



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.24

Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely week and been able to enjoy the beautiful weather we have been blessed with.

The Feast Day for the Holy Family falls on the 29th December, which is always during the middle of our Christmas holiday. In agreement with Father Kevin, we decided we would always celebrate our Feast Day during the same week as the Feast of St Joseph, 19th March. Today, we celebrated a beautiful mass together as a whole school and were pleased to welcome Father Kevin and Kieran. Our Faith Ambassadors, supported by Mrs O'Reilly, took on various roles including reading, bringing the gifts to the altar, processing with a beautiful image of the Holy Family and introducing our youngest children to their latest superheros. Our four altar servers supported Father Kevin well and the whole school sang wonderfully well. We thank Lani in Nursery for suggesting that a great way for EYFS to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope would be to play at being Hope Superheros. Lani and Ernest modelled their superhero capes with aplomb!

Thank you to the parents and carers of children in EYFS who supported school by sending children in wearing an item of green clothing on Monday to help with their learning about St Patrick. We hope everyone who celebrates St Patrick enjoyed their celebrations. Congratulations to Ciara Robinson who performed Irish dancing at four different venues last weekend, one of them being Trafalgar Square.

I hope everyone who met with their child's teacher at this week's Optional Parents' evening found it informative and useful. We encourage parents to speak to the class teacher when dropping off/picking up their children if they ever have any concerns.

Please do read the information within this newsletter regarding site security, parent surveys, absence reporting and the deadline for ordering class photographs.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

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 Year 6 Easter Cracked at Langley Free Church
Friday 28th March	Mothers' Day Celebration for Nursery Parents 11.30am & 2.30pm
Monday 31st March	Week 2 of the Menu Y3/4 Boys Football v Cippenham (at HFCS) Y6 PGL May 2025 Residential Trip Meeting 6.30pm
Tuesday 1st April	Y3 Visit to Hampton Court Palace Y5 Stations of the Cross Parents Invited 9.15am
Wednesday 2nd April	MHST Coffee Morning for Parents – Supporting Anxiety 9-10am Fashion Workshop for Year 6 Year 4 Swimming – Not This Week Netball Match at Marish 3.15-4.30pm
Thursday 3rd April	EYFS & KS1 Easter Bonnet parade Term Finishes For Nursery (Usual Time)
Friday 4th April	Term Ends for Reception – Year 6 12.15pm

Easter Holidays: Monday 7th April 2025 – Monday 21st April 2025

Tuesday 22nd April	Pentecost Term Starts for Nursery and School
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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.'

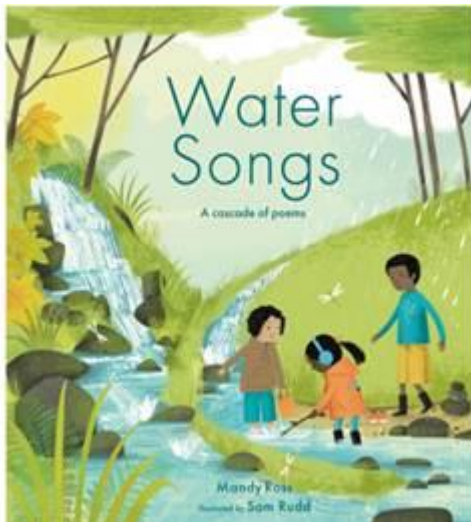
Amazing Achievements

Congratulations to Ciara Robinson who danced on the Trafalgar Square stage last weekend in front of a large crowd with her Irish Dance Academy for the St Patrick's Day Celebrations.

Congratulations to Daniel Shah for being awarded player of the match last weekend whilst playing for his team (George Green Juniors FC) thanks to some amazing saves and decision making as a goalkeeper.

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: Mandy Ross

Illustrator: Sam Rudd

Interest Age: 6-8

Reading Age: 5+

Featuring poems about the many songs of water, from the cracks of glaciers and the whirl of blizzards to the rushing of rivers and the crashing of the sea, Mandy Ross considers water in all its diversity in this illustrated collection of new poems.

Wednesday Word

Our Wednesday word this week is 'Change' and this Sunday's gospel is about Jesus narrating a story of a man who planted a fig tree. This tree never bore a fruit for 3 long years. Hence the man ordered his gardener to cut it down. But the gardener replied to him, "leave the tree for one more year and I'll manure it, it might bear fruits next year. If not then you can cut it down". In this story, we are the fig tree and Jesus is the gardener. He will wait for us to grow and flourish but he will never give up on us even if we are not perfect. He is always patient with us, he nurtures us and helps us change for the better. Lent is a great time for a change, when we give up something, sometimes we realise we actually never needed them.

Now as we end our gospel time together, we will say a prayer:

God is our refuge and strength
An ever present help in times of trouble
Amen

Sara – Year 6 Faith Ambassador

Easter Holiday Camp

Mr Holder will be running our popular Easter Camp during the first week of the Easter holiday. A booking form was emailed to parents yesterday (and is attached to this newsletter also) and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The Easter Camp will run from 7th-11th April and is open to children from Reception to Year 6. We reserve the right not to go ahead with this club if we do not receive sufficient bookings by Monday 31st March.

Site Security

Children's safety is our number one priority and, having reviewed how we operate either end of the school day, we will be trialling a few changes from Monday 23rd March until the Easter holiday. During this period, we will continue to 'tweak' our procedures until we feel we have the right system. In line with many other schools, we wish to achieve a secure site from the moment the first child enters our care (7.45am, when Early Birds starts) until the last child leaves our care (5.45pm, when Late Owls closes). Therefore, the pedestrian gate will remain shut every morning apart from morning drop off 8.40-9am.

No parents will be permitted to wait on the playground during the period 3.30-4.30pm and watch after school clubs. The member of staff who supervises the gates 3.15-3.40pm will also ensure every parent has left the playground. The gate at the side of our Year 3 classrooms will be locked. Parents will no longer pick up from after school clubs on the playground. Instead, Mr Holder and Icon Football Academy staff will walk children around to the gate at the side of Year 3 classrooms and dismiss children to their adult when they see them. This may slow down parents who are picking up children slightly and so I appreciate your patience next week. For many clubs such as gymnastics and Streetdance, parents gather outside the main reception and children are dismissed from the school door, and this feels more secure, and more inline with how children are dismissed from classrooms at the end of the school day.

All parents collecting from Late Owls are buzzed in by staff running that club. (We are aware the gate release is temperamental at the moment and we intend that this will be fixed during the Easter holiday). Please can you collect by walking past the Nursery playground. The Nursery gate will remain unlocked at the end of the school day to facilitate this, however, we respectfully ask that no parents collecting from after school sports clubs enter further into the school site than the main reception.

The pedestrian gate next to the vehicle gate will open at 4.25pm to enable parents to gather near main reception to pick up. If parents travel on public transport and wish to wait on site they will be able to buzz to enter the site but we ask you to wait on/near the four benches immediately inside the school gates.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we work out a slightly new system to further increase our security; we hope you understand how we are prioritising the safety of our children.

Attendance

Well done to Mrs Powell's Year 2 class for achieving the highest percentage (100%) attendance this week. Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

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.

Easter Bonnet Parade for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – Thursday 3rd April

This year, our Easter Bonnet Parade for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will take place on Thursday 3rd April. Children are asked to come in to school on that day wearing their Easter Bonnet that they have made at home. Children will get the opportunity to parade round school to show off their wonderful creations. Thank you for your support.

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!

Lenten Fundraising

As Pilgrims of hope on our Jubilee Journey, we are encouraged to support our local community as well as supporting others globally.

At Holy Family, each year group has decided on a fundraiser to support our local charity - Thames Hospice. The global charity we will be supporting is CAFOD by taking part in The Big Lent Walk.

If you wish to make a donation to our fundraisers, you can do so on Parent Pay.

Local

Year group fundraisers to support Thames Hospice. To find out more about this organisation, please visit their website.

<https://www.thameshospice.org.uk/>

Global

The Big Lent Walk

We are going to be walking to raise money for CAFOD to help fight global poverty.

When planning our pilgrimage around school to take part in The Big Lent Walk, we noticed that the number 7 featured regularly.

The number 7 is mentioned over 700 times in the bible and is seen in nature through the 7 colours of the rainbow, 7 continents, 7 days of the week and God created the world in 7 days.

During each of the 7 pilgrimages, the 7 year groups will lap the school 7 times, stopping for 7 moments of reflection and consider our 7 areas of Catholic Social Teaching. The walks will take place during the last 2 weeks of the Lent Term.

CAFOD suggest the children getting sponsored for their walk. However, we are a cashless school so are suggesting a donation made on Parent Pay between £1 and £10 which will be donated to CAFOD.

During the pilgrimage, the children will learn more about the work CAFOD do to help those suffering from poverty. Please take a look at the CAFOD website to find out more.

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/about>

Thank you for your support.

St Thomas Catholic Academies Association - Parent Surveys

All parents/carers will have received an email today regarding a parent/carer survey that St Thomas has asked us to issue to parents. Please note the deadline for completion of the survey is Friday 4th April. Thank you

School Class Photographs

Your child will be bringing home their class photo proof with barcode today. Please keep this safe as it has all the details you need to order your photo online. Please follow the instructions on the card. **You must order by 31st March.** Thank you.

Year 6 PGL Trip May 2025

We would like to invite all parents/carers of children who are attending this residential trip to a meeting at school on Monday 31st March 2025 at 6.30pm. Thank you.

SEND Information

Our school website has up to date information in relation to SEND at HFCS as well as some useful links. Please do take a look.

<https://www.holyfamilycatholicschool.org.uk/about-us/send-information/>

Studybugs - New System for Reporting Absences

Following a successful trial of the Studybugs absence reporting app with Year 6, we will be rolling this out across school for all pupils from April 2025. This app is used to report absences to school. We will be asking all parents and carers to download the app and use this instead of emailing or calling school to report absences. A letter with further information/instructions will be provided to parents/carers before the end of this term.

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.

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	W- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/FWi7IT0Q/NL4xLij Z- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uGdtG1fs/YjcFHybC X- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8y7gYvJb/aybTmPkG
Mrs Scott Mrs Crow	Ditties	CH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rq5mGzDy/MHCxgb8o QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ab8a3A73/PoCyhcsO NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YZOgZozx/AxdOsUwq
Mrs Mulrooney Mrs Keogh	Green Purple	IR - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yHUUfHT2/NA8hKTj8 OU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WaJvcoPw/p7HUJlcp OY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/zFzP2rt8/z0Xuq57v
Mrs Wilson Mrs Birch Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg	Orange Yellow Blue Grey	ER- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/sxzGkvmR/aKXQssZD OW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DOIQ66Ac/OuuQZPCs AI- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/R7GUYNCy/KDG9h9HG

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust (STCAT) – Train to Teach 2025

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust will be hosting a number of open mornings in March, April and May, which is the perfect opportunity to find out more about what the training programme involves and how to apply. More information is available in the leaflet attached or go to www.stcat.co.uk/become-a-teacher for further information.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

After several years as the Chair of the Parents and Teachers Association, Mrs Oakes is stepping down and will no longer be organising events such as the annual Easter Egg Tombola, Easter Egg Hunt, Summer or Christmas Fairs. Certain PTA events will still continue thanks to the generosity of parents who have agreed to co-ordinate individual events they have taken full responsibility for over the last few years.

The annual panto trip – Mel, mum of Jude Year 6

Discounted Legoland tickets on certain INSET days – Emma, mum of Aidan Year 5

Christmas Cards – Clare, mum of Hollie and Evie Year 6 and Year 3

Easter Egg Hunt – Marta, mum of Victoria Year 6

If anyone is keen to keep the PTA Summer and Christmas fair traditions going and take on the role of Chair of the PTA and/or committee members please do let Mrs Benn know and we will arrange a hand over meeting followed by a PTA meeting. Such events do really help foster a thriving school and build community. This role would suit someone who possibly works part time or is between jobs and has time to manage communication with school staff, parents and external events companies/individuals.

We do have willing parental volunteers who have been involved in the past who will support you, as will school staff. However, ideally some new, fresh faces, with good organisation and communication skills would volunteer to take on this role. We would welcome Co-Chairs if you can persuade a friend to join you.

You might notice the parents above have children in Year 5 and Year 6 and most have them have been involved in PTA events over many years. We are looking to the parents of our younger children, who are likely to be with us for the next five plus years, who may be interested in enlisting the support of other parents in this joint endeavour. We hope you understand that with ever increasing expectations and tighter school budgets school staff do not have capacity to lead the Summer or Christmas Fair planning and delivery. Thank you for considering our plea and your understanding.

OTHER

MHST Coffee Morning – Supporting Your Child With Anxiety

We are hosting a coffee morning and informative workshop at our school on Wednesday 2nd April from 9-10am. The topic is supporting your child with anxiety. Please see the attached poster for further information.