



Holy Family Catholic Primary School



God Love
Family

January 2024 Newsletter

God Love
Family

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

Isaiah 40:31

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

As we embark on our shared journey into 2024, it is with great excitement and anticipation that we extend a warm 'welcome back' to each member of our school community. The start of 2024 marks not only the beginning of a new year, but also a fresh chapter filled with hope, possibilities and opportunities for learning and growing as a family. As we come together with renewed energy and commitment, let us collectively embrace the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead, fostering a spirit of togetherness and excellence that defines our mission to fulfil our calling to be Architects of a Better World.



Charity work

Last term, across our partnership of schools, the children chose local charities to support by collecting donations. These donations ranged from clothing and food, to toys and Christmas items. The level of generosity from across the schools was exceptional and all the charities were incredibly thankful for the support. Two of the charities chosen were Poitiers and Southampton City Mission who sent the following messages:

Poitiers:

Thank you and all your pupils and their families for showing their concern for those around us who are not able to put food on the table, what a difference they are making to their Christmas, beautiful!

Southampton City Mission:

We're so grateful that you have chosen to donate food for Southampton City Mission's food projects this Christmas! All of the food you give us goes to ordinary families and individuals in need in Southampton - we have fed people 21,018 times and have provided clothes for 2,086 people so far this year. So, a heartfelt THANK YOU for helping people who are struggling in our city and Happy Christmas.

Thank you for your on-going support and generosity. As a school, we hold our local community at the heart of everything we do and this would not be possible without your continuous support.

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 28th March 2024 as Skern requires payment at this time.

Road safety along Mansel Road West

As you may be aware, two children from Mansel Park Primary school were involved in a car accident on the crossing on Mansel Road West, opposite Mansel Park school. This was a traumatic event for all those involved but thankfully no one was seriously injured. Leaders from both Holy Family and Mansel Park have written to our local councillors and MPs to urge them to support us with a crossing to make this road safer for all of our families. **Please support us in our mission to get a safe pedestrian crossing for both of our schools and protect over 800 children by emailing your concerns and support for a crossing to your local councillors:**

Alan Whitehead – MP for Southampton Test - whiteheada@parliament.uk
Councillor Christian Cox - Councillor.C.Cox@southampton.gov.uk
Councillor Steven Galton - Councillor.S.Galton@southampton.gov.uk
Councillor Jeremy Moulton - Councillor.J.Moulton@southampton.gov.uk
Councillor Sally Goodfellow - Councillor.s.goodfellow@southampton.gov.uk

You can also help us make the roads around our school as safe as possible by refraining from driving, if possible. We continue to educate our children around active travel and ask for our support with this. If you do need to drive, please can we request that you are considerate when parking outside of school to ensure you are not blocking any footpaths, residential driveways or spaces and do not double park. The large amount of vehicles parked along the road makes it extremely dangerous for children to cross the road. We thank you for your on-going support.

Job Vacancies

Please see below with regards to some exciting opportunities to work as part of our school family.

Lunchtime Support Worker needed

Holy Family Catholic Primary School require a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant to ensure the safety, welfare and good conduct of pupils during the midday break periods, in accordance with the practices and procedures of the Local Authority.

The post holder will normally work as part of a team and will always be under the direction of the Headteacher or their designated officer.

Application forms are available from the school or federation website or in person from the school office.

2 hours a day – Monday to Friday - Term time only (12.00 – 14.00)

www.holyfamilylive.net/vacancies

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant needed

Holy Family Catholic Primary School require a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant to ensure the safety, welfare and good conduct of pupils during the midday break periods, in accordance with the practices and procedures of the Local Authority.

The post holder will normally work as part of a team and will always be under the direction of the Headteacher or their designated officer.

Application forms are available from the school or federation website or in person from the school office.

1 hour 20minutes a day – Monday to Friday - Term time only (12.20 – 13.40)

www.holyfamilylive.net/vacancies

Building Fund

If you haven't already done so, you can pay your £30 per family towards the building fund at any time. As the VA (Voluntary Aided) sector of education operates differently to other local authority maintained schools, every Catholic VA school is expected to pay a percentage of money to the diocese, based on pupil numbers, in order to release a larger pot of money for capital funding of building works. Holy Family has to pay around £7000 per year in order not to have to pay the first 10% of any building works. This means, for example, that £1,200,000 was released by the government for our Infant building, and instead of paying the £120,000 percentage fee, the diocese covered this because the school was part of the scheme. This applies to all VA schools.

Curriculum and Enrichment updates

Religious Education

The children have recently begun their Revelation unit of work in RE, where they are exploring how God is revealed to the world through the work of Jesus Christ, and how His love is continuing to be revealed to us today through the work of the Spirit. From closely exploring the parables Jesus told, the miracles he performed and the message of salvation he shared with us, to understanding the Great Commission and the Apostolic Tradition of the church, the children are all reflecting on their own personal role in sharing the Good News of Christ with others.

So far this year, the whole school has gathered together to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany with a special Mass led by Father Benjamin. In addition to this, Year 4 have also had their own Mass with Father Benjamin, which was joined by many parents. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us for this, we love being able to welcome parents into our school for these special events.

Year R

During this term in Year R, we have been exploring different celebrations across the world. We spent time thinking about Advent in the run up to Christmas, alongside Diwali and Chinese New Year. We have enjoyed celebrating different traditions that can be seen all around the world. As part of these celebrations, we have gained skills such as moulding and manipulating clay to make Diya lamps and making our very own dragon to celebrate Chinese New Year.



During writing, we have been focusing on using our phonics to write CVC words. This means we can write words such as mum, dad and cat. We are working really hard to write even more now - focusing on two or three words at a time. We have been writing with a purpose. We have been writing cards, invitations and posters - the wonderful story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' helped us explore invitations; we invited the Tiger to tea in our classroom! We broke down the different features of an invitation before writing our own.

In maths, we have learnt about time. We began by sorting and ordering our day; we focused on events that happen before school, during school and after school. Then, we transferred this into thinking about day and night. Finally, we focused on clocks, learning about the face of the clock and its two arms. We were able to tell 'o' clock! We use a special phrase - 'o'clock at the top' to remind us that our minute hand must always be on the 12.

We have loved welcoming Miss Sutton into our team at Holy Family. We have enjoyed introducing her to our parents through the Pip and Pap workshops. This has been a wonderful time to celebrate the children's progress in phonics - thank you so much for attending!

Year 1

In writing, the children have really enjoyed our writing units based on the book 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. We started the term with an unexpected visit - someone had been in our classroom and made a mess. We used our inference skills and worked out that it was The Gruffalo! We then created wanted posters for The Gruffalo. We have now started our second writing unit where we are retelling the story of The Gruffalo. We are focusing on using exciting adjectives to describe the characters and setting, as well as key punctuation such as full stops, question marks and even exclamation marks! We have had great fun writing this half term!



In maths, Year 1 started the half term by looking at place value of numbers to 20. We have enjoyed finding one less and one more of numbers and comparing numbers using the $<$, $>$ and $=$ symbols. We have also focussed on addition of numbers to 20 by counting on, learning our number bonds to 10 and 20 and doubling numbers. Year 1 will finish this half term by learning about subtraction. We will learn to subtract using our number bonds, subtract by counting backwards and to subtract by finding the difference.

Year 2

Year 2 have had an absolutely amazing start to the new term and, as always, have been working so hard and having lots of fun at the same time!

In maths, we have been learning all about money, exploring lots of different ways to count and make different amounts of money in our class shops using all the British coins and notes. We have had lots of opportunities to use 'real' money, putting our learning into a real context and creating a learning environment that is fun but also challenging!



In geography, we have been having a fantastic time learning about the human and physical features of St Lucia. We then compared their climate to ours in the UK and the polar regions. We then considered tourism and thought of what stall we would add to the market to demonstrate our knowledge. If only we could do a school trip to the Caribbean!

In English, we have thoroughly enjoyed watching 'Moz the Monster' (the John Lewis TV advert), using this as a stimulus to create a piece of writing that builds tension. Our teachers have only let us watch the first 14 seconds so far and we can't wait to find out what happens next! To begin our journey, we created a story map to identify the different sounds and feelings used to build suspense. Whilst doing this, we built a toolkit to support our writing, which includes using adjectives to describe the setting, sound effects and asking rhetorical questions. One of our favourite parts of our toolkit has been 'show me, don't tell me' and we used drama to act out different ways the characters might be feeling, thinking about how our bodies change for different emotions.

Year 3

This term, Year 3 have loved our poetry unit based on the book 'The Wisp'. Through this work, we have deepened our understanding of hope and learnt about the challenges faced by refugees all over the world. We have produced amazing, emotive poems using the beautiful art work in 'The Wisp' as a stimulus. Over the last few weeks, we have learnt about figurative language, different sentence types, pitch and pace.

Year 3 have also all loved learning and performing two poems on the two 'Poetry By Heart' days we have held this term. It has been delightful to see the children enjoying performing the poems in front of each other and their classes. Don't worry, parents will get the opportunity to come in to watch us perform these poems later on in the year.

This term's maths has been focused around learning formal written methods for multiplication and division. We have applied their times table knowledge to column multiplication and are successfully multiplying a 2-digit and 1-digit number. We have also begun learning short division and have looked at sharing and grouping numbers to support their conceptual understanding of division. All of us have worked really hard to build the speed of their recall for their multiplication tables, including the 3, 4 and 8s. This term we have also begun to learn the corresponding division facts for our known times tables which will support us when carrying out short division. We will be ending the term by learning about measuring in centimetres and millimetres using a ruler and this will be built upon by measuring perimeters of shapes.

Year 4

This half term we have really enjoyed our new writing topic about a mysterious journey. We have deepened our understanding of figurative language and how to use this to create a chosen atmosphere for our writing. We are beginning to apply these writing tools within our writing and the Year 4 teachers have been very impressed so far.

Year 4 have all been very enthusiastic about our "Poetry by Heart " events where we have learnt two poems off by heart and performed them, thinking carefully about the way in which we are reading and choosing which words needed to be emphasised. We are all looking forward to our performance to parents later in the year as we will be continuing our excellent practice.

Our maths learning this half term has focussed on finding the perimeter and area of rectilinear 2D shapes. This requires us to retrieve a range of previous learning to apply to these new contexts. We have also spent time developing our explanation skills so we are able to fully understand the concepts we are learning about. All of us have also been working hard to increase our recall speed for our times tables multiplication facts up to 12 x 12 in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check later this year. It has been wonderful to see so many children making progress with this and beating their scores each week.

Year 5

In maths, we have been learning about division and fractions. Where can you spot fractions being shown or used in everyday life?

During reading, we are working on summarising skills and practicing retelling stories to aid our understanding. Our writing unit has been based on Alaska - we have written a setting description and are now planning a short narrative. We have been using a range of figurative language to create awe and wonder for the reader, as well as techniques such as short sentences and 'show not tell' to create tension. If you were exploring in the Arctic, what would you have in your survival kit and why?

Our R.E. topics this half term are Christmas and Revelations, with a focus on John the Baptist.

In History we are studying the Victorians and have enjoyed debating what life was like for a Victorian child.

In science we are looking at how plants reproduce and comparing animal life cycles, especially focussing on metamorphosis.

Our art unit is exploring printing techniques in an abstract style, inspired by Picasso.

Year 6

In writing we have read Macbeth and are basing our narratives on the story. We are thinking carefully about our sentences and word choices to build tension and create a sense of mystery and terror. In mathematics we are continuing to develop our understanding of algebra by using function machines and bar models to deepen our understanding of writing algebraic expressions and solving problems. Our RE topic this half term is Revelations and we are learning about Jesus' followers and how their examples are able to inspire and guide us today. This half term Year 6 are learning about natural disasters in geography. Based on recent news, we will be looking at case studies around the world about volcanoes. We've begun our learning journey by exploring how volcanoes are formed and what causes them to erupt!

Dates for the diary

- Thursday 1 February - Coffee Morning with representative from the public health nursing team.
- Monday, 12 February – Friday 16 February – Half Term
- Thursday 7 March - World Book Day
- Monday, 1 April –Friday, 12 April – Easter holidays
- Monday, 6 May – May Day Bank Holiday
- w/c 9 May – Year 6 SATs Week
- Thursday, 26 May – Inset Day (disaggregated day)
- Friday, 27 May - Inset Day (disaggregated day)
- Monday, 27 May – Friday, 31 May – Half Term
- Monday 3 June - Inset Day
- Tuesday 4 June - Inset Day
- Monday 11 July – Friday 15 July – Y6 Residential to Skern Lodge



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 signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerida Montague
Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Hendricks'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Hendricks
Head of School