



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.19

Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a lovely week in school. Thank you to all our children who evacuated the building quickly and in an orderly calm manner when we had a practice fire drill on Monday.

Year 2 children looked fabulous on Wednesday as they celebrated all they have learnt about China. Children loved making their puppets inspired by Chinese New Year.

One hundred and ten KS2 children are planning to lead over 40 pupil-led clubs next week with multiple clubs taking place every break and lunchtime. This is a combination of our 'Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move #3' chaplaincy initiative and prayerful clubs led by our fabulous Faith Ambassadors. For 'Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move' children work in small groups to plan, advertise, recruit to and organize a club that follows their own interests. If they run a successful club they will be making our school a better place and fulfilling our school mission statement. *(We hope this will stimulate ideas for further problem solving designed to tackle real-world problems and mold young leaders into future change-makers so they can build a better world).* This week's assemblies were handed over to club leaders so KS2 children could advertise their clubs and motivate children to join them. We look forward to the excitement next week will bring.

We are very excited to be in the midst of planning to open to 2-year-olds from September 2025. Please see the letter which was emailed to parents/carers this morning. We would be very grateful if you could take the time to respond to the consultation. Consultation responses will be received by St Thomas leaders and school leaders will receive your feedback after the consultation closes.

All schools are being called on to give a higher focus to improving attendance. We are trialling a new approach to reporting absence with Year 6 which, if it is successful, will be rolled out across the school in the Lent term. We are also trialling sharing attendance percentages for each year group and celebrating the year group with the highest attendance. This is in addition to Mrs Oakes, our attendance officer, working more closely with individual families to set targets where punctuality or attendance consistently fall below the expected standard.

Congratulations to Mr Flisher on the arrival of Henry Michael Flisher. Mr Flisher (Sports coach) has been on paternity leave for the last two weeks and we look forward to welcoming him back next Thursday.

Wishing you all a good weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 10th February	Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 11th February	Nursery Stay & Play 11.15-11.45am & 2.15-2.30pm Year 5 Class (Mrs Fox) Visit to Langley Library Safer Internet Day 2025
Wednesday 12th February	Year 6 Class (Mrs Doyle/Miss Caswell) Visit to Langley Library
Friday 14th February	Year 3 Class Assembly (Miss Iqbal) Parents Welcome 9am

Half Term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2024

Monday 24th February	Start of Lent Term 2 for Nursery – Year 6 Week 1 of the Menu Year 2 Visit to Windsor Castle (TBC)
Tuesday 25th February	Y5 STEM Activity (In School) Year 6 Class (Mrs Ragg) Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 26th February	Year 4 Swimming Year 2 Class (Mrs Powell) Visit to Langley Library
Friday 28th February	EYFS Saint's Day – St David (EYFS to Wear Yellow) Year 1 Class Assembly (Mrs Hume) Parents Welcome 9am

Lent Term Diary Dates

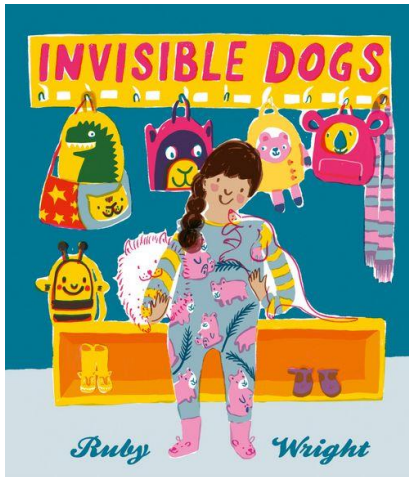
A copy of the Lent Term Diary Dates is attached. A printed copy was sent home with children today.

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



Author: Ruby Wright

Interest Age: 3-7

Reading Age: 7+

Ida is nervous about life at her new school until her grandpa encourages her to imagine a pair of invisible dogs which help her feel more confident in the playground.

Wednesday Word

Hollie writes for us this week:

Our Wednesday Word this week is FOLLOW. It is important that we all make the right choice about who or what we follow in life. Jesus invites each of us to make following him our most important priority.

In the Holy Gospel, Jesus tells Peter and his friends to sail out in deep water and let down their nets. They had already been fishing all night and had caught nothing but they did as Jesus said and caught many fish. Peter and the fisherman left everything and followed Jesus. This is a clear example of Jesus telling us to follow and make the right choice.

Choosing to follow Jesus may not be easy, but making life better for everyone around us helps make the world a better place.

Your mission: How can you follow Jesus?...Be kind and go out of your way to make others feel welcome and wanted.

Hollie Forrest, Year 6 Faith Ambassador

Year 2 China Day

Year 2 had an exciting China day on Wednesday. They came to school wearing beautiful Chinese outfits or red to represent the flag of China. They got to taste some Chinese food during a special Chinese lunch. On Thursday the children were lucky to hear a traditional Chinese string instrument called an Erhu. Thank you to Tejveer's mum who came in to show and demonstrate this for the children.

Colham Catering

As you are aware, the cut off time for Colham Catering has changed therefore if your child is off sick/absent from school and you have paid for their lunch and require a refund please contact Colham Catering by calling 01895 442879 (Option3) by 8 am each morning of absence. If you are reporting an absence to school, could you please also contact Colham Catering to remove their lunch selection, this applies to all year groups from Reception to Year 6.

Attendance

Our overall attendance figures are good. However, we always strive to do better, and, for this reason, are trialling for half a term (Lent Term 2 until the start of the Easter holidays) an incentive whereby the class with the best attendance will receive some extra playtime. A poster showing each year group's overall attendance will be attached to the newsletter each week (next half term) and be displayed in classroom windows (an example poster is attached).

Parents/Carers of Year 6 Children

Please see the letter regarding Studybugs that your children will have brought home earlier this week. From next Monday 10th February until Friday 28th February, we are asking Year 6 parents/carers to trial the use of Study Bugs as a way of reporting pupil absence. If successful, this will be rolled out to other year groups. Thank you for your support with this trial.

February Half Term Creative Homework

During February half term, we will be setting the children a creative homework task. Advance warning: all children will need a clear glass jar to complete the creative homework. You can use any type of empty jar: coffee, preserve or mason jar. If you have any difficulty sourcing a jar, please let us know. You don't need to do anything with the jar yet; just set the jar aside. Next week, class teachers will share some examples of how the children could complete the creative homework. More details will follow in next week's newsletter.

Year 4 Swimming

Due to the pool now remaining closed until 17th February, swimming lessons for Year 4 will resume after half term on Wednesday 26th February. Year 4 parents and carers have been emailed today regarding the missed swimming lessons. Thank you.

Phones in School

Teachers have noticed far fewer phones being brought into school by children in Years 5 and 6 this year, which has been a really positive change. Whilst we recognise and accept that phones are a huge part of our – and increasingly our children's - everyday lives, it has been refreshing to see far fewer children bringing them to school with them each day. Despite what your children may say when giving the reasons why they should be allowed one, please be assured that a large number of our children in Year 6 do not yet own a phone so your child will not be the only one! Research does show that the longer phone-usage can be delayed, the better, for many reasons. We appreciate that this can be a tricky area to navigate as a parent, and we thank you for your support. As a reminder, please ensure that children are only bringing phones into school if they are going home without a parent: if they are being dropped and collected by an adult, they should not have their phones in school. Thank you.

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 Harris	Set 1	B- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/v79K9aKI/NdIk1ICO F- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GG0AWJqA/R2u02chR E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8vWPXnBE/G3ca98jf
Mrs Mulrooney	Set 1	E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8vWPXnBE/G3ca98jf

		Z- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MQ54d3gG/jGE913Hu https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1r8hYYFP/V5g1xf7X https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/doV9rSi1/uLKJCJPon
Mrs Scott	Word Time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/vPEx8Rdg/2TZKAI4y https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/KmEN0JtG/ZZ9s7QuT https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/weABKVfg/DJzMKyEw https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1d85oUdH/utH5Ktq0
Mrs Crow	Ditties	CH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/w7twB2vN/ZIVpI87y QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mntofsOg/n8gWQdGZ NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/279bnNEe/KghgqhNm CK- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Oyj0B8kH/jTck3yM9
Mrs Keogh	Purple	OO- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NgxwG3pI/vwXBaB6l OO- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/A14EuhIX/9TTRUPI3 AR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jZHvIbEb/04SMSEEn OR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Aq1yKBph/TF3Jihux
Mrs Wilson Mrs Birch Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg	Orange Yellow Blue Grey	URE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/genS9Sms/ujSocBUN TION- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LvEtBwjT/VLTmvQfS TIOUS- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/euawpbZH/om7VrIn0 AU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6Htp2DEc/lmqH4pNr

OTHER

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