



God Love  
Family

# Holy Family Catholic Primary School



God Love  
Family

## November 2023 Newsletter

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

Dear Families,

Welcome to our November newsletter! We are moving into our second half of the term and the children are all working extremely hard. Within this newsletter details of Christmas performances, pantomimes, Christmas celebrations and more will follow. The weather is starting to get very cold, so please remember to bring coats into school for play and lunch times!

### **Lest we forget**

Thank you to those who purchased a remembrance item from our office, your support is greatly appreciated and your donation will go towards a wonderful cause: The Poppy Appeal, Royal British Legion. At Holy Family we raised a total of **£48.83!**

A two-minute silence was held at 11 o'clock on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> November. We offered our prayers for all who serve, or have served, in the forces and their families.



### **Curriculum and Enrichment**

#### **Year R**

This term in Year R we are learning about different religions and cultures and their special celebrations, such as the Hindu festival of lights - Diwali, and the Christian celebration - Christmas! We will be doing lots of cross-curricular activities to fully immerse ourselves in this learning experience. Over the last few weeks, we have been learning about Diwali by exploring our Diwali themed home corner and making decorations in the creative area.

In writing we learnt all about the story of Rama and Sita, looked at some photographs of people celebrating Diwali and discussed the beautiful colours, lights and lanterns. We have used our phonic knowledge alongside our understanding of Diwali to write a shopping list to help us prepare for the celebration.

#### **Year 1**

In Year 1 we have been learning about the different seasons. In Science we went on a seasonal walk where we explored the changes in the trees and leaves. We then wrote our own Autumn Poem during our writing lessons. We used the stem sentences 'I can see...', 'I can hear...', 'I can feel...'. We learnt about adjectives and generated our own adjectives to describe what we could see. Some children decided to extend their ideas by using conjunctions!

In Maths, we have discovered subtraction. We have been looking at real world problems that use subtraction and solved these using concrete resources. Afterwards, we learnt how to pictorially represent subtraction number sentences. We have really enjoyed the practical nature of this unit! Next, we will be exploring the more abstract concepts of subtraction.

## **Year 2**

In Year 2, we have been learning all about animals and their habitats in Science. We are focusing on the ocean, desert, polar regions and rainforest, thinking about what animals live there and why they are suitable for their habitats. We have been really enjoying finding out lots of fun facts! One of our favourites is that polar bears have a layer of fat to keep them warm in their cold habitat which is called blubber.

Has your stationary ever got fed up with the way you treat them and written you a letter of complaint? Well they have in Year 2! In writing, we have been pretending to be different bits of stationary that we have in our classroom, writing to our owners and complaining about the things that they do to us. The glue sticks are furious that we sometimes leave their lids off, the rulers are FED UP of being used as musical instruments and the chairs cannot stand it when we swing on them and they get the blame for our injuries. Whoops!

## **Year 3**

Bones, bones, bones, that's our skeleton! This song is certainly stuck in our brains (inside our craniums) after our science lessons so far this half term. We have loved discovering more about our bodies and so far we have developed knowledge around the name of our bones and muscles.

In writing, we have adopted the role of the devious, sneaky Dr Hunter who is inviting the innocent, unsuspecting animals to his manor for a 'glamorous' stay. We have loved convincing the animals to attend through our persuasive invitation which has included ambitious and formal language. We are certain that our writing will persuade them to attend!

## **Year 4**

In Year 4 we have been exploring the telekinesis powers of Star Lad from the book 'My brother is a superhero' in our Writing unit. The children have been preparing for their recount by making up their own actions and rhymes as a class to remember the sequence of events.

In science we have been learning about electricity! The children have explored what dangers there are with electricity and how they can identify and prevent any hazards. They are truly experts and have been able to label each room of the home where electricity is used and have been giving tips on how to keep safe. We can't wait to carry on with this unit and set up our own circuits in the upcoming weeks!

## **Year 5**

Year 5 has been exploring our solar system and learning all about the planets, the moon and the sun during our science lessons. We are finding everything we can out about space before we have to report back to NASA at the end of the unit to help them on their mission!

In writing, we have been creating a persuasive piece about the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans. We have been shocked to discover how much damage is being caused to our oceans because of plastic and have become passionate about communicating this through our writing. We have thought about different persuasive techniques we can use to encourage the reader to make a change and how we want the reader to feel.

## **Year 6**

In Year 6 we have been learning about WW2 and this term we have looked into what it is like for civilians and children of Britain. When the Blitz happened in 1940, children were evacuated to be protected from the bombing. They would live with a foster family in the countryside away from the attacks. We are also currently learning about what it was like for women in WW2 and how it differed from women in WW1.

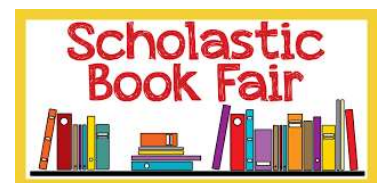
In writing, we have started our new unit of 'Be the Best'. We have been looking at people who inspire us as well as motivational language to write our own piece on why that trait is so important to have and how we can encourage that trait in others. We are going to make sure to include all of our different sentence types as well as our non-negotiables and motivational quotes.

## **Showcase Musical Concerts**

Showcase invited our Year 3 and Year 4 parents to watch a small musical concert to celebrate the children's progress in their instrumental lessons this term. Thank you to those of you who attended, we hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to hear your child/children play some wonderful music.

## **Scholastic Book Fair**

From Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November until Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November our school welcomed the Scholastic Book Fair. Thank you for your support of the Book Fair, this helps our school to continue purchasing new books and resources and we hope that it continues to encourage our pupils to keep reading!



## Reading Ambassador Trip to Central Library

On Monday 20th November, our ambassadors from all five partnership schools met with Southampton Library Service staff, who gave them a fantastic insight into the role of a librarian, how the library works and the organisation that goes into Southampton's libraries. All ambassadors returned to Mansel Park to discuss ideas for our partnerships libraries. They all worked incredibly hard and had an amazing time!



## Pip and Pap Competition

Some of the key stage one children recently took part in the 'Design a Library Poster' competition. Congratulations to our winners at Holy Family:

Maya 1H & Jacob Tan YR.

## Christmas Countdown

We have lots of exciting Christmas celebrations to look forward to. Please find below an outline of the upcoming events.



## Christmas Fair

Monday 4th December at 3:30pm

After the success of last year's £5 challenge and summer fete, we have decided to expand this year and turn it into a whole year project. This is kicking off on Monday 4th December at 3:30pm with our first ever Christmas Craft Fair. Each class will have a stall selling Christmas crafts created in school, as well as games to enjoy. Alongside the children's stalls, there will also be stalls being run by some parents and members of the local community and a fantastic raffle.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parents who have worked so hard to make this such a special event.

## Nativity Performances

**Year R – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am**

**Year 1 and 2 – Tuesday 5th December at 9:30am and Wednesday 6th December at 2:30pm**

**Year 3 and 4 – Tuesday 5th December at 2:30pm and Thursday 7th December at 9:30am**

**Year 5 and 6 – Wednesday 6th December at 9:30am and Thursday 7th December at 2:30pm.**

## **Pantomime time - Oh yes it is!**

Tuesday 12th December - Year 5 and 6 - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Mayflower

Thursday 14th December – Year 3 and 4 – Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Mayflower

Thursday 14th December – Year, R, Year 1 and Year 2 – Panto (in school) – The Littlest Elf.

## **Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day**

On Friday 15th December, our kitchen staff will be preparing a delicious meal for us all to enjoy together. Ordering information for Christmas lunch will follow.

We have incorporated our Christmas day fundraising efforts into the Christmas lunch festivities and thank you in advance for your donations. Your child can wear their Christmas jumper on this day

## **Dates for your Diary**

- Monday, 4th December –Christmas Fair in the School Hall
- Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December – Coffee morning
- Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December – INSET day
- Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December - Coffee morning
- Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December – Year 5 & 6 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December – Year 3 & 4 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner Day
- Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December – Non Uniform (Christmas Jumper) Day
- Friday, 15th December – School closes for Christmas Break
- Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 – Back to school
- Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> January – Coffee morning
- Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Deadline for Year R applications

