



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.21

Friday 28th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable half term.

Well done to Mrs Hume's Year 1 class for their fantastic assembly. It takes a great deal of courage for some of our younger children to stand up in front of the whole school. Children retold the stories of Peter and Zacchaeus; they sang 'Follow me, follow me..' and depicted their whole assembly with their very own drawings. Year 1 reminded us to listen to Jesus in our heads and our hearts, to make good decisions and reflect on how we can make the world a better place through our kind words and actions. What a glorious start to a Friday!

Mrs Fox's Year 5 class enjoyed a lovely and informative visit to Langley Grammar School yesterday where they took part in a digital workshop to build a programme that would enable them to build a Monster. Please read more about their visit in this newsletter. A big thank you to Langley Grammar School for welcoming our children to their Digital Schoolhouse.

Finally, Year 4 made it swimming this week. After many weeks of disappointment children enjoyed their first session at Langley Leisure Pool with school.

Mrs Powell's Year 2 class had the best attendance again this week. At 97.4% they can look forward to their good Attendance Reward of extra playtime next week.

A gentle reminder that we will have World Book Day in school next Thursday. The Book Fair will be in school all week, and, if children have not already done so, please do encourage them to complete the creative homework task – create a 'tale in a jar' (further details in the World Book Day section of this newsletter).

Lent starts next week on Ash Wednesday. We look forward to welcoming Kieran (Holy Family Parish Assistant) who traditionally leads our Ash Wednesday Service in school.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and hopefully the beautiful weather will continue.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Monday 3rd March

Book Fair In School This Week

Week 2 of the Menu

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| | Year 1 Dinosaur Day (In School) |
| Tuesday 4th March | Shrove Tuesday Year 4 Visit to Verulamium Year 3 Class (Mrs Martinez & Mrs Kukla) Visit to Langley Library |
| Wednesday 5th March | Ash Wednesday School Tour for Prospective Parents 10am Year 4 Swimming Year 2 Class (Miss Macfarlane) Visit to Langley Library |
| Thursday 6th March | World Book Day |
| Friday 7th March | Year 5 Class Assembly (Mrs O'Reilly) Parents Welcome 9am 'Tale in a Jar' Pop-Up Exhibition 3.20-3.40pm (School Hall) |
| Saturday 8th March | First Reconciliation for Children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion This Year 10am (Holy Family Catholic Church) |
| Monday 10th March | Week 1 of the Menu |
| Tuesday 11th March | Reception Class (Mrs Scott) Visit to Langley Library |
| Wednesday 12th March | Year 3 Art Exhibition 3.20-3.40pm (Year 3 Classrooms) Year 4 Swimming Reception Class (Mrs Harris) Visit to Langley Library |
| Thursday 13th March | School Class Photographs |
| Friday 14th March | CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day Year 4 Class Assembly (Mrs Green & Mrs Evans) Parents Welcome 9am |
| Monday 17th March | Week 2 of the Menu EYFS Saint's Day – St Patrick (EYFS to Wear Green) |
| Tuesday 18th March | Year 3 Class (Ms Iqbal) Visit to Langley Library |
| Wednesday 19th March | Year 4 Swimming |
| Thursday 20th March | Optional Parents' Evening 2-6pm |
| Friday 21st March | HFCS Feast Day Mass (At School) |

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 for recently performing an Indian classical dance (Bharatanatyam) at the 12th London Shivratri Nritholsavam, organized by the London Sree Guruvayurappan Temple. Avia was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for her outstanding Performance.

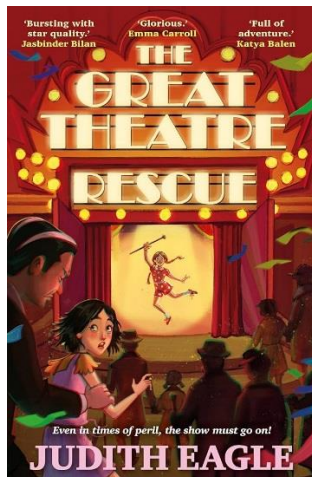
Weekly Sports Update

This term our Year 5s have been given an exciting opportunity to be taught dance by Creative Academy Dance students. This week their lesson was themed on The Jungle Book. Year 5 were all fantastic at the dance routine they had been shown and even got to add their own freestyle dance at the end of it. We are looking forward to next week's lesson!

Three classes are also lucky enough to be taught by a specialist cricket coach from Berkshire cricket this term. This week, children focused on learning the basics of cricket and had lots of fun.

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: Judith Eagle

Interest age: 9-11

Reading age: 9+

Set in 1930s theatre land, this historical adventure is full of joy but also features shadowy characters, dramatic getaways, just the right level of jeopardy and some puzzling mysteries to unravel.

Wednesday Word

Our Wednesday Word this week is ACTION and in this Sunday's Gospel Jesus uses a parable – a short story – to teach us an important lesson.

Jesus tells us what a 'good' person does. Just like good fruit is a sign of a good tree, our words and actions can show a good heart. Our Gospel today reminds us not to fixate about the actions of others, but rather we should look at our own actions and try harder to grow in goodness. Our mission this week is to decide on one action that we could take to show our love for God and others. Perhaps you can try to be more humble and more truthful about your own mistakes and be ready to say sorry for anything you have done wrong. Remember - try to be more understanding, caring and kind towards others – not just here in school or on the playground but at home too.

You might wish to end your Wednesday Word reflection this week by saying the Wednesday Word prayer together:

*Lord Jesus, we have listened carefully to your words.
Please help us to share the Good News of this week's Gospel with our families,
through our actions and our words.
Amen*

By Nathan Philmon Year 6 Faith Ambassador

Build a Monster Digital Workshop at Langley Grammar

Mrs Fox's Year 5 class visited Langley Grammar School on Thursday to take part in a digital workshop led by the ICT department. Using block programming software called Crumble and electrical equipment, children learned how to build a programme that would enable them to build a Monster who could wink and blink with a rotating headpiece. It was a fabulous opportunity to access the expertise of a secondary ICT professional. Our pupils demonstrated excellent foundation knowledge of block programming and the ability to work, completely unfazed, with unfamiliar electrical equipment. The leader of the workshop was also most impressed with their attitudes and their tidying up skills! Well done Year 5, Mrs Fox



Attendance

As previously mentioned, for half a term (from now until the Easter holidays) we are trialling an incentive whereby the class with the best attendance will receive some extra playtime. Well done to Mrs Powell's Year 2 class for achieving the highest percentage (97.4%) attendance this week. Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

Parents/Carers of Year 6 Children

We are extending the Year 6 parents/carers trial of Study Bugs as a way of reporting pupil absence from Monday 10th February until Friday 7th March. If successful, this will be rolled out to other year groups. Thank you for your support with this trial.

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.

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 7th March from 3:20-3:40.

We will also have the Book Fair in school. 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.

(£1 book vouchers can also be used in some of the larger book shops. Every World Book Day there is a selection of small books produced for £1 so everyone can own a book. £1 books are only available for book shops and unfortunately will not be available at the school book fair.)

Thank you, Miss Macfarlane

Optional Parents' Evening

Teachers will be available to speak to parents from 2pm-6pm on Thursday 20th March. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you wish to make an appointment. If you do not have the opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher and would like to make an appointment, please email carole.gonoud@hfcs.org.uk indicating your preferred time (we will try to allocate a time close to your preferred time but cannot guarantee this). Thank you.

Multiplication Tables

Year 4 parents may already know that there will be a Multiplication Tables Check for all Year 4 children in June. There will be 25 questions of mixed times tables up to 12 x 12. All schools will be taking part in the check each year as it is now part of the standard testing for schools.

All Key Stage 2 children should be practising their times tables weekly as part of their homework and can use Times Tables Rockstars to do so. This is especially important for Years 3 and 4. We recommend using <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> as it is similar to how the Times Tables Check will look. Please encourage your children to practise regularly.

School Class Photographs – Thursday 13th March

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 13th March for school class photographs. Please ensure your child is wearing smart winter school uniform. Thank you.

Unauthorised School Absences – Penalty Notice Changes

As of 19th August 2024, the national framework for issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absence changed - please see the attached poster for more information. If you have any

queries, please contact the school's Attendance Officer, Mrs Oakes, at emma.oakes@hfcs.org.uk.

Polite reminders: Scooters, bikes, party bags and chewing gum!

We look to parents to enforce the long-established expectation that no children ride scooters or bikes or chew chewing gum on the school site. Recently we requested that our younger children do not bring in party bags for classmates; a small packet of sweets or a sticker is more appropriate. Teachers and administrators have been asked to return party bags to parents. 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 8am 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.

Please also note that Colham Catering are now able to offer the option of a packed lunch on days when your child has a school trip. Should you wish to purchase one please order on the portal; orders for packed lunches have to be made at least 48 hrs before the day it's required.

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.

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| Mrs Harris | Set 1 | E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bGtxnaM4/1oycfhXi L- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/PdHXusdK/trZM19wf H- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/tR1dGTB3/0OpBjVXe |
| Mrs Scott Mrs Crow | Ditties | SH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/VC5nY6x0/zoJZ7qHf TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/226QmCR6/tH9xaleI CH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/y7Mt6NMQ/Jv2jSES3 |
| Mrs Mulrooney Mrs Keogh | Green Purple | AY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/VWu42btu/jpjFNaBy EE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OapFrQwR/J9ZiqIil IGH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bm1xpThw/DoWiy8z9 |
| Mrs Wilson Mrs Birch Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg | Orange Yellow Blue Grey | EA- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/hHyZTzw/2lXqe3T9 OI- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qVymoH45/Zs00RmEY A-E - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/m3Ip9INs/e1YdghXw |