



## Holy Family Catholic Primary School

**Lent Term**

**Newsletter No.15**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers

Wishing all of our families a very happy and blessed 2025.

We have really enjoyed welcoming all of our children back after the Christmas break. The first day back fell on the Feast of the Epiphany and we celebrated this in our assembly on Monday. The word 'epiphany' comes from a Greek word which means 'making known' and 'a sudden and inspiring revelation'. The birth of Jesus marked the beginning of God's plan for the world. Please take a moment to reflect on the prayer below.

We have a busy term ahead of us with class assemblies, visits to Church, sports fixtures, Nursery and Reception stay and plays, Year 4 swimming, pupil led clubs and several school trips. A copy of all of these dates will be sent out to parents over the next few weeks, and we thank you in advance for all of your support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the Epiphany and reminding us that every person is important to you. You revealed your most precious gift to the world by the light of a star.

Guide us with the light of Christ, that our actions for others may reflect your love. We are sorry for the times we forget to use the gifts that you have given us. Please bless our school and classrooms and all who learn in and visit them.

Holy Family of Nazareth, pray for us.

## **DIARY DATES**

<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Week 2 of the Menu
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 4 Swimming
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 3 Class Assembly (Mrs Martinez & Mrs Kukla) Parents Welcome 9am
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	SCHOOL CLOSED – STAFF INSET DAY
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b>	Week 1 of the Menu
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	Year 4 Swimming
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year of the Jubilee – <b>Launch Day</b>
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Week 2 of the Menu
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 4 Class (Mrs Green & Mrs Evans) Visit to Langley Library
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 4 Swimming  Year 4 Class (Miss Dardis) Visit to Langley Library
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	Year 2 Class Assembly (Mrs Powell) Parents Welcome 9am

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Please note that extra-curricular activities will start again from next Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

In relation to those extra-curricular activities run by HFCS staff (including HFCS Invite Only clubs), parents will be notified which club(s) their child is enrolled on today, so please check school bags. With regards to externally run extra-curricular activities (ICON Football, Gymnastics and Street Dance), parents should have been informed directly by the provider if their child has been enrolled.

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](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.'

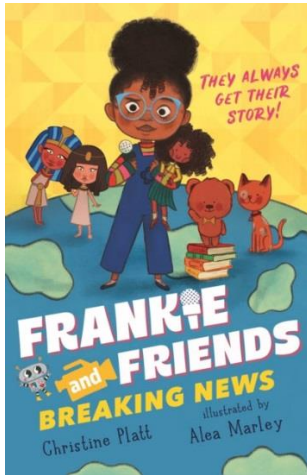
### **Amazing Achievements**

Congratulations to Emrys Yarrow, Igor Malec and Joel Tomczak who played their first match of the season in 2025 last weekend, winning against George Green. Emrys scored 1 goal, Joel scored 4 goals, and Igor was an excellent defender.

Congratulations to Adam Grzywnowicz for progressing to Level 5 in his swimming lessons.

## 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:** Christine Platt

**Illustrator:** Alea Marley

Can Frankie cover her first breaking news story, like her journalist mama? Heart-warming and charming, with cute illustrations, ideal for newly confident readers or for reading together. (Age 6+). Mrs Doyle.

## Wednesday Word

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*Welcome back to school and a Happy New Year to all. In Church this Sunday, we celebrate a special feast – the Baptism of the Lord. The new year presents an opportunity to remember, or to discover, the blessings received at Baptism. In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus begins his mission to the world when the Holy Spirit comes down upon him – the same Spirit we receive through Baptism and Confirmation.*

*Wednesday Word – Baptism!*

*Filled with excitement, the people were wondering if John the Baptist might be the Christ, so John said to them, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, some who is more powerful than I am and he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit". Then, after the people had been baptised by John, Jesus himself was baptised. While Jesus was praying the sky opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son, and with you I am very pleased".*

*At Jesus’ baptism, God the Father called Jesus his Son. Through Baptism, we too become children of God. After Baptism, as part of God’s family (the Church), we are called to live the life of a Christian by loving God and our neighbours, just as Jesus did. Baptism is one of the seven sacraments which bring us closer to God. When we are baptised we become a new creation; we receive new life and a Christian identity. We become members of Jesus’ family where everyone is a brother or sister to each other and where God is our loving Father.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Nathan Philmon, Year 6 Faith Ambassador*

## Year of Jubilee Starts

Last year was a year of Prayer leading up to the 2025 **Year of Jubilee** which started on 24 December 2024. The Year of Jubilee is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in

which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The theme this jubilee is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and Pope Francis has invited us to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world. We look forward to marking this in a special way with our children.

### **Chewing Gum**

Due to the danger of ingesting chewing gum and also chewing gum having been found littered outside Year 6, please note that any children found to have chewing gum with them in school will immediately be given a Step 3. We kindly ask for your support in helping school to enforce this by ensuring your child does not bring chewing gum into school. Thank you for your continued support.

### **School PE Lessons - Gymnastics**

This term in PE lessons, all children will be taking part in gymnastics.

Due to health and safety reasons, the children are asked to do the lessons bare foot or with grip/trampoline socks. Over the last few days, I have noticed that some children have been wearing tights under their PE kits, which means they have had to do the lessons with them on. Could I please ask that on the days when children have PE, they do not wear tights.

If you have any questions, please email me at [school.admin@hfcs.org.uk](mailto:school.admin@hfcs.org.uk).

Thank you, Mr. Holder (PE Coach)

### **School Lunch Orders**

Please note that since the start of term, school lunches must be ordered before 1.00am instead of 9.00am on the day that you wish the meal to be taken. Many thanks for your continued support.

### **Attendance**

Anyone whose attendance is recorded as less than 90% and/or has six or more lates between 4<sup>th</sup> November – 20<sup>th</sup> December should expect to receive an attendance letter from our attendance officer, Mrs Oakes, over the next few weeks. Our school target is 95%. Every day of learning missed is five hours of learning and socialising lost that cannot be recouped. Thank you for your support in ensuring children have the highest attendance rate possible.

As previously informed, any unauthorised absence attached to school holidays, or holidays taken during term time, penalty notices will be issued if 5 or more days unauthorised absence is taken during any ten-week period. Please refer to the attached notice from Slough Borough Council.

### **Nursery and School Admission for September 2025 – Closes 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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

The above admission round closes next week, 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 also closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January. 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.

## **OTHER**

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

Please find attached to this newsletter, copies of the Slough Children's Centres and Family Hubs timetables for the new term.

### **Slough Borough Council – Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies (CYPIT)**

Parents can sign up for workshops online to support their child's communication and language development, sensory and motor skills. Please see the links below for details of the different workshops, dates and times.

- [Children's speech and language therapy workshops](#)
- [Sensory Processing online workshops | Children Young People and Families Online Resource](#)
- [Handwriting Essentials online workshop | Children Young People and Families Online Resource](#)

### **Langley Library**

You may already be aware that there is/will be a consultation regarding a possible closure of Langley Library. The consultation will last for 10 weeks with a proposal being made in the Spring. An ePetition has been set up - please see link below. This ePetition runs from 17/12/2024 to 17/03/2025.

democracy.slough.gov.uk