



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Pentecost Term

Newsletter No.33

Friday 7th June 2024

Dear Parents

Welcome back, and I hope everyone had an enjoyable half term. We have started the final half term of the year with an incredibly busy and eventful week and it looks as though this has set the tone from now until July 25th!

Children started new exercise books when they returned to school on Tuesday. We find this beneficial in maintaining children's progress as they move from one teacher to the next as, after the long summer break, some children regress slightly. This helps teachers to have high expectations of the classwork your children produce at the beginning of the new school year.

Year 4 are using the iPads to complete their statutory timetables assessments this week. So far, children have approached this with confidence. Well done Year 4.

Two classes have enjoyed trips to Langley Library and Miss Macfarlane's class loved their photoshoot preview of our very own library, 'Whispering Pages'. Following the governors' decision to join St Thomas Catholic academy trust on 1st September we showcased our school to a website photographer on Thursday. From September, we will move to the St Thomas style website platform that many of you will be familiar with if you have children at St Joseph's Catholic High School.

Thanks to Miss Macfarlane and Mrs Green our library has been designed around the theme of an enchanted wood. Mrs Green has used her creative skills to paint the back drops; we have reused the book shelves from our previous library and added some interesting seating. Miss Macfarlane has managed to secure a vast array of new books which will further improve our library when they arrive. For the remainder of this half term the library will only be open to children during the school day. During the next academic year, we hope to welcome parents and siblings too.

To celebrate the opening of our library on Wednesday (12th June), we are excited to be welcoming poet Zohab Zee Khan; all year groups will have the fantastic opportunity to take part in a poetry and performance session with him. Next week, we hope children will tell you all about our new library and our special visitor.

We are the sort of school that likes to say yes when offered opportunities. Year 3 enjoyed Nathan Pons, an experienced Slough Town (STFC) football coach, teaching them for PE this week. We look forward to strengthening our links with STFC during this six week coaching offer. Similarly, Slough School Sports Network offered Holy Family a dance teacher for six weeks. We were delighted when Aaron Collier, an ex-pupil, arrived to work with Year 6 for six weeks. Aaron explained how his career as a choreographer, dancer and in musical theatre was ignited by attending Alan's after school Street dance classes and performing in his Year 6 leavers' performance here at Holy Family. How fabulous that he has returned to share his passion for dancing with our children.

With the PTA Summer Fair only two weeks away, please do try to support our school by offering to assist in some way, either by volunteering on the day, offering donations or entering our raffle. Any assistance you can provide (including spending money on the day) will be greatly appreciated.

Please also look out for details of the Thomas Becket Competition in this newsletter – entries need to be returned to school by 24th June to ensure they can be submitted to the Diocese before the closing date. It would be lovely if we could submit lots of entries from our school.

We look forward to welcoming our Dads to the Father's Day coffee morning next Thursday.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 10th June

Week 2 of the Menu

Tuesday 11th June

School Class Photographs

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

Wednesday 12th June

Year 6 Class (Mrs Ragg) Saints Day – Venerable John Augustus Tolton

Visit from Poet Zohab Zee Khan

Year 6 Swimming

Year 2 Class (Mrs Powell) Visit to Langley Library

It's Your Move (Transition Session for Year 6) (At School)

Thursday 13th June

Fathers' Day Coffee Morning 8.40-10am (AOC)

New Nursery Parents Welcome Evening 7pm

Friday 14th June

Reception Class Assembly (Mrs Scott & Mrs Mulrooney)
Parents Welcome 9am

Saturday 15th June

First Holy Communion

Sunday 16th June

First Holy Communion

Monday 17th June

Week 1 of the Menu

Tuesday 18th June

Year 1 Class (Mrs Hume) Visit to Langley Library

Wednesday 19th June

Diversity Day

Year 6 Swimming

Year 6 Class (Miss Caswell) Visit to Langley Library

Thursday 20th June

New Reception Parents Welcome Evening 7pm

Friday 21st June	Year 3 Class (Mrs Martinez & Mrs Kukla) Saints Day – St Thomas More Non Uniform Day – Donations for Summer Fair
Saturday 22nd June	Summer Fair 11.30am-2.30pm
Monday 24th June	Week 2 of the Menu Year 2 Class (Mrs Hendy) Saints Day – St Mother Lupita Slough Music Service Summer Music Festival at The Hexagon Theatre Reading (Choir Only)
Tuesday 25th June	Year 3 Class (Miss Macfarlane) visit to Langley Library Year 5 Visit to Bray Lake (<i>half the year will visit on this date, the other half on 3rd July</i>)
Wednesday 26th June	Year 6 Swimming Year 6 Class (Mrs Ragg) Visit to Langley Library
Friday 28th June	Year 1 Classes (Mrs Hume and Ms Iqbal) Saints Day – St Peter & St Paul Reception Class Assembly (Mrs Harris) Parents Welcome 9am

Advance Notice of School Closure

Please note that school will be closed on Thursday 4th July 2024 as school will be used as a polling station. Therefore, the following trips have been rescheduled:

EYFS School Trip to Whipsnade Zoo: This will now be on the 22nd July. We had originally stated that we would go ahead with the trip on the 4th July (Holy Family School's polling day). However, we are aware that parents may be at home with older siblings due to school being closed that day, and we wanted to ensure that all children still came on the trip and that we would be able to recruit enough parent helpers. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. A letter about the school trip will be sent out next week. Thank you, Mrs Scott and Mrs Harris -EYFS Teachers.

Year 5 Trip to Bray Lake: The Year 5 day trips to Bray Lake will take place on Tuesday 25th June (re scheduled from Thursday 4th July) and Wednesday 3rd July (original date) – *half of Year 5 will attend on the first date, with the other half attending on the 2nd date.* Thank you, Mrs Fox and Mrs O'Reilly - Year 5 Teachers

Amazing Achievements

Congratulations to Iga Skorupka (Year 1) who after only 3 lessons in her Stage 1 swimming lessons has progressed to Stage 3. Iga skipped Stage 2 lessons due to the excellent progress she was making and speed of learning. Well done Iga.

Congratulations to Rosa and Ava Cicero (Year 5 and Year 2) who participated in this years Pretty Muddy Race for Life at Windsor race course during May half term. Not only did Rosa and Ava successfully complete the 5k course, they also managed to raise £470.00 plus

£105.00 in gift aid for Cancer Research. Well done Rosa and Ava for this charitable work – we are all very proud of you.

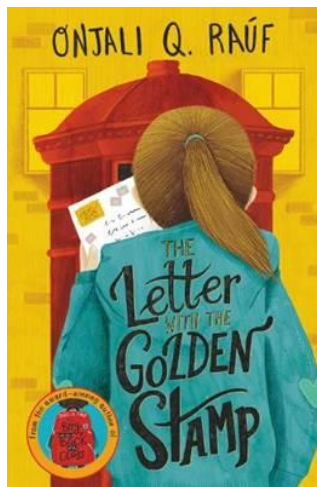
Congratulations to Noah Glemp (Year 3) for his continued football progress, playing in the Summer League under his football team George Green Juniors FC in Eton Wick. Noah has been moved from a beginners group to an intermediate group and within a couple of weeks, has now progressed to an advanced team. During the May half term, Noah was awarded an "Effort Award " from his coach for his hard work. Well done Noah and keep up the excellent work.

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.'

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: Onjali Q Rauf

Illustrator: Pippa Curnick

Fans of 'The boy at the Back of the Class' will be pleased to see a new book by Anjali Q Rauf. Is someone spying on Audrey and her family? This is a fun, fast-paced chapter book on the adventures of a young carer. (Age 9+). Mrs Doyle.

Thomas Becket Festival Competitions (Optional)

To celebrate the Becket Festival, the Diocese is running two competitions - to design your own Thomas Becket Crest and Storyboard. Please see attached two leaflets with all the details of the competitions. If you would like to take part, please return competition entries to school by 24th June 2024 and we will arrange for all entries to be sent to the Diocese. Thank you.

Music Through The Ages

Some members of the Holy Family Choir have been invited to participate in 'Music Through the Ages'. They will be taking to the stage at the Hexagon in Reading on 24th June 2024 with

other students from Slough schools to perform a great selection of songs. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some live music and get any budding young musician inspired. Mrs Green.

Hearts on Fire Feet on the Move Clubs

This is the name we have given our Young Leaders chaplaincy initiative. Some KS2 children have (during the beginning of the first half of this Pentecost term) organised, promoted and been running break time or lunch time clubs. However, please note that some clubs have been postponed this week due to our INSET day on Monday, club leaders being absent, staff not being available and extra choir rehearsals. Apologies for any disappointment and please be assured that all children currently running a club will have the opportunity to run 4 sessions over this Pentecost term. Thank you.

Reception and KS1 Longer School Day Trial

Thank you to parents of Reception and KS1 children who have been very supportive regarding the earlier school start time. Whilst we appreciate that there is now 10 minutes between the school gates opening and registers closing (previously 20 minutes), we are not in a position to open the school gates earlier than 8.40am as we would not have sufficient staff to supervise children on the playground whilst they wait for their classrooms to open at 8.40am. Thank you for your understanding. As before, if you would like to send feedback, please email school.admin@hfcs.org.uk. Thank you.

School Gates Open At 8.40am

The single pedestrian gate is opened at 8.40 by a member of staff. However, sometimes parents/children are entering the school site prior to 8.40am either when staff or visitors enter through either of the gates at the vehicular entrance. We politely request that, unless pre-arranged, families do not enter the school site prior to 8.40am. Thank you.

Year 4 – Multiplication Tables Check

Please be aware that the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Checks (MTC) have been taking place this week and will continue next week also. This is statutory for all Year 4 pupils, and checks their knowledge of their 1 - 12 multiplication tables. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

Class Photographs – Tuesday 11th June

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 11th June for class photographs. Please ensure your child is wearing smart uniform. If your child would usually have PE on Tuesday 11th, please can they arrive at school in their school uniform, with their PE kit in a bag. Thank you.

Father's Day Coffee Morning – Thursday 13th June

As a way of celebrating all our Dads and acknowledging their hard work, we will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 13th March from 8.40am until 10am in the AOC rooms (opposite the dining room). Mums are of course welcome too. We really hope you are able to attend.

Uniform

All children are invited to wear summer uniform. This remains optional due to the cost of living crisis. Please also note that our school uniform will remain the same upon joining the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust (we are anticipating joining in September 2024).

A Celebration Of Our Diversity

On Wednesday 19th June, we would like to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity that is present within our own school community. On this day, we are asking everyone to come to school dressed in either cultural dress or the colours of their nationality's flag. During the day, each year group will be learning about one of the many different countries that make up our diverse community here at Holy Family.

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 the school year. Thank you.

Slough Consortium of Grammar Schools – Information for Year 5 Parents

Please note that registration for the Slough Consortium 11+ examination will close at 10:00 am on Wednesday, 12th June 2024.

Summer Fair Saturday 22nd June 11.30am-2.30pm – Volunteers and Donations Needed

Raffle Tickets: All children have been given raffle tickets to take home. We would be very grateful if you could please sell these to family and friends and return the stubs and monies to school on or before Friday 21st June. If you would like more raffle tickets, please ask at Reception

Raffle Prizes: If anyone is able to donate a prize suitable for the main raffle, please contact Emma Oakes, Chair of PTA (pta@hfcs.org.uk).

Volunteers: If you are free on Friday 21st June and/or Saturday 22nd June and are able to help set up, run a stall or clear away, (even if only for an hour or so) please email Emma Oakes, Chair of PTA (pta@hfcs.org.uk).

Donations: We would welcome donations of new/used (in good condition) books, toys, games and bric-a-brac. Please leave donations with your child's class teacher or at the main school Reception.

Non Uniform Day: On Friday 21st June, children are invited to wear their own clothes to school in exchange for bringing in donations of bottles of wine and toiletries for the Summer Fair.

What are the PTA raising money for?: The PTA is raising funds to update additional learning areas around school.

OTHER

St Joseph's Catholic High School – Mini Bus Driver Required

If interested, please see the attached advert.