since joining St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust we have become a totally 'cashless' school. This includes charitable donations which now can only be made via ParentPay. Thank you for your generosity in donating £238 to last week's Macmillan coffee morning and £132 today for CAFOD. Donations are very much appreciated by the good causes they will reach. However, these are lower than when we accepted cash donations and children generally brought in £1 each. Both Macmillan and CAFOD will remain on ParentPay until the end of this half term should you wish to donate.

Children can receive an annual flu vaccination in school on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Please do remember to register if this is something you would like your child to receive (more information in this newsletter).

I have been very impressed with numerous young people this week. Our new sports coach, Mr Holder, is extremely well organised and is delivering very high standard PE lessons which children are engaging well with. We have also welcomed some past pupils this week. Thea Dmaro has supported our EYFS team brilliantly and we look forward to her continuing to work with us on Mondays. On Wednesday afternoon, we enjoyed some Year 12 students from St Bernard's volunteering. They certainly made a positive impression and we look forward to the regular help they have offered.

We warmly invite Year 6 parents to attend the Year 6 Variety Show at 9am on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

God bless,

Mrs Benn

## **Prayer for CAFOD Family Fast Day (Children's Prayer)**

Almighty God,

We thank you for the gift of education. We thank you for our teachers and friends and all the resources that enable us to learn.

We pray for our sisters and brothers in the developing world. We pray that the fighting stops, and that peace will prevail.

We thank you for CAFOD and for the amazing training programmes they are providing that are changing lives.

We stand in solidarity with the call for all children to have access to good quality education, and we pray for a world where all resources are distributed fairly.

Amen.

### **DIARY DATES**

<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Week 1 of the Menu
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Year 5 Swimming Year 5 Class (Mrs Fox) Visit to Langley Library
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Year 6 Variety Show Parents Welcome 9am
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Year 6 Class (Mrs Doyle/Miss Caswell) Saint's Day – Blessed Carlo Acutis Diocesan Schools Mass in Dunstable
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Week 2 of the Menu
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Year 1 Class (Mrs Hendy) Visit to Langley Library
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Year 5 Swimming Year 1 Class (Mrs Hume) Visit to Langley Library
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	National Flu Immunization Program for Children in Reception – Year 6
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Year 5 Class Assembly (Mrs Fox) Parents Welcome 9am School Photographs
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Week 1 of the Menu Year 4 Visit to Kew Gardens
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	Year 2 Class (Miss Macfarlane) Visit to Langley Library
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	Year 5 Swimming Year 4 Class (Miss Dardis) Visit to Langley Library
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Year 3 Ancient Greek Day
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Staff INSET Day – School Closed

### **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](mailto: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 4 fantastic achievements to celebrate this week.

Congratulations to Patrick McMahon (Year 2) for receiving recognition from his coach at football training and being awarded a trophy for being Player of the Week.

Congratulations to Arham Jain (Year 4) for progressing to Stage 4 in his swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Ciara Robinson (Year 3) for taking part in her second Feis last weekend and winning two 1st's, a 2nd and a 4th out of 22 dancers in her age group.

Congratulations to Devante Romney (Year 4) for progressing to Stage 5 in his swimming lessons.

Well done Patrick, Arham, Ciara and Devante.

### **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:** Sophie Kirtley

**Illustrator:** Ben Mantle

Edie is thrust into a world of restless spirits and fearsome Viking warriors in this chilling ghost story that will send shivers down your spine. (Age 9+). Mrs Doyle.

### **Visits to Langley Library**

On a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon during October and November (starting next week), each class will have the opportunity to walk to Langley Library to spend some of the afternoon getting familiar with the library and looking at books together. Depending on the age of the

children, some classes may need to request parents or grandparents help to accompany the children to the library, so please speak to your child's class teacher if you are able to help. Please ensure that your child has a raincoat in school on the day they are attending the library, as we still plan to go if it rains!

### **Year 6 Parents – Variety Show**

The Year 6 Variety Show will take place next Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 9am in the hall. Year 6 are looking forward to entertaining you and we hope you will be able to join us for this special event. Year 6 Team.

### **Birthday Treats**

Increasingly, over the last few years some children have brought in a wide range of birthday treats. Last year, staff distributed individual cupcakes and party bags in younger classes. We wish to change this trend and return to sweet treats only. Following the October half term, children are welcome to bring in a small individual packet of sweets (e.g. Haribo's) or chocolate (e.g. Milky Buttons). From November 1<sup>st</sup> please do not send in party bags, birthday cake or any items containing nuts as we will not be able to distribute them and they will be returned to you. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **BBC 500 Words Competition**

This year the 500 words competition run by the BBC returns. Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a short story they would love to read without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar. There are two age categories; 5-7 years-old and 8-11 years-old. There are a host of prizes with the main prize being 50 finalists, along with their parents or carers, attending a grand final in February at Buckingham Palace! If your child is interested, you'll need to enter the by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Please see their website for further information on the competition <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/about-500-words/zctk7v4>.

### **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 Scott Mrs Harris	Set 1	C – <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mm8ei8ur/vu8NQba9">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mm8ei8ur/vu8NQba9</a> K- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SsbvwnHr/yrL6sTum">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SsbvwnHr/yrL6sTum</a> U- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/00DA3bHr/2ijW8NKt">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/00DA3bHr/2ijW8NKt</a> Word time
Mrs Crow	Red	TH- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dmL7KsrQ/UTVeKpZi">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dmL7KsrQ/UTVeKpZi</a> QU – <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CDiImQhF/RZEumAaZ">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CDiImQhF/RZEumAaZ</a> CH - <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/RkeTct3h/R082BxfV">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/RkeTct3h/R082BxfV</a> Word time <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/m7GQJKl8/aMtWG2EM">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/m7GQJKl8/aMtWG2EM</a>
Mrs Keogh	Green	AY – <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Plxq6wyX/Vo2maqXj">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Plxq6wyX/Vo2maqXj</a> EE – <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/87eAIqCA/ddA4VwIx">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/87eAIqCA/ddA4VwIx</a>

		IGH - <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rP3QofOt/J46ThzLK">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rP3QofOt/J46ThzLK</a>
Mrs Wilson	Pink	AIR - <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/589eSkDL/HXhsrzel">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/589eSkDL/HXhsrzel</a> OR- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dynI7GEv/TXevKBx5">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dynI7GEv/TXevKBx5</a> AR - <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bzExuLSk/ZTgTuNTu">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bzExuLSk/ZTgTuNTu</a>
Mrs Hendy	Orange	AI - <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/s6tRmUUd/EjXC46Ui">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/s6tRmUUd/EjXC46Ui</a> OA- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fjIRDeqk/OvLEHWeA">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fjIRDeqk/OvLEHWeA</a> EW - <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/tGZbMI28/T4eIjz6w">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/tGZbMI28/T4eIjz6w</a>
Mrs Hogg	Blue	ER- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1jLDEIFB/sRhuNDpz">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1jLDEIFB/sRhuNDpz</a> OW- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jHxe6cRK/pLMehUpE">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jHxe6cRK/pLMehUpE</a> AI - <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/s6tRmUUd/EjXC46Ui">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/s6tRmUUd/EjXC46Ui</a>
Miss Macfarlane	Grey	ARE- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/s8AChy8M/pB325Qj8">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/s8AChy8M/pB325Qj8</a> AI - <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/s6tRmUUd/EjXC46Ui">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/s6tRmUUd/EjXC46Ui</a> UR- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/5Hj1MYsA/4LtUGEWW">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/5Hj1MYsA/4LtUGEWW</a>

### **Marian Month**

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and children in KS2 (Year 3 – Year 6) will be invited to pray a decade of this wonderful prayer on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday's in school. We invite you to maintain this month of dedication on Saturdays and Sundays at home.

A decade of the Holy Rosary is:

*1 x Our Father*

*10 x Hail Mary*

*1 x Glory Be*

During each decade you can pray with a Mystery of the Rosary. Mysteries are moments in the life of Jesus and Mary. Please see the link below to help imagine them in your mind. There are four sets of five Mysteries:

*The Joyful Mysteries*

*The Glorious Mysteries*

*The Luminous Mysteries*

*The Sorrowful Mysteries*

We do hope that you can join us for the Rosary Challenge this October. For further information, please see the following link: <https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/the-rosary-mysteries/>

Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly – RE Lead

### **School Portrait Photographs – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

The school photographer will be in school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October for school portraits. Please ensure your child is wearing smart school uniform. Thank you.

## **Flu Immunisation for Children in Reception – Year 6**

The date currently scheduled for your child to receive the flu immunisation in school is 17<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Please see the letter you were emailed for further information and details regarding how to give your consent. Thank you.

## **Year 6 Secondary Transfer and School Visits**

Year 6 children will need to complete a **Common Application Form** for secondary school **before 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **Secondary School Admissions September 2025 – Information Event**

Year 6 children and their parents can receive information with regards to Secondary School Admissions 2025 at an event organised by Slough Borough Council Admissions Team on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 3.30-5.30pm at Chalvey Community Hub. This event will provide a wealth of information to help you choose the right schools, make an application, and understand how the application process works. For further information, please see the attached flyer.

## **Nursery and School Admission for September 2025**

### **Admission to Reception September 2025**

The above admission round is now open and closes on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## **PTA (Parent Teacher Association) NEWS**

### **Christmas Cards**

This year, the PTA are again offering the opportunity for parents to order merchandise, including Christmas cards, with your child's design on them. £1 from every item purchased is given back to the school so it raises vital funds. Your child has already or will be sent home with their design over the next week. Once you have received their design, if you would like to place an order, **please return the art work to your child's class teacher by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**. Please fill in the details on the back of the form. These will be sent off to the company who runs it and once they have received it they will provide you with details of how you can order online. Thank you from the PTA for your support.

## **Pantomime**

The PTA are delighted to announce we are returning to the pantomime at **The Theatre Royal Windsor** this year, which will be a performance of **Dick Whittington on Wednesday 4th December at 7pm** <https://theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/dick-whittington-24/>. Once again, our favourites Kevin Cruise, Steven Blakely and not forgetting international mega-star Basil Brush will entertain us all and get us in the festive mood.

**Tickets will be going on sale in one week from today on Friday 11th October. These will be priced at a very competitive £20 per ticket**, with profits going to the PTA, directly benefitting your children and Holy Family School.

We have excellent Front Stalls and Royal Stalls seats again this year, which are worth between £37 and £39 a ticket. You will be able to purchase up to 6 tickets per family, if your child is a pupil at Holy Family School, and these will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. We will, of course, accommodate any special access requirements, as always.

This is without a doubt a **FANTASTIC** night out for the children and adults alike, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible! Please look out for the school newsletter next Friday for details of how to buy your tickets. **Thank you for your support, from the Holy Family PTA**

## **OTHER**

### **Slough Town Football Club**

Please see the attached flyers from Slough Town FC regarding an October half term football/goal keeper camp. Booking details are also on the flyer.

### **Slough Children's Centres and Family Hubs**

Please see the link below for further details regarding activities and support offered at your local Centre/Family Hub that may be of benefit to you and your families:

<https://www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk/kb5/sloughcst/directory/parents.page?parentschannel=6>