



God Love  
Family

# Holy Family Catholic Primary School



God Love  
Family

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

## February 2023 Newsletter

*Wait for the Lord;*

*Be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

*Psalm 27:14*

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a really great half term and I am glad to see the daylight increasing as we move through towards Spring. We have a busy half term ahead with some special events such as our 'Living Eggs' in Year 2, 'Mobile Planetarium' visit to Year 5, as well as World Book Day, which will take place in school on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March with the children and staff being able to dress up as their favourite book character.

### Ash Wednesday

On 2 March, Fr Benjamin visited the school to lead a liturgy for Ash Wednesday and distribute ashes to the pupils and staff. The ashes are taken from blessed palm branches, from the previous year's Palm Sunday mass. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection and fasting, which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.



### Shrove Tuesday



Many thanks to Sarah and her kitchen staff for helping us to prepare for Lent by offering Pancakes with our lunches on Shrove Tuesday.

## Curriculum and Enrichment

### Religious Education

We started this month exploring our exciting Revelations unit, where the children explored how Christ revealed God's love to the world through His many parables and miracles, and how this is revealed to us today through

the proclamation of the Gospels at Mass. Higher up the school, the children are also learnt about the Great Commission and the role of the Church in continuing to spread the Good News today. From Ash Wednesday we moved into our Lenten unit to explore the special time of year until Easter.

**Religious Education Curriculum link - <https://holyfamilylive.net/religiouseducation>**

## Year R

In Year R we have enjoyed learning all about dragons! We learned how to write our first stories. We have outstanding 'That's not my dragon.' stories using creative adjectives. The children have enjoyed reading Zog! and retelling the story using props and costumes. We learned about the Lunar new year and the different characters from the Zodiac story. The dragon was our favourite.

In Maths we have been learning about money. We had a special visit from HSBC and went on a treasure hunt, learned the different coins and a special dance. We continued our learning this term exploring all the coins and how much things cost in our Pet Shop role play.

In Science we are learning about life cycles. We have planted seeds, watched them germinate, planted them in soil and continued to watch for the shoots to come! We are keeping a close eye on our flower beds and waiting for our bulbs to bloom!

To find out more about our learning, please use these links to the Year R curriculum page on our website:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62fe504e009fb30bb9cc92c0/t/62fe7a6b8c77e107e155e5ca/1660844651546/EYFS+-+Spring+2.pdf>

## Year 1

Wow, we've done so much since the last newsletter and it has been a busy half term filled with hard work. The children have continued to show their tremendous knowledge and it has been fantastic.

Winding, sliding and spinning around and around...no, the children have not been dancing! They have been creating their own working mechanisms in Design Technology. The children have been using recycled materials to create their own toy, which functions using a mechanism. This could be a pop-up book, a rotating toy or a toy which you pull and push. The children have learnt all about these different mechanisms and have practised creating them before designing their final piece of work. These toys will be the next biggest must have item so make sure you grab yours quickly as these awesome new toys will be flying off the shelf in no time!

Are you a penguin professor? Do you know everything about our feathered friends? Are you a wizard for the waddling wonders? Well, the Year 1 children are! We have been collecting all our knowledge on penguins in our writing and we have all designed a fact file to pass our knowledge onto you! Our team of child experts have been researching over the whole of the last half term, so you can trust our facts have been checked and are 100% accurate. P-p-p-perfect.



The learning has been phenomenal from last term and we can't wait to tell you more about what we will be looking at in the future when we will be following in the tiny footsteps a mouse in the deep, dark woods. 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](#)  
[Geography](#)

[Maths: Fractions](#)  
[Music](#)  
[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)  
[Science](#)

## Year 2

Star Catcher Writing - 3...2....1...blast off! Have you ever experienced space? Have you ever wondered how to blast off into the glorious galaxies beyond? Well, Year 2 enjoyed an immersive space experience that was out of this world! Not only did they speak to an astronaut, but they also learnt so many exciting facts that helped them with their writing. The children were challenged to write a persuasive advert for their very own star catcher that would blow their teacher's socks off! From Snatcher Catcher 3000 to Galactic Grabber 205, the children were super creative in designing their one-of-a-kind invention.

Florence Nightingale - From one invention to the next, hop into our time machine to travel back to the 1800's to a place of revolutionary change. SQUEAKKK, hold on.. what was that?

"Welcome to Scutari hospital, I am Vlad the Flea and this is my rodent friend Loxton. This used to be our dream home until that day!" Year 2 are excited to go on an adventure back in time, with Vlad to understand the impact of the 'Lady with the Lamp', that's right year 2 are going to explore all about Florence Nightingale and the significant person she was.

Remember to pack your hand sanitiser for this journey!

Winding Mechanisms DT - Spinning, twisting, winding down. Are you ready to be tangled up in the world of winding mechanisms? The children are super excited to explore different winding mechanisms and how they work. Have you ever stopped and thought about how many winding mechanisms there are in our everyday lives and how they work? Well, the children will become experts in designing and building winding mechanisms with a purpose! Doesn't this sound super exciting? Well Year 2 needs your help! Wanted: any spare cardboard from your home is needed for our new, exciting DT project!

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](#)  
[Geography](#)

[Maths: Money and Fractions](#)  
[Music](#)  
[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)  
[Science](#)

## Year 3

In Year 3, we have started our brand new topic based on 'Guess Who's Coming For Dinner!' We have explored the story in depth, analysing the illustrations and finding clues as to what will happen next! We have an incredible understanding of this and really understand the types of characters within the story. In maths, we have been consolidating our learning on division, before moving onto money! We are excited to prove our understanding of types of coins and apply these to new contexts. In science, we are learning about plants! We will be exploring the different parts of a plant and deepening this understanding by dissecting plants and answering higher order thinking skill questions!

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](#)  
[Maths: Fractions and Money](#)

[MFL](#)  
[Music](#)

## Year 4

Last half term, year 4 were very busy!

The children explored fractions in different ways for example adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator.

In writing, the children polished and edited mysterious narratives detailing a journey to a mysterious castle!

In science, we thoroughly enjoyed investigating how sound travels through different instruments by using key language such as pitch, volume and vibration. Well done, year 4!

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](#)

[Maths: Statistics, Fractions,  
Decimals and Measures](#)  
[MFL](#)  
[Music](#)

[PE](#)  
[PSHE](#)  
[Science](#)

## Year 5

Towards the end of last half term, Year 5 loved learning about and comparing the lifecycles of different incredible animals in science.

In maths, we have been exploring fractions. This has included converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and investigating the relationship between them.

English has been an exciting adventure. We've been using a variety of figurative language to immerse the reader in an action narrative set in Alaska.

[Computing](#)  
[English](#)  
[History](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and  
Percentages](#)  
[MFL](#)  
[Music](#)

[PE](#)  
[PSHE](#)  
[Science](#)

## Year 6

**Writing:** Scenes of tension, mystery and betrayal have unfolded upon Year 6 during our Spring 1 writing unit. After watching an outstanding performance of Macbeth by the Young Shakespeare Company, Year 6 immersed themselves in the key events of the dark and twisted tale. We explored rich texts, tense video clips and intriguing images to stimulate our creativity. Our first writing outcome was a rich setting description of an incoming storm upon the sodden heathland in which Macbeth and Banquo are returning home from war. During their travels, the duo were taunted by 3 mysterious figures lurking in the shadows. To follow on from this, we then created a second writing outcome of Macbeth's monologue prior to committing the unforgivable murder of King Duncan.

**Maths:** As ever, Year 6 have continued developing and consolidating their arithmetic skills, focusing heavily on the four operations and fractions, decimals and percentages. The children are making fantastic progress with these skills and are demonstrating clear levels of grit, resilience and determination. To supplement their arithmetic skills, we also explored the topic of perimeter, area and volume in Spring 1. We have learnt how to calculate these and compared how the skills are similar and different.

**Science:** Year 6's minds have been **blown** this half term when learning all about Evolution, Adaptation and Inheritance. We have explored Darwin's Theory of Evolution to develop an understanding of how living things adapt to survive and thrive depending on their life-style and environment (Survival of the Fittest). To ensure that learning is relevant and relatable, the children reflect upon the genes and features that they have inherited from their families. This information was then presented scientifically through graphs, charts and diagrams - as well as being fun to collect!

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](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Measures and Shape](#)  
[MFL](#)  
[Music](#)

[PE](#)  
[PSHE](#)  
[RE](#)  
[Science](#)

## Year 6 Residential to 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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023, as Skern requires payment at this time.



## Attendance

Thank you to all those families who work hard to ensure their children are in school every day. Our school target is 97.6% and currently our attendance is at 95.70%. Sadly, we still have a group of children who do not come to school enough. Please ensure if your child is ill that you call school to let us know... we worry if our children do not attend.



## Online Payments

A reminder you can register online to make payments for dinners and school trips. Please check out our website ([www.holyfamilylive.net](http://www.holyfamilylive.net)) on the Tucasi link. A letter can be obtained from the school office to register online, which includes a step-by-step guide to sign in. We are unable to accept cash, debit or credit cards as a method of payment.

You will need a Scopay account to sign up for the upcoming parents' evenings. A reminder containing your individual link was sent home last week so please do make sure you sign up as soon as possible.

## Dates for the diary

- Friday 3rd March – Coffee Morning
- Friday, 3rd March – World Book Day
- Monday, 20th March – Year 2 Duckling kits arriving
- 3rd April – 14th April – Easter holidays
- Wednesday, 19th April – Year 2 trip to Marwell Zoo
- Monday, 1st May – May Day bank holiday
- Monday, 8th May – King’s Coronation – extra bank holiday
- Tuesday, 9th May – Friday, 12th May – Year 6 SATS Week
- Friday 19th May 2023– Sports day and family picnic
- Thursday, 25th May – Inset Day
- Friday, 26th May – Inset Day
- 29th May – 2nd June – half term
- Tuesday, 6th June – 13th June – Scholastic Book Fair
- Friday, 21st July – break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school



Thank you for your continued support. I am sure that together we can make this a fantastic term.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerida Montague". The letters are cursive and fluid.

**Gerida Montague**  
Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hendricks". The letters are cursive and fluid.

**Sarah Hendricks**  
Head of School