



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.16

Friday 17th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a lovely week in school. Year 2 children have been learning about landmarks in London and Beijing, Year 5 the Anglo Saxons, while Year 6 are studying a picture book called 'The Journey' and have already begun to think critically about the topic of refugees and the challenges they might face.

This morning, Year 3 delighted the whole school with their liturgy about the Baptism of the Lord. It was impressive from start to finish. Year 3 parents and the whole school were welcomed beautifully and led through so many important messages. We were reminded of our mission statement (*Trying to make the world a better place*); that through our own baptism we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit (our ever-present guide who helps us to be the best version of ourselves); to follow Jesus' example to love and show mercy more readily and to practice HOPE in this Jubilee Year of Hope. It was a truly inspirational start to everyone's day. Year 3 children were confident speaking and singing. Well done everyone.

Our popular before and after school clubs started this week and it has been lovely to welcome back some of our regular coaches. There seems to be more children than ever before in most of the clubs. Our Year 5/6 boys football team played away at Langley Heritage on Wednesday. Despite not winning, Mr Holder was impressed with their amazing resilience and perseverance. Well done boys.

Equally impressive is the number of children who wish to lead their own clubs this term. There are potentially sixty child-led clubs. Some children are repeating successful clubs they ran last year such as Around the World, KS1 Gymnastics, Chess and some original ideas have been proposed such as creating comic books, origami, cricket, bracelet making and Just Dance. Children have been tasked with creating a poster by Thursday 23rd January to promote their club. Everyone who returns a poster to me will also have the opportunity to promote their club at a Key Stage assembly. This is a chaplaincy initiative which we have called 'Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move'. This was inspired by Pope Francis asking young people to be missionary disciples, change makers, young leaders and to cause 'rumpuses'. We may have to stagger the clubs - or merge similar ones - if everyone follows through.

Next Friday is the school's official launch of the Year of Jubilee. One of our best ideas came from Lani in Nursery who suggested we have superheroes called HOPE. The capes and iron-on letters are on order for our youngest children.

Please remember in your prayers parents who are currently experiencing serious illness and/or declining health conditions. Please join staff in praying for these families. Through God's grace we wish them comfort and peace as they navigate challenging and rapidly changing situations.

Also, a reminder that school will be closed this coming Monday, 20th January, for a Staff INSET day. We look forward to all children returning on Tuesday.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 20th January	SCHOOL CLOSED – STAFF INSET DAY
Tuesday 21st January	Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 22nd January	Year 4 Swimming
Friday 24th January	Year of the Jubilee – Schools Launch Day
Monday 27th January	Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 28th January	Year 4 Class (Mrs Green & Mrs Evans) Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 29th January	Year 4 Swimming Year 4 Class (Miss Dardis) Visit to Langley Library Reception Stay and Play 2.30pm
Friday 31st January	Year 2 Class Assembly (Mrs Powell) Parents Welcome 9am
Monday 3rd February	Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 4th February	Year 5 Class (Mrs O'Reilly) Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 5th February	Year 2 China Day Year 4 Swimming Year 1 Class (Mrs Hendy) Visit to Langley Library

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

Congratulations to Avia Alphonz Dijo who has been learning Bharatnatyam Indian Classical dance for a year and a half. Recently, Avia successfully passed her Grade 1 exam which includes portfolio submission, theory and practical exam.

Congratulations to Megan and Martin Stanczuk who started Karate only recently and have progressed from 10th Kyu to the rank of 9th Kyu.

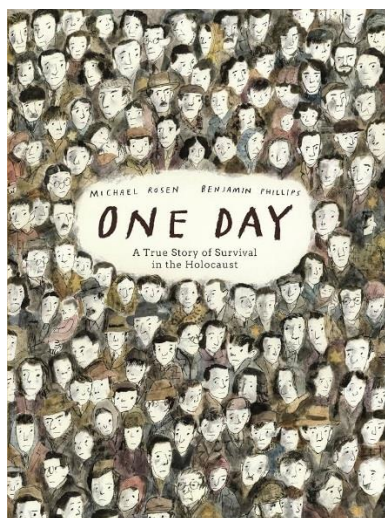
Congratulations to Abigail Thekkekara for being awarded her Grade 1 certificate for Classical Indian Dance in Bharatanatyam.

Weekly Sports Update

Our Year 5/6 Boys team travelled to Langley Heritage on Wednesday for their first away game of the year. The boys fought hard; after going in to half time with Langley Heritage winning, the boys could have let their heads drop, but they didn't give up and came out in the second half scoring 3 goals in quick succession: two from Riley O'Neill and a third from Jacob Henriquez. Our captain, Marcel Traboulsi, pulled-off multiple top-class saves, including taking one to the face, really putting himself on the line for his team! Despite being a centre back, Antoni Gregorczyk went in goal when his team needed him; he too pulled-off some outstanding saves. Despite the loss, the boys showed amazing resilience and fought back no matter the score and for that, they should be so proud! Thanks, Mr Holder.

Book of the Week

Each week, we will recommend a lovely new book, which will hopefully inspire our children to broaden their reading tastes.



Author: Michael Rosen

Illustrator: Benjamin Phillips

A hard-hitting picture book which tells the true story of a Holocaust survivor. This important book explores dark events in a sensitive but unflinching way. (Age 7+).

Wednesday Word

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all having a great week back at school. In this Sunday's gospel, we read from the gospel of St John. John writes about many of Jesus' miracles and we are going to hear about the amazing miracle Jesus performs at the wedding in Cana.

Wednesday Word – Joy

Jesus was celebrating at a wedding in Cana. Mary noticed that the wine had run out. Mary said to him, "They have no wine". Jesus said, "Woman, why turn to me, my hour has not come yet". Then Mary said to the servants "Do whatever Jesus tells you". So Jesus told the servant to fill six stone jars with water. They did that, and when they tasted the water, they found the water had become the best wine.

Why is this miracle so important?

God wants us to be filled with joy – Jesus came to make our joy complete. In the first of his many miracles, Jesus changed the water into wine and brought great joy to the wedding celebration. For us, Jesus changes our lives when he enters into our hearts and homes; he makes the everyday extraordinary.

At the wedding in Cana when Mary turns to Jesus as they have no wine even though Jesus' hour has not come (Jesus is referring to the right time for his mission and purpose to be revealed according to God's plan) Jesus performed the miracle and this shows if times are hard and you are struggling Jesus will always help you.

"If we are close to Jesus, we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face", Pope Francis.

Yours sincerely,

Martina Gomez, Year 6 Faith Ambassador

Staffing Update

Today was Mrs Forsdick's last day working in our Nursery. We thank her for nine years of dedicated service with our youngest children and wish her every success in her new role. Mrs Henriques will join the Nursery team each morning from Tuesday 21st January.

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. 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.

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 4th November – 20th December should expect to receive an attendance letter from our attendance officer, Mrs Oakes, over the next few weeks. Our school attendance 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.

OTHER

Charity

One of Mrs Pearmaine's (former Teaching Assistant at HFCS) friends has strong connections with a poor village in Gambia. Her friend is due to visit Gambia shortly and has asked if anyone has any items of clothing they could donate, especially First Holy Communion dresses or suits for the children to wear on special occasions. If you feel able to help, please could we ask for donations to be brought into the main reception by the end of next week (Friday 24th January). Thank you in advance for any support you are able to provide.

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