



God Love
Family

Holy Family Catholic Primary School



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April 2023 Newsletter

**God in our hearts, Love in our words,
Family in our actions**

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Dear Families,

What a sunny start to our summer term! We hope the children had a lovely Easter break and we welcome them back, ready to learn.

Sun hats and sunscreen are essentials for safe outdoor play. Please may I remind you to send the children into school ready for the sunny weather with hats and sun-cream already applied. We provide plenty of fresh water in our classrooms and the lunch hall. It is always available and therefore water bottles are not required. Thank you for your support as always – it makes such a difference.

Curriculum and Enrichment

Year R

During this term, the children have been planting their own sunflower seeds! We are going to watch them become beautiful flowers, whilst developing our knowledge of what a plant needs to grow. We are so excited to see the different stages they go through. During Writing, some of us are deepening our knowledge of our Pink Phase sounds as well as being exposed to our Green Phase sounds - we will soon be learning split digraphs! In Maths, we are learning to measure. We are exploring rulers, their uses and how we can use them purposefully.

Year 1

Year 1 have been reading 'Supertato!' by Sue Hendra. Supertato needs Year 1's help! He wants to defeat Evil Pea once and for all and he has asked us to enter our own Super Veggies into a competition for his superhero army! We are working on up-levelling our adjectives and adding superlatives to our sentences to create the best character descriptions that we can.

We have been learning about the difference between volume and capacity in Maths. We have had lots of fun measuring how much liquid is needed to fill different containers and following this up with written explanations.

In History, we have been learning about castles exploring the different types, their key features and the evolution of castles in this country. We have also linked this to our DT work, where we have been creating castles and considering the best materials to use to make them.

Year 2

Although we have said a fond farewell to our little ducklings, our Science learning continues! We have started planting and learning all about plants! We had a fabulous trip to Marwell Zoo where we visited the Tropical House to support our learning. Back in school, we have also started growing runner beans! In Writing, we have started our new Eco topic, looking at our beautiful Earth and thinking about how we can produce powerful writing to address climate change. In Maths, we have revisited our key concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Year 3

Year 3 are learning all about Australia's magnificent Great Barrier Reef. This fascinating ecosystem will be explored in great detail throughout this term and the children will be given many opportunities to research and explore the creatures that call this special place their home. We will also be using our understanding of climate change from previous units of work to think analytically about the serious threats that the Great Barrier Reef currently faces. This knowledge aims to continue to empower the children to take action now in regards to saving our precious planet, near and far, one small step at a time. In Science, the children are continuing to deepen their learning about plants by exploring different plant adaptations. Over the course of this term, the children will also conduct an investigation to diagnose plants who have become 'poorly' and nurse them back to health by making sure the plant has all it needs in order to survive and thrive! Our writing topic uses last term's class read - 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane' - as its stimulus. Here, the children are aiming to take the reader on a journey themselves and write descriptively about a new setting that Edward has found himself lost within. When the time comes, I know Year 3 will be so excited to show you all of their hard work from this term - it's set to be a jam packed full of fun, learning and celebrations!

Year 4

We have made an exciting and enthusiastic start to this term. In Geography we are completing a case study about the River Colorado, which builds upon our learning last term about rivers in general and the Water Cycle in Science. In this half term's Science topic, we are learning about ways to classify animals including humans, studying biological classification systems to support us with our studies. Within our Writing work, we will be focusing upon what makes us a 'School of Sanctuary'. This is a chance for children to write within a non-fiction context about an issue they feel passionate about and want to raise local and global awareness

Year 5

Year 5 will be creating an action story from the stimulus of Alex Ryder, from the Stormbreaker series, by Anthony Horowitz. They will be designing a new gadget for Alex to use in his missions, focusing on technological language and use of detailed description. They will also focus on their persuasive writing skills and techniques to persuade Alex to use their product! In Maths the children in Year 5 will be learning about statistics and data handling. They will solve a variety of questions on bar graphs, line graphs, pictograms, timetables and pie charts.

Year 6

In Geography, Year 6 are evaluating the sustainability of coastal management. We are having a debate as to which system would be the most effective to protect a coastal village, whether it be soft or hard engineering. We have studied the pros and cons of each and are now holding a local council meeting! Some of us are playing the part of coastal management engineers and others are playing the parts of different people from the local community. We are having a debate to work out the system that is most appropriate for us! Watch this space to find out what we decide!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

Computing English History Science RE

MFL Maths Music PE PSHE Geography

Year 6 Residential to Adventure Skern Lodge

Year 6 are becoming very excited about the residential to Skern Lodge in July. Many parents are paying in regular instalments and I would like to thank you for ensuring these are up to date. Full payment needs to be made by 19th May 2023, as Skern Lodge requires payment at this time.

Coffee morning & Uniform Swap shop



Thank you to those who have attended our coffee mornings. The next one will be on **Thursday, 4th May** running alongside our first '**Uniform Swap shop**' and will be held in the hall. We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat and cup of coffee or tea with a member of the senior team. We always have an open-door policy, but hope that this regular slot will enable more of our families to come in and share any positive or development items that you may have.... or just pop in to say hello!

School Meals

Please check out the new Summer term menu from City Catering on our website that is now available.

School meals are £2.80 per day. Year R, 1 and 2 are all entitled to Universal free school meals.

<https://www.citycateringsouthampton.co.uk/summer-three-choice-gm-school-menu>

Charity

We raised £139.65 for CAFOD as part of our Big Walks for Lent! Many thanks for your continued support.

Parking

We are pleased to share that Holy Family have received the Green level Modeshift STARS accreditation for our efforts to increase the levels of walking, cycling and scooting to and from school. The aim is to create a greener and more sustainable school community for everyone by promoting travel actively and minimising private car use. Small changes from all of us will lead to safer roads and a more active lifestyle.

Currently the school is taking part in the Big Wheel and Walk where we have over 50% of our families traveling to school by means other than car. We look to continue promoting a safer, cleaner greener community and have this number rise as we head into the Summer term.

We understand that some of you will have to drive due to working commitments. Please can we ask that you are considerate when choosing places to park your car so that local driveways are not blocked and children can safely get into the school site.

Competition Winner

Across the partnership, we held a 'Pip and Pap' Design an Easter Egg Box competition for Years R to 2. We had so many entries - and some absolutely spectacular designs!

Congratulations to Zofia who was the winner at Holy Family! David Tomkins, Pip and Pap series illustrator, took her design and turned it into a real life Easter Egg box. We hope that Zofia enjoyed her chocolatey treat!

Take a look at our gallery of entries at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxMEsJis00c>



The Pip and Pap Shop is now live – you can order decodable reading books for home use at www.pipandpapshop.co.uk. There is no obligation to buy, children will continue to borrow books in school as usual.

Finally, we would like to say a big 'thank you' to Steels funeral directors who kindly donated a wonderful plaque for our beautiful Garden Chapel. We will be holding a whole school blessing and official opening, led by Fr. Benjamin, later this term.



The Big Help Out

As part of the celebrations for King Charles III coronation, the whole school will be involved in 'The Big Help Out' and partaking in 'jobs' around our school to improve our environment. Our hope is for the children to develop their understanding of the school and local community and how they can 'help out' and make a difference. Each year group has been assigned a focus and the children have come up with things they can do to 'help out' around the school.

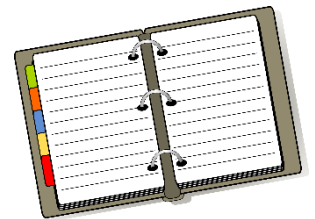
Year R - Grounds keeping
Year 1 - Gardening
Year 2 - Composting
Year 3 - Recycling
Year 4 - Energy efficiency
Year 5 - Litter
Year 6 - Wildlife



The children will be working on this throughout the half term and then presenting their hard work on Tuesday 23rd May, to the rest of the school.

Dates for your Diary

- Monday, 1st May – May Day Bank Holiday
- Thursday, 4th May – Coffee morning and Uniform Swap Shop
- Monday, 8th May – King's Coronation – extra bank holiday
- Tuesday, 9th May – Friday, 12th May – Year 6 SATS Week
- Friday 19th May – Sports day and Family Picnic
- Wednesday, 24th May – Kings Coronation Celebrations & picnic.
- Thursday, 25th May – Inset Day
- Friday, 26th May – Inset Day
- 29th May – 2nd June – Half Term
- Friday, 21st July – Break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school



Have a wonderful Summer Term

Gerida Montague Executive Headteacher

