



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.22

Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We ended our week today with the most beautiful liturgy led by Mrs O'Reilly's Year 5 class. They managed to share so much information about how we can best prepare for Easter and how we can spend this time, in particular, becoming the best version possible of the person that God intended us to be. The confidence that the children showed meant that the audience of children and parents were fully engaged and listened thoughtfully to what was being shared. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who were able to join us this morning.

Our week began with Year 1 children and staff dressed as dinosaurs and palaeontologists. Year 1 had a great creative day making unique salt dough Stegosauruses. In the afternoon, the children presented the dioramas and moving dinosaurs to their parents, who were very impressed. As always staff appreciated so many parents making the time to visit classrooms as children always enjoy seeing their parents in school. We also appreciate parents support with dinosaur themed outfits.

Staff welcomed lots of families to the book fair and apologies the QR code system slowed the payment process. We very much appreciated your patience with this cashless system. We hope everyone who wanted to purchase a book found something they will enjoy.

There were some incredible book character costumes yesterday including Hungry Caterpillars, Highway Rats, Aladdins, Robin Hood, Alice in Wonderlands, Stickman and Margot in Year 2 really got into the role of being Willy Wonka as she had even made Golden Tickets which she gave out to children and teachers who she thought had great book character outfits! Children were excited to work with children from different year groups during a book quiz hosted by Miss Macfarlane and again in the afternoon taking part in book themed craft activities. Year 5 and 6 children collected and returned Reception children to their classes and it was lovely to see our older children really looking after our youngest children.

Also this week, Year 4 enjoyed the sunshine while visiting the Verulamium Museum, much of which is outside, so the beautiful weather was a blessing. Year 4 enjoyed touching all the

hands-on resources and dressing up as various Roman characters. We appreciate the help from parents in supervising groups, especially those who stepped in at very short notice.

Thank you to two of our governors who have visited this week. Suki (mum of Jovan and Rajvir) visited our Nursery and Reception classes to do an annual EYFS learning walk and Seenu (dad of Jacob) spoke to staff and children. The focus of his visit was staff welfare, children's behaviour and attendance. They were both very impressed with children's attitudes and engagement in learning.

Many of our 'Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move' clubs are hugely successful. They range from twenty rowdy, roaring KS2s playing bench ball, to ten very well organised and inclusive Year 5 cricketers, to four children meeting in prayer....and much more. This is Week 3 and congratulations to anyone who has run their club for 3 weeks. Some children managed one week and some have failed to show up at all which is what we expected. Everyone in KS2 had the same opportunity and the leadership, organisation, communication and commitment from some groups of children is inspiring. These skills are called 'executive functioning' and everyone can develop these with practice and good modelling. In school staff use a strategy called 'Think aloud/Live modelling' to model to children the thought process that goes into a particular activity to achieve success.

We thank Kieran, our parish worker, for leading two beautiful Ash Wednesday Liturgies. Children were reminded of the three pillars of our preparation during Lent: we are called to pray, fast and support charity even more than we usually do. 14th March is CAFOD Family Fast Day and staff will be planning some charitable events with their classes in the next few weeks.

Thank you so much for all your support. We know we are a busy school and there is much to remember as a parent. You are all doing a great job and we appreciate the Tales in Jars, dinosaur costumes, book character costumes, remembering PE and swimming kits, having parents take time out of your busy schedules to come into school and everything you do to support the vast array of events that take place.

Wishing all our families a lovely weekend.

God bless,

Mrs Benn

Prayer

We kindly ask you to offer some prayers this weekend for those children in Year 3 whose First Reconciliation will take place tomorrow; below is a simple prayer that you may wish to say as a family and children may wish to learn.

Children's Reconciliation Prayer:

Dear God, Help me to remember the times when I didn't live as Jesus asked me to. Help me to be sorry and to try again. Amen

DIARY DATES

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)
Monday 24th March	Final Week of Extra Curricular Activities Week 1 of the Menu
Tuesday 25th March	Year 4 Roman Day Year 1 Class (Mrs Hume) Visit to Langley Library
Wednesday 26th March	Year 4 Swimming Year 5 Class (Mrs Fox) Visit to Langley Library
Friday 28th March	Mothers' Day Celebration for Nursery Parents

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

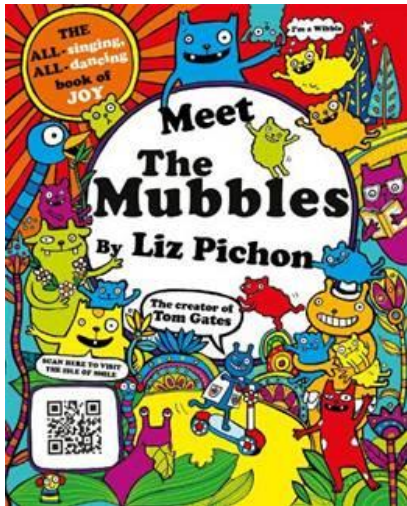
Well done to Abigail Thekkekara for performing Indian Classical dance (Bharathnatyam) at the London Shivrathri Nritholsavam dance festival and being awarded a certificate of excellence for her outstanding performance.

Well done to Ciara Robinson for participating in another feis where she was awarded a 2nd place trophy for her slip jig, 3rd place trophy for her light jig, as well as medals for her other dances.

Well done to Daniel Brumby for moving up to Stage 5 in his swimming lessons after his 2nd lesson back following the pool closure.

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: Liz Pichon

Interest Age: 6-8

Reading Age: 6+

The mischievous Mubbles live in peace on the Isle of Smile until a mysterious delivery begins to cause chaos. Liz Pichon's first graphic novel for younger readers is a huge amount of silly fun!

Wednesday Word

As most of us know, this week we marked Ash Wednesday. If you went to church on Wednesday, you would know that the priest puts ashes, made from palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday service, on each person's forehead in the shape of the cross, and says, 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Our Wednesday Word was 'Lent' and this week's scripture is:

'Following his baptism, Jesus went into the desert for forty days. He was all alone and He ate nothing because He was fasting. Knowing that Jesus would be hungry, the Tempter told Him to turn a stone into bread. But Jesus refused, and said, 'Scripture says no one lives on bread alone.' Jesus resisted two more temptations and the Tempter left Him.'

Jesus rejected the temptations, one after the other – each time with a word from scripture, which is the Word of God. During these forty days and nights of Lent, we can also do something special for God, just like Jesus did: perhaps we can give something up or do something extra as we prepare for Easter.

I hope you enjoy your week and make sure you spread God's love, throughout Lent.

Lenten Fundraising

During Lent, each year group will decide how they will raise money for charity and further information relating to this will be sent out by each year group after half term. This Lent, our charities are CAFOD and Thames Valley Hospice. Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraising.

For the Parents of Nursery Children Only

We would like to invite all the Mums (or other close family member) to come and see Nursery children perform a very short song for Mother's Day on Friday 28th March in Nursery at 11.30am or 2.30pm. We appreciate not everyone will be able to make it, but, if you are able to, we would love to see you! It would only last 5 mins at the most. Thank you, Mrs Forrest and Ms Herring.

Exciting Author Visit: Dr. Fuzz, Author of Poppy the Pea!

We are thrilled to announce an exciting upcoming visit from Dr. Fuzz (Tuesday 29th April), the talented author of Poppy the Pea! Dr. Fuzz is passionate about sharing the heart-warming story of Poppy and the important themes of courage, resilience, and following your dreams. During the visit, Dr. Fuzz will lead engaging assemblies and workshops where students will explore these themes through interactive discussions and fun activities.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to be inspired by Dr. Fuzz's journey as an author and to discover how they can apply these positive values in their own lives.

For parents who wish to purchase a copy of Poppy the Pea, the book will be available for just £7.08 through ParentPay. To make it even more special, if you pre-order your book by Tuesday 22nd April (one week before the event), your child will receive a signed copy from Dr. Fuzz during the visit!

Children will have the opportunity to collect their signed copies at the book signing event, which will take place from 3:20 to 3:50 PM in the school library, The Whispering Pages. This is a wonderful chance for young readers to meet Dr. Fuzz, get their books signed, and share in the excitement of the visit.

We look forward to a memorable and inspiring visit!

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 14th March. If successful, this will be rolled out to other year groups. Thank you for your support with this trial.

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.

Mrs Harris	Set 1	T- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/TcAn5Rt4/zFwoVu1E I- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/98TAY8Ea/iz3uvVUL
Mrs Scott Mrs Crow	Ditties	QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/I3i3Gtrd/BpSzBVky NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/83SfLn9k/wdGqvwsI
Mrs Mulrooney Mrs Keogh	Green Purple	OW - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/v8e9Hqkl/kiVqLmge OO - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ndPC9tqD/Jev5WvcC
Mrs Wilson Mrs Birch Mrs Hendy	Orange Yellow Blue Grey	I-E - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2zi5sK1c/amok5DRs O-E - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/V406yiyz/B3JSuxNd

Mrs Hogg		
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OTHER

Oral Health Support Virtual Session

Please find attached a flyer with information regarding a GEMS Oral Health Support Virtual session which is taking place on Friday 16th May 2025 10am to 11:15am.