



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.7

Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Our first class assembly of the year was a beautiful celebration of the RE topic Year 5 have been learning about: Finding our mission in life. They reminded us of words from John Henry Newman (we are all here to do some definite service) and Mother Teresa (if you can't feed 100 people, feed 1) in addition to how our small acts of kindness and compassion make a big difference. If we choose the right actions we can build a better world. The church calls this CST: Catholic Social Teaching. This was the first time our youngest children have joined an assembly and they did very well. It took us a while to get everyone sat down but we will get quicker as the year goes on. Well done all.

On Wednesday, two netball teams represented Holy Family at a tournament held at St Bernard's School. Our girls were very excited yet came up against some strong teams. This was our first netball tournament for a few years so we are grateful to Mrs Lynch, Mrs Henriquez and Mr Holder for training our girls and organising the event. We plan to be even more competitive at next year's tournament.

Staff are enjoying engaging with new St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust colleagues and feeling part of a larger organisation. This week, school leaders have worked with our Strategic Executive Leader, Mr Richardson, and Executive School Improvement Advisor, Mr Stapleton (St Joseph's Headteacher). Year 6 teachers have collaborated with colleagues from St Anthony's and St Ethelbert's and Mr Thercaj (Eddie) travelled to Luton to meet the wider premises team. Staff at all levels are certainly widening our connections as we engage with new people and procedures that come with belonging to a large organisation.

Earlier in the week, I was surprised to see two people from our own school community on television. First I saw Chey, mum of Tyra Grewal in Year 2, who is completing a personal challenge in the lead up to Children in Need. I look forward to seeing more of her journey as reported on BBC local news. Secondly, Tanisha Muir, a past pupil, appeared on The One Show as one of four young people chosen to launch the Children In Need Fundraising Squad Challenge. Tanisha has a personal connection to Thames Valley Hospice, as the Hospice supported her during her father's inspirational fight with cancer. Further updates on Tanisha's progress with her challenge, and also the three other young people, will be shown on the One Show over the next few weeks in the lead up to the main Children In Need event on Friday 15th November.

Sunday 20th is World Mission Sunday. The theme Pope Francis has chosen is to invite people to the banquet of the Kingdom of God. It is based on the Parable of the Wedding Feast in Chapter 22 of St Mathew's Gospel; 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet'. To be human means to make mistakes and we need to forgive ourselves and others readily and accept God's constant invitation of salvation. Additionally, we invite you to put Sunday 24th November 11.30am in your diary. This date marks the Feast of Christ The King which is also known as Youth Sunday. We invite our entire school community, past and present, to joyfully celebrate what it means to belong to our thriving Catholic community at the 11.30am Mass at Holy Family Church on 24th November. All are warmly welcomed to join school staff for refreshments after Mass.

Along with this newsletter you should also receive a letter explaining the new higher expectations regarding children's attendance at school.

From the 4th November we respectfully request that if parents choose to send in a treat for their child's birthday this should only be a small bag of Haribo's or similar.

Please remember that school will be closed next Friday (25th October) as we have a staff INSET day. There will be no newsletter next week so we take this opportunity to wish you all a good half term and staff will look forward to welcoming children on the 4th November.

God bless

Mrs Benn

World Mission Sunday Reflection

Parable of the Wedding Feast in Chapter 22 of St Matthew's Gospel

'Go and invite everyone to the banquet!'

And the invitation goes something like this:

*God the Father cordially invites you to the banquet of the Kingdom of God
where there will be the richest food and the finest wine
and all your fears, anxieties, failures and weaknesses
even your sins
hanging over you like dark clouds
will evaporate in the bright light of God's compassion.*

Dress Code:

*Garments of Faith, Hope, and Love
however inadequate you think they are.*

Fr Anthony Chantry

Missio National Director, England & Wales

DIARY DATES

Monday 21st October

Week 2 of the Menu

Year 4 Visit to Kew Gardens

Tuesday 22nd October

Year 2 Class (Miss Macfarlane) Visit to Langley Library

Wednesday 23rd October

Year 5 Swimming

Year 4 Class (Miss Dardis) Visit to Langley Library

Thursday 24th October

Year 3 Ancient Greek Day

Friday 25th October

Staff INSET Day – School Closed

Monday 4th November

Week 1 of the Menu

Tuesday 5th November

Nursery Stay and Play Parents Welcome 11.15-11.45am and
2.15-2.45pm

Year 3 Class (Mrs Martinez/Mrs Kukla) Visit to Langley Library

Wednesday 6th November	Year 5 Swimming Year 4 Class (Mrs Green/Mrs Evans) Visit to Langley Library
Thursday 7th November	Reception Stay and Play Parents Welcome 2.30-3pm
Friday 8th November	Year 2 Class Assembly (Miss Macfarlane) Parents Welcome 9am
Sunday 10th November	Remembrance Sunday
Monday 11th November	Staff INSET Day – School Closed
Tuesday 12th November	Week 2 of the Menu Anti Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day Year 3 Class (Ms Iqbal) Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 13th November	Year 5 Swimming Year 2 Class (Mrs Powell) Visit to Langley Library

Street Dance

If your child attends the Street Dance club, please note that there will be no Street Dance after school next week Wednesday 23rd October and so please can children be collected at 3.30pm on that day. Thank you.

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 lots of fantastic achievements to celebrate this week.

Congratulations to Alice Brumby (Nursery) for progressing from Preschool to Stage 1 in her swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Avia Alphonz Dijo (Year 2) for performing Bharathanatyam Indian classical dance last weekend. This was Avia's first stage performance.

Congratulations to Hiranya Siripurapu (Year 2) for successfully completing her Lawn tennis training drill and being awarded her certificate of completion for this.

Congratulations to Saran Atwal (Year 2) for moving up to Stage 4 in her swimming lessons.

Congratulations to Xavier Smith (Year 2) for playing a fantastic game of football for Ascot United's Under 7's last weekend. Xavier scored 4 goals and was man of the match.

Congratulations to Abigail Thekkekara (Year 4) who has been studying Indian Classical Dance (Bharathanatyam) since last year and had her first major performance last weekend. Abigail's team performed as part of 'Geethanjali - A Devotional music and dance festival' at Sri Venkateshwara Balaji

Temple, Birmingham. There were artists performing from all over the UK and Abigail performed very confidently in front of a huge audience in the traditional dance costume.

Congratulations to Devante Romney (Year 4) on being awarded the intermediate red belt in Martial Arts.

Weekly Sports Update

On Wednesday our Year 5/6 Girls' Netball team represented the school in a netball tournament at St Bernard's Grammar school. The girls were fantastic, showing off amazing determination and teamwork. They showed great understanding of the rules and tactics and worked amazingly as a team; they should be extremely proud. 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: Catherine Emmett

Illustrator: Laura Brenlla

A witch is missing the key ingredient for her Sniff-Out-An-Ogre potion – a little girl – so is delighted when one unexpectedly knocks on her door. Perfect for Halloween, this entertaining picture book contains plenty of humour and a marvellous twist at the end. When Tosh meets Louis, they bond over their shared imagining of a magical island. A moving graphic novel about friendship, imagination and chronic illness. (Age 4+) Mrs Doyle.

Wednesday Word

Tisha writes for us this week: In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches his friends how to be truly great and our Wednesday Word this week is GREATNESS. God is great and He made us to be great too. It is not always easy to live as God wants us to live, to be great and be the best we can. Being great is not about owning an Xbox or PlayStation, it is about being kind, loving and caring. It is easy to be great! It is as simple as letting some go in front of you, or letting someone join in your games. How will you be great and live in God's way this week?

Remembrance Leaves

November is a time for remembering our loved ones and we mark this time of year at Holy Family by creating a special remembrance display in our hall. Next week, your child will be given a leaf to take home and we invite you to write the names of any family members or friends that you would like us to remember and pray for on their leaf. Leaves will then be placed on our remembrance tree. Please return your leaf to school by Tuesday 5th November. Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly.

Attendance

Over the next few weeks, pupils with less than 90% attendance will receive a letter to encourage them to improve their attendance in the second half of this term. Thank you.

Reception Classes

The Slough Observer will be running a *My First Term [at school]* feature in next week's edition of the paper on Friday 25th October. Please note that we expect both of our two Reception classes will be featured. Thank you.

Year 6 Residential Trip – May 2025

The Year 6 residential trip will take place at PGL's flag ship adventure site at Boreatton Park in Shropshire from Monday 19th May to Friday 23rd May 2025. Letters with further information were sent home with children yesterday. If you would like your child to attend this residential trip, please can you return the reply slip by next Thursday 24th October; the deposit will need to be paid by 31st October. We would very much like all children to take part and should anyone be suffering financial difficulties, please speak to Mrs Benn in confidence. If you have any queries, please do speak with your child's class teacher. Thank you.

Staffing Updates

Sadly, Mrs Jasko, our Polish speaking Nursery Assistant, will be leaving Holy Family on the 15th November. Mrs Jasko has been a valued member of our Nursery team for nearly eight years. We thank her for her hard work and for the support she has uniquely been able to provide to Polish children and their carers. We wish her every success in her future career.

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 8th 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	R- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/j9J0dWK6/wx9lhIre J- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/flSrTvt5/nycVacRT V- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gQ99BExc/APcbI1Op Y- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8wCwpwLf/sFTPLt4y
Mrs Crow	Red	NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/48LVYteM/MtBplrqd NK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1zFOA4Wi/sA6f1JoB CH - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kIaa2Xov/AvPAPORY QU - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uSna3Kt5/QzQTahs6 Word time https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/99I5RJHb/moj26vGh
Mrs Keogh	Green	OR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8NMI52Lx/flFLCFFg AIR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Ej0XyDwv/UK5jfZQT IR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/TPw3JuAV/pckV3FFw OU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Y2FU0Zba/oUXhXBCa

Mrs Wilson	Pink	O-E - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDWymCOIq4Q U-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/tDQJ1bDH/eGUexNqa AW - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/nDYUPBIL/pY1WskX4 ARE - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/psGbCTF1/lyihqPk8
Mrs Hendy	Orange	EW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4IMPhgUp/IVwPke0d ARE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/PRNjFjwc/mVd9I65I TION - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0znRCp5X/OjXuHVz1 TIOUS/CIOUS - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7ldYMHa7/UyEngjhg
Mrs Hogg	Blue	EW – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4IMPhgUp/IVwPke0d IRE – https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3wEyP8VT/6qlIgm4F EAR - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ffITxTBa/GMXHxJUs
Miss Macfarlane	Grey	OA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4R7icDMP/S1BqRYH3 EW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4IMPhgUp/IVwPke0d IRE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3wEyP8VT/6qlIgm4F

School Portrait Photographs – Friday 18th October

Thank you for ensuring your children wore the correct uniform and looked smart for their photograph today. Please note that your child should have brought home a slip of paper with a QR code and access code on it. Please follow the instructions on the piece of paper in order to view and/or order your child's photograph(s). Thank you.

School Lunches

As school is closed on Friday 25th October for Staff INSET day, Colham Catering have asked me to remind Key Stage 2 parents to go onto the Meal Portal and cancel/untick their child's meal choice for that Friday or you may be charged. If your child is in KS1 and entitled to a Universal Free School meal, please also go in and untick the meal for any absences as school will be charged and food will be sent to school which will go to waste. If you require any guidance, please feel free to contact Colham Catering directly (colhamcatering@colham.org).

Thank you for your continued support, Mrs Fletcher-White.

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.

PARISH NEWS

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

If your son or daughter is in Year 3 you may wish to enrol him/her in the first Reconciliation/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.

Secondary Schools

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 Father 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).

PTA (Parent Teacher Association) NEWS

Pantomime Update – TICKETS SOLD OUT

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/>. We sold out in record time this year! Apologies to the families who missed out this year, we did attempt to buy more tickets for families on the waitlist, but the performance is a sell-out. The good news is we have already secured extra tickets for next year's performance, and we will send out tips on how to be successful in securing tickets to this wildly popular event!

Tickets will be sent out in your children's book bags two weeks before the performance.

Thank you for your support, from the Holy Family PTA

OTHER

Windsor Christmas Card Competition 2024

Children at HFCS has been invited to take part in this competition. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

GEMS

GEMS are holding a session *How to support your Child through Winter (Autism and/or ADHD)* on Friday 25th October 10am – 11.15am. Please see the attached flyer for further information and how to register.

SEND-AID

Please see attached flyer for details of SEND Advice and Information (SEND-AID) Sessions Autumn/Winter 2024.

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.

