

LENT

A SEASON OF REFLECTION,
RENEWAL, AND PREPARATION



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Lent Term

Newsletter No.26

Friday 4th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we have reached the end of the Lent term. Today, children were treated to an exciting Easter Egg Hunt which was so enjoyable due to the sunshine.

Yesterday, the whole school celebrated the homemade Easter Bonnets as our youngest children walked the school during their lovely Easter Bonnet Parade. Children in older years clapped for the duration of the parade and children felt very proud of their bonnets.

Thank you to the parents who took time to email and speak to me about how moved they were by Year 5 Stations of the Cross earlier this week. This Passion Play is presented as a liturgy rather than an assembly. One parent wrote, 'I just wanted to take a moment to express my feelings about Station of the Cross today. The performance was not only delightful but also deeply meaningful, reflecting the core values of faith. Thank you to the teachers and staff for guiding our children with such dedication and for nurturing their spiritual growth through this performance.' Such gratitude is widely shared and appreciated by all staff. We congratulate Year 5 on their reverence and the excellent portrayal of the most important story within our liturgical year.

We are hugely grateful to Azleen and Joshua (parents of Zyanna Year 3) who inspired Year 6, expanding their minds and sharing insights of the creative industries. Year 6 had a great day culminating in a catwalk style fashion show with whooping and hollering as they celebrated their 'anti-fast fashion' attire. Please read more about this in the newsletter.

Over the last two weeks all classes have taken part in the 'Big Lent Walk' which included seven different liturgies and Year 2 were privileged to be joined by Father Kevin. Please ask children what this involved.

If you haven't already done so, you may like to take the time to complete the parent survey from St Thomas (the link to the survey is in this newsletter). The deadline is today.

Thank you to Mr Holder, Miss Birch, Miss Dardis, Mrs Mangaram and Miss Amina for running our popular Easter Camp next week. We are hoping for good weather.

Thank you also to every parent and carer for your support this term with homework, equipment, walking to the library, accompanying trips and building our school community by being warm, welcoming and sociable.

Please find attached the extra-curricular activities schedule for the Pentecost term.

Wishing everyone a blessed Easter. We look forward to your children returning to school on Tuesday 22nd April.

God bless

Mrs Benn

Easter Prayer

Risen Lord,
shed your light on those who live in the shadow of death and warm the hearts of those who have lost hope,
that they who daily bear the cross of hunger may find your Promised Land,
and move from slavery to freedom.

DIARY DATES

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

Tuesday 22nd April	Pentecost Term Starts for Nursery and School Week 1 of the Menu
Wednesday 23rd April	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 28th April	Week 2 of the Menu
Tuesday 29th April	Author Visit – Dr Fuzz (In School)
Wednesday 30th April	Year 4 Swimming
Friday 2nd May	Year 2 Visit to Windsor Castle Year 4 (Miss Dardis) Class Assembly Parents Welcome 9am
Monday 5th May	Bank holiday – School Closed
Tuesday 6th May	Week 1 of the Menu Year 1 Visit to The Lookout Centre
Wednesday 7th May	Year 4 Swimming
Friday 9th May	Ascension Day

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please see attached the extra-curricular activities schedule for the Pentecost term 2025. Please return HFCS booking forms on the first day back to school after the Easter holidays. Thank you.

Celebrate Success!

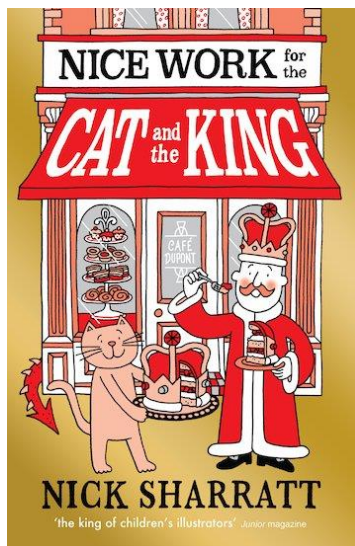
To link in with our Vision statement, 'To value, inspire and challenge all', we invite parents/carers to notify us of special achievements (outside of school e.g. music, sports, positive contribution) your child has achieved so they can be recorded on their school record and shared with children and 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 Julia Grzywnowicz for progressing to Level 4 in her swimming lessons.

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: Nick Sharratt

Illustrator: Nick Sharratt

Interest age: 6-9

Reading age: 6+

The King and his cat are a little down on their luck, and, after an unfortunate fire at the castle, are living a rather ordinary life in a terraced house. The problem is, the King is rather less wealthy than he was, and the cat decides that it's time he found a job. He tries all manner of things – stately train announcer, working in a haberdashery department – but none work out quite as well as expected.

Wednesday Word

Kian writes for us this week:

This week we have two Wednesday words - 'new start'. This is from the gospel of John 8:1-11 and in this gospel story we learn about when Jesus was in a temple teaching and a woman

was there and had broken the law but Jesus said go and do not sin any more. After the Wednesday word we say a prayer, "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, though our actions and our words. Amen".

Kian Robinson – Year 6 Faith Ambassador

Year 6 'Anti-Fast Fashion' Workshop

On Wednesday, two of our parents, who are also lecturers from the London College of Fashion (LCF), visited to teach Year 6 students about fashion design in an exciting and hands-on workshop. Year 6 had the opportunity to learn from industry professionals, exploring the concepts of fashion design and sustainability.

The lecturers introduced the children to the idea of creating "anti-fast fashion" pieces, encouraging them to design garments that are both creative and sustainable. Children were guided through the process of conceptualizing and crafting these pieces, focusing on using pre-loved clothing and making thoughtful design choices to challenge the rapid turnover of fast fashion.

Once the designs were completed, Year 6 had the chance to showcase their creations by walking them down a catwalk. This was an incredible experience for the children, allowing them to not only apply their newfound knowledge but also express their creativity and confidence in front of their peers. The event was a wonderful mix of education, hands-on learning, and fun, leaving the Year 6 students inspired and more aware of the importance of sustainability in the fashion industry.

When we spoke to our Year 6 children about their day, they said they felt supported and helped throughout the day, it was a fun experience, they were taught new skills and Azleen and Josh ensured everyone was involved at all times. The children have even suggested that if they were given the opportunity again, they would like to show case their garments to a bigger crowd of parents and peers and they would love to display the whole design process from their original ideas in their mind maps to the designs they created on paper to the final garment made.

Thank you Azleen and Joshua for your time and a wonderful day dedicated to giving our children an insight into the world of fashion.

Jubilee Year of Hope - Holy Family Art Competition

We are very excited to invite all pupils to enter our Jubilee Year of Hope Art Competition.

Your submissions will be judged by a panel of judges consisting of at least one pupil, one parent, Mrs Benn and Father Kevin. We are hoping for prizes to be awarded by Father Kevin before he retires in July.

Your artwork can be created in any medium (e.g. painting, sculpture, printed digital artwork) and ideally be inspired by a Jubilee theme – such as Pope Francis's reflections, scripture verses and/or the Jubilee logo.

Friday 9th May: Deadline for entries to be submitted to Mrs O'Reilly

Friday 16th May: Winners will be announced

DATE TBC: Special prize-giving ceremony with Father Kevin

Online Safety Concerns

Over the last few weeks there have been a couple of incidents of KS2 children posting inappropriate comments on social media. Whilst this is a rare occurrence at Holy Family it is

something we want to ensure doesn't become common place. These comments can be hurtful to others and our children need to understand that what they post online stays online and is easily shared. It can also be easier for people to say things online that they wouldn't consider saying in person due to the remote nature of social media. Every family is different, and every child will develop their own take on social media and smartphones. As parents and carers, it's important to stay aware of the risks and challenges that being online and using the latest technology pose. Please can we ask all parents to monitor their children's use of technology closely and have age appropriate conversations regarding use of social media and the importance of being kind. For more ideas about how to be confidently online as a family, check out the NSPCC's [online safety information and advice](#).

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2024/impact-phones-social-media-young-people2/>



[How do children and parents feel about the impact of smartphones and social media? - NSPCC](#)

Owning a smartphone What children and young people told us. We asked our Voice of Online Youth and Young People's Board for Change to share their thoughts on smartphones, social media and getting your first phone.. Children felt they should be able to access the online world before they become adults, so they can learn how to use smartphones and digital experiences safely.

www.nspcc.org.uk

Attendance

Well done to Mrs O'Reilly's Year 5 class for achieving the highest attendance (99.6%) this week. Please see attached poster which shows each year group's overall attendance for this week.

Leave in Term Time / Unauthorised Absence

With regards to leave in term time, please kindly note that we no longer accept requests for leave via email. Please complete a 'Withdrawal from Learning Form' which can be found on our website or collected from main Reception. Thank you.

As previously informed, any unauthorised absence attached to school holidays, or holidays taken during term time, penalty notices will be issued if 5 or more days unauthorised absence is taken during any ten-week period. Please refer to the attached notice from Slough Borough Council.

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

We are looking forward to 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!

First Holy Communion

We have two holy communion dresses in school that children may borrow. If interested, please contact Mrs Gonoud carole.gonoud@hfcs.org.uk.

St Thomas Catholic Academies Association - Parent Surveys

All parents/carers will have received an email last week 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 today, Friday 4th April. It can be accessed <https://forms.office.com/e/WvpTY7wnLZ>. Thank you

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.

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	B- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ScqlaUlm/oSIWNNAn P - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2ofr1QED/ts09Pphp
Mrs Scott Mrs Crow	Ditties	CH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/66kW1MkJ/1NE78Q0v QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/l1NqIonP/G2D4dwk5
Mrs Mulrooney Mrs Keogh	Green Purple	OO- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ELWmZNbN/npnZp04b OO- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/VULj1Hi1/0SdBFE9W
Mrs Wilson Mrs Birch Mrs Hendy Mrs Hogg	Orange Yellow Blue Grey	URE - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ZjrT3opS/wnZRhSni TION - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/eQK2Y7CO/CSS5fIoU

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

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

OTHER

Slough Town Football Club – Free Tickets for 5th April

Please see attached flyer if interested. Thank you.

Family First Magazine

If of interest, please see the following link to the Spring edition of the Family First Magazine: <https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue2-25>