

23rd May 2025

# THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

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As we come to the end of a very busy half term, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our pupils, staff, and families for their continued support and enthusiasm. Our school has been full of energy and learning, with every class engaging in a wide variety of exciting activities. From hands on science experiments and creative writing to outdoor adventures and class trips, it has been a term rich in growth and discovery. The children continue to live out our school mission, 'As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with Jesus,' in all they do.

A special well done goes to our Year 6 pupils who approached their SATs with maturity, resilience and a calm determination. We are incredibly proud of how hard they have worked. Thank you also to the staff team for preparing the children so well and to parents for their encouragement and prayers. What a fantastic way to round off the half term with today's Sports Day! The children shone in every event, showing great sportsmanship and teamwork, and it was a joy to see so many of you there supporting your children.

Looking ahead, there is much to look forward to in our final half term. We have a packed calendar including our enrichment morning, a special careers afternoon, our third subject showcase, and of course, the very exciting celebrations for our school's 60th anniversary. We warmly invite families to join us for our celebratory Mass. If you would like to attend the Mass, please fill in the form [here](#).

As we enter the final half term of the academic year, it is important to for your children to maintain good attendance. Please do not book holidays during term time, as these will not be authorised and families risk being issued with Fixed Penalty Notices. Most importantly, learning continues right up to and throughout the final week of term, and valuable experiences will be missed. Let us make this last half term one of joy, achievement, and togetherness.

God bless  
Mrs Linnane

***Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is  
your gift back to God.***



## Upcoming Events - June

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pupils return to school 8.40am**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2.45pm** Nursery & Y2 Topic celebration
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2.45pm** Y1 & Y4 Topic celebration
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 2.45pm** Y3 Topic celebration
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 2.45pm** Reception & Y5 Topic celebration
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Careers** afternoon KS2
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Subject** Showcase at 2.30pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Y5** visit Saint John Henry Newman School
- 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> – Y6** residential Grafham Water
- 18<sup>th</sup> June – Y1&2** trip to Frinton on Sea
- 0<sup>th</sup> – Enrichment** morning 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration themed
- 26<sup>th</sup> June – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**Mass with Bishop MacAleenan 9.30am**

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

**Please see our website:**  
[www.holyschool.herts.sch.uk](http://www.holyschool.herts.sch.uk)  
**Facebook:**  
[TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC](https://www.facebook.com/TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC)  
**Twitter:** [@holyschoolWGC](https://twitter.com/holyschoolWGC)



## Stars of the week

**Rec - Maeve**  
**Year 1 - Vienna**  
**Year 2 - Isla**  
**Year 3 - Joshua E**  
**Year 4 - Elise**  
**Year 5 - Antoni**  
**Year 6 - Jason**

## Sports Day Winning Houses

**KS1 – St John Paul**  
**KS2 - St Josephine Bakita**

## Nursery

This term we have been learning about people who help us. We have had a nurse and a police officer come in to speak to the children. From this we set up a doctor's surgery and a police and fire station and role played different situations. We learnt if it is an emergency we call '999'. At Forest School we went pond dipping and found many different creatures living in and above our school pond. We also enjoyed some den building.



## Reception

In RE, we used our creativity to capture our learning about Pentecost. We acted out the story, expressed our joy in a liturgical dance and created wonderful artwork about the Holy Spirit and His gifts.





## Year 1

In our D.T. work this half term we have made smoothies. The children are pleased with the results!



## Year 2

In our Learning outside the Classroom lesson this week we went on a plant hunt around the KS1 area of the school. We have been learning about plants in our Science topic this half term and we were really surprised by how many different plants and flowers there is around school. We had to sketch the flowers and plants that we found and Miss Parmley gave us the challenge of trying to see if we could label them.





## Opal Update

The children have loved another half term of OPAL lunchtimes. With the brilliant weather we have had, it has meant we have been able to make full use of all of our outdoor space and introduce lots more large loose parts. The sand pit and mud kitchen have been a huge hit and after half term the children will be able to use the new mound and tunnels, now the grass is more established.

Next half term we want to continue to develop our outdoor area therefore we need your help. We have started a new game of OPAL Bingo today so if there is anything you can supply from the board then we would be very grateful. Please note this is between a whole class to collect not individually.

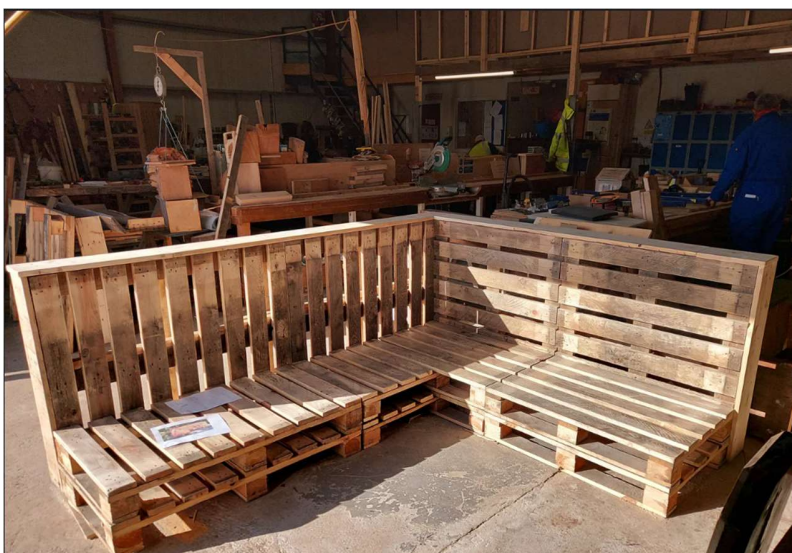
Please see below a few ideas of what we would like to create next. **If you think you have the skills, time or resources to help us then please get in touch.**

**Thank you for your amazing continued support,** without our parent support we would not be able to provide the children with so many exciting play opportunities.

### OPAL Bingo

<b>Rope and pegs</b> 	<b>Tarpaulins</b> 
<b>Wooden planks (scaffold/decking)</b> 	<b>Garden games</b> 
<b>Plastic bread/milk crates</b> 	<b>Suitcases</b> 

★ First class to get all items gets 15 minutes extra playtime.





## Jumping for joy!

Our new sandpit was put to fantastic use this week at Athletics Club. Children from Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 practised the long jump and our new sandpit provided the perfect landing patch for their fantastic efforts! Athletics Club for KS2 will be continuing next half term on Mondays after school, please see Arbor > Clubs to sign up.



## Parent support group

A couple of our own parents have created a group to provide a safe space for other parents to turn to if they are in need of guidance and support. Please reach out on the details below if you feel you could benefit from this group.

# Coffee Meet

**YOU'RE NOT ALONE – A SAFE SPACE FOR PARENTS**

*Do you worry what other people think about your parenting?*

*Do you ever feel you or your child are misunderstood?*

*Do you wonder if the school run is this hard for everybody?*

*Does just getting out the door without arguments or meltdowns seem impossible?*

**We are two Holy Family parent carers who have often felt this way. Through conversation, we realised we weren't alone in these feelings.**

**Now, we aim to provide a safe, confidential space to share, listen, and support - judgement free.**

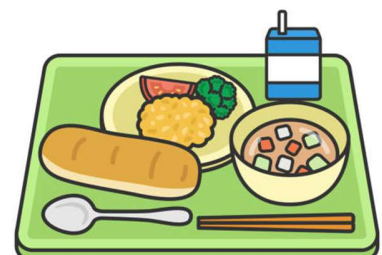
**Drop us a message if you'd like to join our group chat or meet for a coffee sometime**

**07506 689349**

**07956 337197**

## Price increase for school lunches

Please note, as previously communicated, school lunches have been set to the following prices: £2.58 (Nursery children) and £3.45 (KS2 children) You will see this increase for meals reflected on the School Grid ordering system - effective from 21<sup>st</sup> May.



## Thank you & farewell Mrs Quance

Today is Mrs Quance's last day with Holy family before she leaves for retirement!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Quance for five years of dedicated service in our school office and wrap around care clubs. Mrs Quance has been a warm and welcoming individual in our school community and we know staff and families will miss her kindness, efficiency and care. Thank your Mrs Quance and enjoy your well - deserved retirement!



## Don't forget...Party in the Park!



## Clubs

Please find below a summary of the clubs running each week NEXT half term: **2<sup>nd</sup> June – 10<sup>th</sup> July**

	<b>Organised by school</b> 3.15-4.15pm No charge <i>Booked via Arbor &amp; queries to school office</i>	<b>Organised by external providers</b> <i>Check sign up details, times and prices for each club</i>
<b>Mon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rounders Club – Yr4, 5 &amp; 6</li> <li>Athletics Club – All KS2</li> <li>Computer Club – Yr 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little voices Rec &amp; KS1 – details <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>Tetra Sports Football Club for Yr 1 &amp; 2 – details <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul>
<b>Tues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get Running Club – Y6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My (after school) ART club for Y1-Y6 - details <a href="#">here</a> to re-book for the 2nd half of the Summer Term</li> </ul>
<b>Weds</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irish dancing for Y1-Y6 Contact Aislinn on 07716306909 or <a href="mailto:aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk">aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk</a></li> <li>Tetra Sports Football Club for all KS2 – details <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul>
<b>Thurs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gardening Club – All KS2</li> <li>Forest School Club – Yr 5 &amp; 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>**NEW CLUB**</b> I Heart Dance classes for EYFS &amp; KS1 – all details <a href="#">here</a> and booking link <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul>
<b>Fri</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photography &amp; Videography Club – Y4, 5 &amp; 6 (suggested donation £2.50 per week)</li> </ul>	

**All clubs must be booked in advance. Please contact the school office if you have any questions. 01707 375518**

'Beetle mania' art project inspired by Charles Darwin  
by the children of the Holy Family after school art club





## Notices and flyers from the local community which may be of interest

### POTENTIAL KIDS SESSIONS FOR NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE AND SIBLINGS

## HALF-TERM Activities

BOOK NOW

POTENTIALKIDS.ORG.UK/EVENTS

### Saturday

#### FAMILY FOOTBALL

24TH @  
16:00-17:00  
AGE 6+ / FREE

BIRCHWOOD  
LEISURE

### Tuesday

#### COOKING IN THE GARDEN

27TH @  
10:30 - 12:00  
13:00 - 14:30  
AGE 4+ £8

POTENTIAL KIDS  
GARDEN

### Wednesday

#### FUN RINGS

28TH @  
14:00-15:00  
AGE 6+ £6  
(UNDER 8S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT ON SLOPES)

COSLING  
SPORTS CENTRE

### Thursday

#### TRAMPOLINING

29TH @  
17:20-18:30  
AGE 5+ £6.50

COSLING  
SPORTS CENTRE

### Friday

#### PONY MORNING

30TH @  
10:00-12:00  
AGE 6-11 £25

DANESCROFT  
STABLES WELWYN

### Friday

#### INFLATABLES

30TH @  
17:00-18:00  
AGE 8+ £8.95

HATFIELD  
LEISURE CENTRE

the galleria



## TALKING FAMILIES



### NEW DATES ADDED

**Thursdays 9.45 - 11.15am** Online Course: ID 757  
5th, 12th, 19th, 26th June, 3rd & 10th July 2025

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children under 12, sharing tips on how to:

- Manage challenging behaviour with consistency
- Encourage positive behaviour
- Build your child's self esteem
- Set and maintain boundaries
- Respond to tantrums and difficult feelings in children
- Develop a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'Every parent should do this course! It has taught me so much about how to deal with family life.'

**Booking essential**  
Please quote the course ID  
To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:

07512 709556

bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

www.supportinglinks.co.uk

These courses are provided free to participants by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

### JUNE 2025 ACTIVITIES SESSIONS FOR NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE AND SIBLINGS

Date	Sessions	Time
5th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
6th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
6th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-2.00
7th Sat	Free Family Football Drop-In Birchwood	16.00-17.00
12th Thur	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
13th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
13th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
13th Fri	Youth Group 16 + yrs	18.30-20.30
14th Sat	Basketball 8+ Birchwood Leisure Centre	16.00-17.00
17th Tue	Roller Skating Roller City WGC	18.00-19.30
19th Thur	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
19th Thur	Trampolining 5 + yrs	17.20-18.30
20th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
20th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
20th Fri	Youth Group 10-15yrs	18.00-19.30
20th Fri	Skateboarding Pioneer Club Age 9+yrs	17.30-18.30
21st Sat	Free Family Football Drop-In Birchwood	16.00-17.00
26th Thur	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
27th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
27th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
28th Sat	Potential Tracks Train Train Club 12 + yrs	12.00-14.00
28th Sat	Soft Archery 8+ Birchwood leisure centre	16.00-17.00

For further information on any of our Activities or Educational Services please email us at [info@potentialkids.org](mailto:info@potentialkids.org)

### POTENTIAL KIDS

BOOKINGS at [potentialkids.org.uk/events](http://potentialkids.org.uk/events)



Therapeutic Gardening 1:1 & Group Sessions. Volunteers Needed



Pony Days

#### OUR OFFER

Sports & Social Activities  
Tutoring  
Mentoring  
Therapies  
1:1 & Group Work  
Alternative Provision Provider  
EOTAS

Communication, Learning & Social Support for All



Visit us here





At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VIOLENT CONTENT ONLINE

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year – often from as young as primary school age. Just 6% actively seek it out; most encounter it through group chats or social media algorithms. From fights and pranks to hate speech and graphic media, exposure to violent content online is more widespread – and more harmful – than many adults realise.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA

Children and young people report feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame or fear after seeing violent content. For some, these effects may be short term, but for those with existing vulnerabilities or past trauma, the impact can be more severe. Many also feel pressured to 'laugh off' violent content to fit in with friends, even when they find it distressing.

### BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Exposure to online violence can lead to fear and avoidance behaviours – such as skipping school or staying indoors. When children see weapons used in videos, it can heighten their perception that the world is unsafe and, in rare cases, increase the likelihood they'll consider carrying a weapon themselves, such as a knife for protection.

### ESCALATION AND PARTICIPATION

Violent videos often go viral quickly. What begins as an online argument can spill into real-world fights – which are sometimes filmed and shared to gain views or status. Some children even admit to sharing or creating violent content themselves to gain attention or boost their reputation.

### DESENSITISATION

Older teens may become numb to violent content after years of exposure, admitting they're unlikely to report it. Younger children also tend not to report it – usually because they don't believe anything will be done or because they're afraid of being labelled a 'snitch' by their peers.

### HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES

Violent content online may overlap with racist, misogynistic or otherwise extremist ideas. These messages can dehumanise others or glorify violence as a way to gain power, popularity or notoriety. Over time, this can normalise dangerous behaviours and attitudes among impressionable viewers.

### DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT

Not all children are affected equally. Those who are excluded from school, marginalised, disabled or neurodivergent are often more vulnerable to the effects of online violence. It's essential to consider wider context – including home life and access to safe spaces – when thinking about potential harm.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CREATE SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Many children feel adults are too busy or won't understand their experiences online. Take time to build trust through non-judgemental conversations about what they're seeing. If they don't want to speak to you directly, gently signpost towards trusted services they can turn to for support.

### KNOW WHAT'S ILLEGAL

Some violent content is simply upsetting, while other examples may be criminal or a safeguarding matter that needs reporting. Help children understand the difference by staying informed about online laws and social media reporting procedures. A useful resource is [reportharmfulcontent.com](https://reportharmfulcontent.com).

### AVOID HARSH RESTRICTIONS

Fear of punishment is a major reason young people stay silent about violent content. Try not to overreact or threaten to take away devices. Instead, reassure children that they can speak openly and that asking for help won't get them into trouble.

### UNDERSTAND TECH AND TRAUMA

Older children may already know how to block accounts or avoid triggering content. Help younger or more vulnerable children learn these tools and encourage habits that reduce exposure. Just as importantly, teach techniques that help them process distress – building resilience and emotional literacy for both online and offline life.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in digital safety, media law, and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit [onlinemedialawuk.com](https://onlinemedialawuk.com) for more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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## Dates for the Diary

### June

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Pupils return to school 8.40am**

2<sup>nd</sup>– 2.45pm Nursery & Y2 Topic celebration

3<sup>rd</sup>– 2.45pm Y1 & Y4 Topic celebration

4<sup>th</sup> – 2.45pm Y3 Topic celebration

5<sup>th</sup>– 2.45pm Reception & Y5 Topic celebration

6<sup>th</sup> – Careers afternoon KS2

11<sup>th</sup> – Subject Showcase at 2.30pm

13<sup>th</sup> – Y5 visit Saint John Henry Newman School

16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> – Y6 residential Grafham Water

18<sup>th</sup> June – Y1&2 trip to Frinton on Sea

**26<sup>th</sup> June – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Mass with Bishop MacAleenan 9.30am**

### July

1<sup>st</sup> – Year 1 Class liturgy

2<sup>nd</sup> - 09.30-11.30am Y5 Whole class Olympics @ Gosling

5<sup>th</sup> – Party in the Park

16<sup>th</sup> – 1.30pm Y6 Production

17<sup>th</sup> – Leavers' Mass & Assembly

**18<sup>th</sup> – School finishes for summer holidays at 1.15pm**

