

13th June 2025

THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

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Welcome back to the final half term of the academic year. We began the half term with a truly inspirational visit from Bart Gee, who shared his remarkable life story with pupils across the school. Bart's message, 'there are no limits to what you can achieve,' was received with awe, admiration, and plenty of thoughtful questions. His story was a powerful reminder of resilience and trusting in God's plan for us. This links with the Feast of Pentecost, which we celebrated on Sunday. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the courage to go out and share the Good News, even when they were scared. Like Bart and the disciples, we are reminded that with God's help, we can find the strength and confidence to overcome challenges and do amazing things.

Thank you to all the parents and family members who joined us for the recent class topic celebrations. It was wonderful to see families engaging with their children's learning and enjoying time in their classrooms. On Friday we held a fantastic Careers Afternoon for our KS2 pupils, where volunteers from a range of professions gave pupils a taste of different career paths and helped them imagine their future possibilities. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to speak and inspire, your impact was invaluable.

This week, some of our KS2 pupils made us incredibly proud with their effort, determination, and fantastic teamwork at the schools District Sport event. Their behaviour and encouragement of one another were widely praised by staff and attending parents. Thank you to Mrs Lovell and Mrs Jewell for leading our pupils. Year 5 enjoyed a visit to The Saint John Henry Newman Secondary School today, getting a taste of what life at secondary school is like. Finally, thank you for your continued patience and cooperation during the Pond Field road closure, the road has now reopened and we will return to our usual one way system on Crookhams.

God bless
Mrs Linnane

'Pentecost is the moment when a heart of stone is shattered and a heart of flesh takes its place. It is the triumph of the Spirit over fear.' Pope Francis



Upcoming Events - June

- 16th-18th – Y6 residential Grafham Water
- 18th – Y1&2 trip to Frinton on Sea
- 20th – Enrichment morning 60th anniversary celebration themed
- 4th – Festival of Hope & Advocacy for Oracy at Westminster Cathedral
- 26th – 60th Anniversary Celebration Mass with Bishop MacAleenan 9.30am
International Tea 2.30pm

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

Please see our website:
www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk

Facebook:

[TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC](https://www.facebook.com/TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC)

Twitter: [@holyfamilyWGC](https://twitter.com/holyfamilyWGC)



Stars of the week

Rec - Neriah

Year 1 - Ben

Year 2 - Elissa

Year 3 - Archie

Year 4 - All of Year 4

Year 5 - Antoni

Year 6 - Victoria

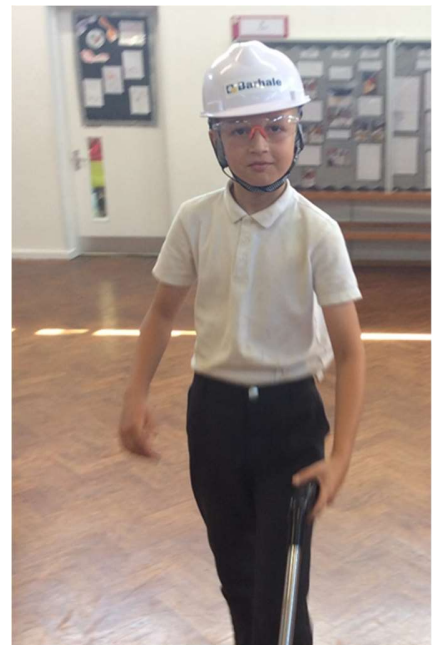
Year 3

In Year 3 we have had a very exciting couple of weeks back. In Music we have been learning all about Indian music. This week we listened to a traditional piece of Indian music called 'Bollywood' which is music used in films and involves singing and dancing. The children learnt the basics of a rag and how to use it. They then had a go at creating their own! In Outdoor Learning we learnt all about fire safety. After talking about how we keep ourselves safe around a fire we used the opportunity to make s'mores! They were delicious.



Year 4

In year 4 we have enjoyed writing reports about play in English that will go outside to inform younger children. In guided reading, we have been reading about 'Extreme Weather' and have been developing our comprehension skills by answering questions. In Science, we had an interesting visit to Tring Natural History Museum and learnt a lot of information about animals and what their skeletons tell us. We have finished our learning about the ancient Maya and I have been impressed with the homework projects that I have received. In Science, we have created leaflets to inform others about the impact that humans have on the environment and what we can do to help. We have also illustrated books about seasonal change. We enjoyed learning about different jobs in careers afternoon. We look forward to the rest of our learning this half term.





Year 5

Year 5 have been enjoying our English units on developing an advert and using persuasive language. The children designed a new product and had to write a print advert and make a video advert as well as a Dragon's Den pitch. In RE we have been learning some key information about the Bible such as who wrote it and the difference between the Old and New Testament. In music, this week we have started learning the songs for our summer production called School of Pop and it is sounding great already! In outdoor learning children looked for patterns and sequences in nature. The children also created some amazing and expressive self-portraits in art.



Year 6

We were delighted to welcome Bart Gee to our school. Bart, shared his powerful story of perseverance and faith with our pupils.

Despite being told he would never walk or play music, Bart has learned to do both and now travels the country inspiring others. He even performed a beautiful piece on the piano, showing what can be achieved with determination and a positive attitude.

We were truly inspired by his visit and left with an important message: never give up, and always believe in what you can do.



District Sports



60th Anniversary artwork donations



As part of our celebrations for the school's 60th anniversary, we are excited to offer a special workshop where the children from each class will help to create a beautiful mosaic piece of artwork. This collaborative piece will be proudly displayed in the school hall for years to come. The workshop will take place on the 18th and 19th of June, and the finished mosaic will be unveiled during our celebration on the 26th of June.

To help cover the costs of the workshop, we kindly ask for a small donation of £2.50 per child. If you are able and would like to contribute more, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Please see the School Shop on Arbor to arrange these donations.

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**

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



Clubs

Please find below a summary of the clubs running each week this half term: **2nd June – 10th July**

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

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

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

TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS



Wednesdays 9.45 - 11.15am Online Course ID: 770
17th, 24th Sept, 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd Oct 2025
Delivered online using Zoom

Wednesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm Face-to-Face ID: 771
5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Nov, 3rd & 10th Dec 2025
Venue TBA
Watford

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children with any additional need. Your child does not need a diagnosis.

- Understand your child's behaviour
- Develop strategies that really work
- Reduce conflict and increase co-operation
- Improve emotional regulation
- Explore sensory needs
- Increase your child's resilience
- Manage the different needs within your family

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

'I have been on a few courses to help me with my child but this was by far the most helpful'

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

07512 709 556

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.

TALKING FAMILIES

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **0-12** sharing tips on:

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self-esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries.
- Responding to tantrums and difficult feelings in children.
- Developing a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future.



Wednesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm

17th Sep – 22nd Oct

Online Course ID 774

Thursdays 9.45 - 11.15am

18th Sep – 23rd Oct

Online Course ID 772

Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm

4th Nov – 9th Dec

Online Course ID 773

TALKING ANXIETY in TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children **12-19**, supporting you to:

- Understand why young people and adults get anxious.
- Develop strategies to handle anxiety in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anxiety.
- Reduce stress and tension.
- Encourage resilient behaviour.



Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.30pm

16th Sep – 21st Oct

Online Course ID 776

TALKING DADS

6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers of children **0-19**, sharing information on:

- Improved listening and communication skills.
- A healthy dad-child relationship now and for the future.
- Effective strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- How to enforce boundaries.
- Being the dad, you want to be.



Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm

17th Sep – 22nd Oct

Online Course: ID 779

Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm

5th Nov – 10th Dec

Online Course: ID 780

Booking essential. Please Quote the Course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, please contact Supporting Links on:

07512 709556 or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund
Information taken on booking will be used to process your booking, check your eligibility, identify any access needs and will be stored in accordance with our GDPR policy which is available on request

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Dates for the Diary

June

16th-18th – Y6 residential Grafham Water
18th – Y1&2 trip to Frinton on Sea
18th – Subject Showcase 2.30pm – **CANCELLED** –
20th – Enrichment morning
24th – Festival of Hope at Westminster Cathedral
Advocacy for Oracy at Westminster
26th – 60th Anniversary Celebration Mass with Bishop MacAleenan 9.30am
International Tea 2.30pm

July

1st – Year 1 Class liturgy
2nd – EYFS Teddy Bear's Picnic
2nd - Y5 Whole class Olympics @ Gosling 9.30-11.30am
5th – Party in the Park
10th – Welcome morning new nursery/reception parents 9.30am
10th – Moving up day
Y6 children visiting their secondary schools
11th- HFFA cake sale
16th –Y6 Production 1.30pm
17th – Leavers' Mass 1.15pm
17th - Leavers Assembly 2.30pm
18th – School finishes for summer holidays at 1.15pm

