



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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God Love Family

Holy Family Catholic Primary School September 2023 Newsletter

“Trust in the Lord with all your Heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways to submit Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. We'd like to start by saying a very warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined us, as well as all of you who are already part of our school family. We are looking forward to continuing to build strong relationships with you all that focus on making the very best provision for the children within our care.

Throughout the school year, we try to send out a regular newsletter keeping you informed of events and news. Please do make sure you read it and keep it somewhere safe as it gives advance warning of school events, closures and term dates.

In addition to this, we send letters and reminders via text or email using Scopay and all correspondence can be viewed on our school website. Please make sure you update us if you change your phone number or email address so that we can update our records.

Curriculum and Enrichment

Year R

The Year R team have enjoyed welcoming the new cohort of Year R children into Holy Family. The children have learnt all about our routines of the day and they have been playing and exploring in all of our areas. The home corner, water tray and construction area are definitely our class favourites! We have been learning to retell the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and the children are great at putting on the different voices that the characters make. We are going to be learning about the numbers 1 to 10 and how we can make these numbers in lots of different ways. Our topic focus is going to be "All about me" and we cannot wait to learn all about our children's favourite things that they like to do and play with at home. We are going to be starting to learn our sounds in school and look forward to embarking on the reading journey!

Year 1

Year 1 have made a positive start to the term with everybody coming in beautifully in the mornings and ready to start the day. Year 1 have been learning about place value in Maths and practising their counting to 20. In English, we are beginning to write sentences about pirates. Our goal is to write the scariest pirate description and the winner will receive a Head Teachers award. Also in the afternoon, we have really enjoyed learning to draw animal patterns in Art and investigating maps in Geography. Well done Year 1, great start to the year!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a marvellous start to their year. We have been set a challenge by George, who needs us to come up with a recipe to make his wicked Grandma a nice, kind and caring Grandma just like he has always dreamed of. We have been using nouns, adjectives and verbs in our writing and made it more interesting by including adverbs, time words and conjunctions.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value, building upon our knowledge of tens and ones. Year 2 have also been amazing at learning their 2 times tables and have blown their teachers' socks off with their times table tests on Fridays!

We have been having lots of fun in Science making rice dance and lava lamps. We have been working on our questioning skills just like real scientists.

In Geography, we have visited London in our capital city topic. We have been thinking about why we would like to visit and also how to persuade others to go. We have learned a great song to help us remember all the capital cities of the United Kingdom.

Year 3

WOW! What a great start to the year! All the children in Year 3 have been learning their numbers from 100 to 1,000 and so far they have been 'marvellous mathematicians!' Keep up the excellent work Year 3! Alongside Maths, the children have been learning about rocks in Geography, the UK in Science and how our world was created and the Creation story in RE. The discussions that have been going on in class have been superb, so much great vocabulary is being used. We can't wait to see what else Year 3 continues to thrive in this autumn term.

Year 4

Year 4 have settled in excellently. We have had an exciting start to the year and the children have been very eager about our writing topic. The children have been enthusiastic about (and petrified by!) Miss Trunchbull! They have made amazing progress in using the creative toolkit and have made a good start in writing a character description.

In Maths, the children have used their retrieval skills to develop their understanding of place value. They have been efficient in partitioning and are really enjoying using base 10 and dienes in lessons. Everyone has loved starting rounding to the nearest ten this week and are able to draw accurate number lines in their books.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy but exciting start to the autumn term with an adventurous school trip to Calshot activity centre and then a very special mass lead by Fr Benjamin, a big thank you to those parents who attended.

In class, we have made leaps and bounds with our learning. We have just finished learning about place value in Maths and are ready to move onto exploring addition. In Guided Reading, we have been using different techniques to explore new vocabulary and discover new exciting books, such as 'Running Wild' by Michael Morpurgo and 'The Wolf Wilder' by Katherine Rundell. We have been investigating what makes a setting unnerving and trying to replicate those effects ourselves. In History, we have been learning the chronology of 'The War of the Roses' and how to critically assess a source of information. We know this will help us be architects of a better world, allowing us to look at information and news sources through an educated lens, working out what is fact or opinion and why we are discussing cutting edge issues of our present and future.

Year 6

Year Six have had a phenomenal start to the year! We are so pleased with the attitude for learning displayed by the children - their focus and hard work is already abundantly obvious. We have started our first topic on 'Twisted Tales', where an old fairy tale gets an unusual twist to the plot. We have also worked hard to motor through a great many of the initial topics of place value and number properties, including the value of a digit's position and rounding any number up to and into the millions.

In History, our World War Two topic is well underway, as is our Science project on light and how we see things. In addition to all of these things we have now filled the positions of House-Captains, Vice-Captains, School Councillors, Librarians, Book Buddies, Play Leaders, Pupil Chaplains and other positions of responsibility throughout the school. Well done everyone!

Allergies

We have a number of children and staff with severe nut allergies. With this in mind, we do not have any nuts or nut products at snack time or in packed lunches. These include peanut butter, Nutella or Pesto (which contains Pine nuts). These can be a major cause of anaphylactic shock in some adults and children. Your care and support in this is greatly appreciated.



Uniform

A big thank you to all parents who have sent their children in the correct uniform; our children are looking very smart. Uniform is an important part of our school culture and our children certainly look very proud to be part of the Holy Family family. Shoes/trainers need to be pure black (including the soles) with no logos.

Can we also remind parents that children are provided with cups and water in class and therefore do not require water bottles. Thank you.

PE

Please ensure your child has their correct PE kit in school for the day they have their lesson. Ideally they need to leave their kit in school and take home to wash at the end of each half term.

PE days:

Monday	Year 1
Tuesday	Year 5
Wednesday	Year 6
Thursday	Years 3 and 4
Friday	Years R and 2

End of the day

In order to ensure the safe handover of children at the end of the day, please put in writing any alternative adult(s) you give permission to, to collect your child/children and give to the school office. Teachers will be teaching and may not remember slips of paper and new instructions.

School meals



We encourage all of our children to have a hot school dinner, whether they are infants or juniors.

We have worked very closely with the school council, children and our caterers to ensure that the food offered is home cooked and delicious. We regularly chop meals off the menu and add new tastier options and all of our teachers eat a school dinner. We have a third 'jacket potato with filling' option for those who do not like our meat or vegetarian option.

Our menu is available to view on the City Catering web site -

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

If your child is going to arrive late to school and they wish to have a cooked meal at lunchtime, we would be grateful if you could let the office know in advance by telephone. Unfortunately, if your child arrives after 9.30am, and we have not been notified, your child will receive a "spare" meal. Always best to be on time, or phone ahead.

Safety Reminder!

A gentle reminder, please can you ensure your child/ren **do not play** on the play equipment before or after school. They are not suitable for use without school supervision. We also ask that children or adults do not ride bikes and scooters on the school playgrounds.

We again politely remind you that dogs are not permitted on the school site – this includes being held in arms. Thank you.

Coffee morning / Swap Shop

Thank you to all of you who have attended our coffee mornings and uniform swap shop. Mrs Grace is really looking forward to seeing you on the next one - Thursday, 5th October - it will be held in the school 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.



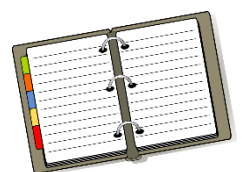
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Shoe Box Appeal

This year instead of asking families to put together a whole Shoe Box of gifts, we have assigned each year group with a type of item to donate for the Shoe Box appeal. The aim is to gather a range of different items across the school to then use to put together as many Shoe Boxes as possible. We appreciate it is a difficult time for all financially but hope each family may be able to donate a small item. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 5th October - Coffee Morning
- Thursday 5th October – Harvest Liturgy (tin donation)
- Friday 6th October – School photographer to take individual photos
- 16th to 20th October – Target setting meetings
- 23rd to 27th October – Half Term



- Tuesday, 31st October – Deadline for secondary school applications
- Thursday 2nd November – Coffee morning
- Thursday 9th November – Year 6 Mass
- Thursday 16th November - Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations - YR - Y6
- Tuesday 21st - Tuesday 28th November - Scholastic Book Fair in the Hall.
- Monday 4th December – Advent Liturgy
- Thursday 7th December – Coffee morning
- Friday, 8th December – INSET day
- Tuesday, 12th December – Year 5 & 6 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Thursday, 14th December – Year 3 & 4 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre.
- Thursday 14th December– Bigfoot Panto Theatre Company visiting KS1 to perform 'Littlest Elf Panto
- Monday, 15th January 2024 – Deadline for Year R applications.

Best wishes



Gerida Montague

Executive Headteacher