



## Holy Family Catholic Primary School

**Lent Term**

**Newsletter No.20**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers

We have enjoyed a sociable and busy week in school.

This morning Miss Iqbal's Year 3 class presented the most beautifully uplifting assembly to their parents and the whole school. They all spoke clearly and confidently about St Josephine Bakhita, their class saint. She was a Sudanese Catholic sister after being freed from slavery. Children reminded us of the importance of remaining hopeful no matter what challenges we face today. We were also reminded to readily forgive, practice kindness and gratitude and pray for a better future for all.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February was Safer Internet Day. This was marked in our Key Stage assemblies based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. More information regarding this is in this newsletter.

Nursery children and staff were delighted to welcome so many parents to their popular 'Stay and Play' sessions. We hope those who attended witnessed the excitement children revel in every day as they interact happily with their friends.

Our SEND team organised a special multi-sensory day trip to the Look Out in Bracknell for a group of children. The children really enjoyed the interactive science area and the water zone.

Mrs Doyle and Miss Caswell's Year 6 class visited Langley Library on Wednesday afternoon. The children sat quietly, immersed in the books they had chosen - it was clear they were thoroughly enjoying the peaceful atmosphere. Their behaviour was impeccable, creating a calm and welcoming environment for everyone.

I have absolutely loved the 'Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move' child-led clubs at break and lunchtimes that started this week. Some lovely clubs have taken place already.....some for a select few, some well-attended, some children forgot to turn up to their own club and lots of executive functioning skills are being strengthened. We have clubs to meet everyone's interests including: indoor sports, bracelet making, board games, chess, art and colouring, gymnastics, origami, Around the World, languages and book club in our new library. Year 5 cricket club led by Veer, Purav and Kabir was great fun and I am confident that I made a good decision in saying no to these boys bringing in their own cricket bats and balls; instead they used plastic cricket bats and tennis balls which is much safer. With 40 clubs on offer this initiative involves most teachers supervising multiple clubs during the week; I am really grateful that many staff are willing to give up break and lunchtime to give children the opportunity to lead a club. Children who lead clubs for four weeks will receive a special badge in recognition of their success.

During half term, we invite your children to complete a creative homework task – create a 'tale in a jar' (further details in the World Book Day section of this newsletter). Children are

invited to come to school on World Book Day (6<sup>th</sup> March) dressed up as a favourite book character too – there are plenty of simple ideas online for dress up without the need to spend money on a shop-bought costume; a simple prop depicting a character is enough.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> was also the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and this is traditionally a day to pray for those suffering from illness. There are often families within our school and parish community that are experiencing ill-health and dealing with extremely challenging circumstances. This weekend, I encourage you to please offer prayers for those in our community who may be struggling at this time.

Our Jubilee banner is now on our gate to serve as a reminder that, as Catholics, we are called to hope with certainty throughout 2025. As we were reminded in this morning's assembly that, if we notice, pray and take the right actions, things will get better and our prayers will be answered, even if not always in the way we had anticipated.

Holy Family Catholic Primary School is seeking to extend the age range of the school to 2 to 11, opening a nursery serving 25 pupils from September 2025. If you wish to share your views on this proposal, please complete the form attached via the link below by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. CONSULTATION LINK: <https://forms.office.com/e/vmTzq876Lk>

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful half term.

God bless

Mrs Benn

## **DIARY DATES**

### **Half Term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Start of Lent Term 2 for Nursery – Year 6 Week 1 of the Menu Year 2 Visit to Windsor Castle <i>Rescheduled</i>
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Y5 STEM Activity (In School) Year 6 Class (Mrs Ragg) Visit to Langley Library
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 4 Swimming Year 2 Class (Mrs Powell) Visit to Langley Library
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	EYFS Saint's Day – St David (EYFS to Wear Yellow) Year 1 Class Assembly (Mrs Hume) Parents Welcome 9am
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Book Fair In School This Week Week 2 of the Menu Year 1 Dinosaur Day (In School)
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Shrove Tuesday Year 4 Visit to Verulamium

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

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Ash Wednesday

School Tour for Prospective Parents 10am

Year 4 Swimming

Year 2 Class (Miss Macfarlane) Visit to Langley Library

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

World Book Day

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

Year 5 Class Assembly (Mrs O'Reilly) Parents Welcome 9am

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

First Reconciliation for Children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion This Year 10am (Holy Family Catholic Church)

### **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.'

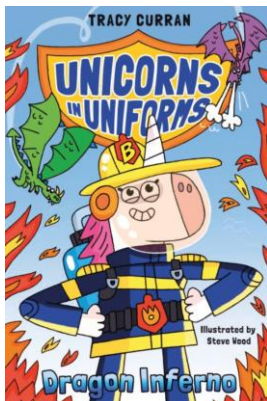
### **Amazing Achievements**

Congratulations to Abigail Thekkekara who performed Indian Classical Dance (Bharathnatyam) at an event organised by IDUK (Indian Diaspora in the UK) as part of the Indian Republic Day celebrations. Abigail performed in front of an audience of over 550 that included dignitaries such as Mayor of Slough, Mayor of Gerrards Cross, Windsor MP Jack Rankin and Slough council leader Dexter Smith.

Congratulations to Devante Romney for being awarded his advanced red belt in karate.

### **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:** Tracy Curran

**Illustrator:** Steve Wood

**Interest age:** 6-8

**Reading age:** 7+

When two young dragons accidentally set Witchy Wood alight, fire-fighting unicorn Blaze and her cheeky fire engine Quench race to the rescue. This colourfully illustrated chapter book is the first in a series about a team of uniformed unicorns who work in the emergency services.

### **Year 2 Trip to Windsor Castle**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this trip has been rescheduled and will now take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.

### **Year 4 Swimming**

Swimming lessons for Year 4 will resume after half term on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### **Parents/Carers of Year 6 Children**

From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 and World Book Day – Thursday 6th March**

World Book Day is always a lively event in school; the theme this year has continued on from that of last year 'Read Your Way', and children will spend the day engaged in a variety of lovely book-focused activities. They usually enjoy coming into school dressed up as a favourite book character too – there are plenty of simple ideas online for dress up without the need to spend money on a shop-bought costume; a simple prop depicting a character is enough.

During half term, we would love your children to complete a creative homework task – 'Tale in a Jar' consisting of retelling part of a story/ showcasing their favourite character from a book inside a jar. 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. We look forward to displaying our collection of tales in a jar for a pop-up exhibition after World Book Day and in our library, The Whispering Pages. The children have been shown a PowerPoint today in school for some inspiration, and there are also plenty of ideas online. We look forward to receiving the jars back in school by Thursday 6th March.

The pop-up exhibition will take place in the hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 3:20-3:40.

We will also have the Book Fair in school for the week of World Book Day. All children will be issued with a voucher which entitles them to £1 off their chosen book. The book fair is open to parents and children before and after school and is a fantastic way to browse some books and raise money for books for our school too. The book fair is now cashless, and can be paid using our online QR code. Thank you.

### **Safer Internet Day**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February was Safer Internet Day. This was marked in our Key Stage assemblies based around the theme '**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online**'. Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year we cover an online issue or theme that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. Our children were reminded about how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them and the importance of talking to trusted adults when something doesn't feel right or when something has gone wrong.

Thank you, Mrs Martinez – ICT Teacher.

### **Staffing Update**

After half term, Mrs Gonoud (Receptionist/Welfare Officer) will reduce her hours from 5 days to 3 days a week. Mrs Gonoud will no longer work Mondays and Fridays. From 7.45 am on Monday and Friday mornings Miss Wheeler will be covering Reception. During the daytime on Monday and Friday the front desk will be unmanned and other members of our administration team will respond to parents' queries. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to adapt to new ways of working.

### **Scooters and bikes!**

As all parents are aware we have long operated a no cycling or use of scooters around the school site. The expectation is children push them to and from the school gates. This is essential for everyone's health and safety and maintains a calm atmosphere at either end of the busy school day. Toddlers and elderly adults can easily be knocked over and children quickly become separated from their carers if they race ahead. As we now only have one member of staff supervising the end of the school day, walking between the two gates, some of our younger children are regularly scooting at the end of the school day. We look to parents to enforce the long-established expectation that no one scoots or cycles on site. Thank you for your support.

### **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.

### **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	R- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bLRTa2uu/pZB1nx1W">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bLRTa2uu/pZB1nx1W</a> H- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rWC8FxxI/vAw6VJ4Y">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rWC8FxxI/vAw6VJ4Y</a> L- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IEfPv7Ca/LuI6GRvr">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IEfPv7Ca/LuI6GRvr</a>
Mrs Mulrooney	Set 1	D- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/b5I6Y4QR/RQzH3kpS">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/b5I6Y4QR/RQzH3kpS</a> H- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/sr4dBPqZ/1gZFTLCD">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/sr4dBPqZ/1gZFTLCD</a> P- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0MmL93SJ/1Co4Bvd3">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/0MmL93SJ/1Co4Bvd3</a> <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/cWBz76gs/6clCMmms">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/cWBz76gs/6clCMmms</a> <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mWtexpIE/1x7Q1Y53">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mWtexpIE/1x7Q1Y53</a>
Mrs Scott	Word Time	<a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Lut7MyrE/R52ZCznJ">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Lut7MyrE/R52ZCznJ</a> <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/cN0pNZ0R/IW5Tai2E">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/cN0pNZ0R/IW5Tai2E</a> <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/X9Vgpbz4/urmjZoXf">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/X9Vgpbz4/urmjZoXf</a> <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/csTHgFde/NOxPFcSd">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/csTHgFde/NOxPFcSd</a> <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Gvo0ljFH/MqYKjg4Q">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Gvo0ljFH/MqYKjg4Q</a>
Mrs Crow	Ditties	NK- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fDOn7WjO/KXCQ0Uq6">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fDOn7WjO/KXCQ0Uq6</a> CK- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qk5GtXqR/l1hK9uEU">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qk5GtXqR/l1hK9uEU</a>

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Mrs Keogh	Purple	AIR- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4XnQe3NM/oEDjH4cs">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4XnQe3NM/oEDjH4cs</a> IR- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9whJoIn9/mim4ZDTH">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9whJoIn9/mim4ZDTH</a> OU- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/VpMN2FYF/QtAWIfgK">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/VpMN2FYF/QtAWIfgK</a> OY- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xsT82Qtm/5Zj5R56G">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xsT82Qtm/5Zj5R56G</a>
Mrs Birch Mrs Hendy	Yellow Blue	O-E- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/voixCJSz/xEHanbyj">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/voixCJSz/xEHanbyj</a> U-E- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/StzhXXHh/yiXkr1lr">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/StzhXXHh/yiXkr1lr</a> AW- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uJSFtbDm/rGDowicz">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uJSFtbDm/rGDowicz</a> EA- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fRmgv4kr/B7qEV4s5">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fRmgv4kr/B7qEV4s5</a>
Mrs Wilson Mrs Hogg	Orange Grey	UE- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GaUBqegb/ulTd5Ekw">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GaUBqegb/ulTd5Ekw</a> IE- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3ib0nuM1/Or9M3Mo6">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3ib0nuM1/Or9M3Mo6</a> E-E- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/AOCI19eH/TXz3u86j">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/AOCI19eH/TXz3u86j</a> E - <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YmfuNIJz/iF8VdqgQ">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YmfuNIJz/iF8VdqgQ</a> WH- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ImaGNoIM/yfeYZddw">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ImaGNoIM/yfeYZddw</a> PH- <a href="https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jUGqJaww/zQK2Nv7K">https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jUGqJaww/zQK2Nv7K</a>

## OTHER

### Langley Library

The petition regarding a possible closure of Langley Library has now ended having reached nearly 2,000 signatures - 500 more than required for it to be eligible for a full council debate by all 42 councillors. Slough Borough Council's Cabinet Committee will decide the future of Langley Library on March 17th. Please see the message below.

*Dear School Parents,*

*This is your Councillor Chandra Muvvala, thank you for signing the petition to protect Langley Library. In addition to the petition, we are planning further actions in the coming weeks, such as meeting with the Slough & Windsor MP and, if permitted, organizing a protest outside the council building. The Slough Borough Council will decide the future of our libraries on March 17th, and we need to ensure our voices are heard.*

*To keep everyone informed, we are sharing updates through a dedicated WhatsApp group and a Facebook group. Since it wouldn't be fair to repeatedly ask schools to share my messages, I kindly ask you to join these groups for the latest updates:*

** Join our WhatsApp group (dedicated to library matters only):**

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HmIBrESvwcXEWKyrASaOhx>

** Join our Facebook group (SaveLangleyLibrary):**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/591562113731703>

*We are confident that, with your support, we can protect Langley Library. Thank you for standing with us!*

*Councillor Chandra Muvvala, Langley Marish Ward, Slough Borough Council*