

11th October 2024

THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

**'As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate
with Jesus.'**

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Upcoming Events October

- 15th – Year 6 topic celebration
- 18th – 9.30am Harvest Mass year 1-6 Parents welcome
- 21st – 3.30 **Year 1** online parent consultation
- 23rd – 3.30 -6.30pm Parent consultations face to face
- 24th – 3.30 – 6.30pm Parent consultation online (**not nursery or year 1**)
- 25th – Finish for half term 3.15pm

It was a pleasure to join Y6 on their retreat day to Aylesford last Friday. It is a very special day for our Y6 pupils at the start of their final year here at Holy family. We were blessed with wonderful weather and Fr Norbert led us in a day of reflection, hope and ambition for the future. We know that our Y6 pupils will have a positive year and go on to great things in the future.

You may have seen on the news recently that there is a campaign to promote a smartphone free childhood. We know that access to smartphones from an early age can cause issues that are ongoing into adolescence. Parents across the country are taking the decision to not purchase smartphones for their children and instead are buying 'brick phones' for purposes of safety. As you will be aware pupils are not permitted access to phones during the school day here at Holy Family. We support this campaign and would encourage all our families to consider the benefits. More information can be found [here](#).

Our school leadership roles have been announced, the applications for the Chaplaincy Team and for Y6 House Captains was very competitive and appointing to these roles was a difficult decision. Congratulations to the following pupils.

House captains	Chaplaincy Team
St John Henry Newman Alice & Andrew	Y6 - Sonia, Sophia, Phillip
St Josephine Bhakita Liliana & Mason D	Y5 – Matilda, Alice C, Emma
St John Paul II Elizabeth & Lillian	
St Mary Reggie & Lily	

God Bless
Mrs Linnane

**For regular news, updates and photos
about life at our school!**

Please see our website:

www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk

Facebook: [TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC](#)

Twitter: [@holyfamilyWGC](#)



Stars of the week

Rec

- Year 1** Robyn
- Year 2** Kosi
- Year 3** Adam
- Year 4** Abigail
- Year 5** Alice H
- Year 6** Lanesra

Nursery

This week we went on an adventure to rescue the princess in our PE lesson. We had lots of obstacles to overcome like crawling through tunnels and balancing on the benches, finally finishing with parachute games.

We also made autumn leaf crowns at Forest School. We found autumn leaves and made them into a repeated pattern. We noticed how the leaves have changed and described them. Using words like: brown, red, crunchy, crispy, smooth, bumpy and spiky.



Reception

Reception children have been learning that God created the world and everything in it, asking humans to use the resources and to look after God's creation. The children enjoyed using loose parts materials to create representations of God's world. They also acted as the stewards of the world by rescuing the models of animals from a polluted ocean, creating a new habitat for them and recycling the rubbish they took out of the ocean.



Year 1

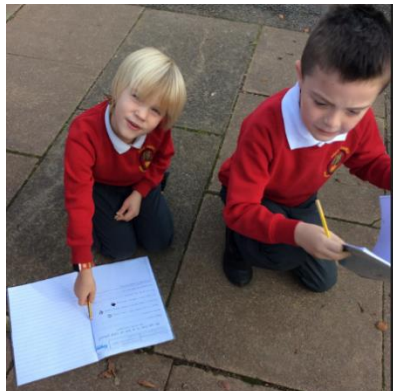
In Year 1 we have been drawing pumpkins using our observational skills and our knowledge of drawing lines from our art unit. We have also been learning how to do toe taps and penguins with a football in our P.E. lesson.



Year 2

Do we live in a hot or cold place?

In our Geography lesson this week we learnt about different climates around the world and we worked out that the UK is in a temperate climate. This means that sometimes the weather can be hot or cold and sometimes rainy or sunny amongst other types of weather. We then carried out some fieldwork and went outside to explore what the weather was like today in Welwyn Garden City. This then helped us to understand that our school had mild weather today.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI)

Come and join the HPCI team and Mrs Micklethwaite on Tuesday 15th October between 1.30 and 3pm. They will be discussing the results of the survey, listen to your views and experiences of the services delivered by the school in order to shape future planning and build a lasting channel of communication between parents and the school.

We look forward to see you there!

Secondary School Applications

Applications for secondary school places are now open for parents of children in Y6. Information about this process has been shared with Y6 parents and applications close on 31st October. Details of open evenings of schools in Hertfordshire have been shared.

This is open to parents and pupils in Y5 & Y6.

Please click [here](#) for further information on applying for a Secondary place

Early Math's workshop for parents

On Tuesday 15th October, Miss Clifford will be hosting a workshop in the hall for parents from Reception and Years 1 and 2. In this session, she will explain the key expectations in maths for each year group and some of the resources and strategies we use at Holy Family to support children with developing their early math's skills. The session will last approximately 30 minutes.

Please click [here](#) to complete the form if you are able to attend



Parking and driving in Crookhams

Please be reminded that there is an 'unofficial' one way system in operation for drop off and pick up time to ease the flow of traffic. All cars should enter Crookhams via the Rowans end, please be aware that members of the public may not be aware of this arrangement and at times this can cause hold ups. Under no circumstances should cars stop in the middle of Crookhams to allow children to get out of the car as this is extremely dangerous. Parking, or stopping on the yellow zig zags outside school is illegal and also highly dangerous for pedestrians. Do not park on the grass verges in or around Crookhams, this includes the forecourts at the garages. Local residents need access to their garages.

OPAL

We are very excited to be joining the OPAL scheme. If you haven't already completed the questionnaire sent out earlier in the week, please click [here](#). It only takes a few minutes.



School clubs – expression of interest

You should have received an email this week from the school office regarding the clubs that will be on offer after the October half term.

If your child is interested in any of the clubs please click [here](#) to complete the form.

Emails will be sent out in the final week of term to confirm if your child has a place.

Coats

As the weather is now getting colder, please can you ensure that children have a warm coat in school with them everyday.



Harvest Mass – 18th October

As part of our Harvest festival celebration's we will be collecting non-perishable items for our local food bank. The foodbank have provided us with a list of items that they are in need of but all non-perishable items are gratefully accepted. Please see the list below.

- Cereals
- Long life milk
- Tins of meat products (corned beef, ham)
- Tins of fish products (tuna, sardines, mackerel)
- Beans
- Soup
- Jam
- Tea
- Coffee
- Toilet rolls
- Toiletries (Shampoo, shower gel, deodorant etc)
- Cleaning products (bleach, bathroom cleaner etc)

Children can bring in their donations from **Monday 8th October until Wednesday 16th October.**

Please note that our Harvest Celebration Mass for year 1-6 will take place on Friday 18th October at 9.30 in the school hall – All are welcome.





CRAZY HAIR DAY



GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR HAIR AND HELP US TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE HFFA CHARITY COLLECTION AS WE CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN

A donation of £1, is greatly appreciated. Donations can be made via the link below or brought into school the morning of Friday 25th October. Feel free to get as creative and colourful as possible however please limit any accessories or styles that may be distracting during school!



WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/HOLYFAMILYCATHOLICPRIMARYSCHOOL

FRI 25TH OCT

Dates for the Diary

October

- 15th – 9am-10am Early maths workshop for parents
- 18th – 9.15am Harvest Mass year 1-6 Parents welcome
- 22nd – **Year 1** Parent consultations online
- 23rd – 3.30 -6.30pm Parent consultations face to face
- 24th – 3.30 – 6.30pm Parent consultation online (Rec, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)
- 25th – Finish for half term 3.15pm

November

- 4th – Back to school
- 5th – Year 2 Victorian workshop
- 7th – 6pm-7pm Parent internet workshop
- 11th – Flu vaccine Rec-year 6
- 12th – 9am – 10am Inclusion parent forum

