

27th June 2025

THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

Crookhams
Welwyn Garden City
AL7 1PG
Telephone 01707375518
admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk



Last week our Year 6 children had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Grafham Water. They embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, from water sports to mountain biking and team-building activities. It was a real pleasure to see them grow in confidence, independence and friendship throughout their stay. We also held our termly enrichment morning across the school last week themed around our 60th Anniversary. Every class took part in a variety of creative and engaging activities and the buzz of excitement was clear to see. It was a memorable celebration of our school's history and spirit, with something for everyone to enjoy. Our football team have made us incredibly proud this year. They reached the final of the Welwyn Schools Football League, a fantastic achievement, just missing out on the win, but they are the winners of the Welwyn North Football League and runners-up in the whole of Welwyn. We are so proud of their great team spirit, commitment, and the way they have represented our school so positively throughout the season.

This week, some of our Year 5 pupils, and members of the chaplaincy team, visited Westminster Cathedral. They joined many schools from across the Diocese in a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols for a Festival of Hope. Separately, Marnie and Amber from Year 5 represented the school at a special "Advocacy for Oracy" event, where they shared speeches on the theme of leadership in front of Bishop Paul, Fr Norbert, and school communities from across the diocese. Marnie was honoured to be chosen to read her speech again in front of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, a proud moment for her and our whole school.

Finally, Thursday was a truly joyful occasion as we marked our school's 60th Anniversary. We celebrated with a beautiful Mass, a picnic and a shared food event. It was a blessing to have Bishop Paul McAleenan with us for such a meaningful day in the life of our school community.

God bless
Mrs Linnane

*'A school is not just a building; it is a community where
hearts and minds grow together.'*



Upcoming Events - July

- 1st – 2.30pm Y1 Class liturgy
- 1st – 10.30am - 11.30am Y3 Class liturgy
- 2nd – 1pm EYFS Teddy Bear's Picnic
- 2nd – Y5 Whole class Olympics @ Gosling 9.15-11.30am
- 5th – Party in the Park
- 10th – 9.30am Welcome morning new nursery/reception parents
- 10th – Moving up day
- Y6 children visiting secondary schools
- 11th - HFFA cake sale
- 16th – 1.30pm Y6 Production
- 17th – 1.15pm Leavers' Mass
- 17th - Leavers Assembly 2.30pm
- 18th – 1.15pm School finishes for summer holidays

**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 - Millie

Year 1 - Sophie

Year 2 - Lennie

Year 3 - Sonny

Year 4 - Eros

Year 5 - Amber & Marnie

**Year 6 - All the house captains
and Chaplaincy team**

Nursery

This half term our topic in nursery has been 'Commotion in the Ocean'. We have been learning all about the ocean, the sea creatures within it and the seaside. We read the Snail and the Whale and made our own salt dough snails then painted them.

We also made a beach and sea with rubbish in it on the tuff tray. We used tweezers to pick out all the pieces of rubbish and learnt the importance of not dropping litter.



Reception

In Reception, we enjoyed learning about various places around the world that the children have visited and comparing them to the UK. We had 2 brilliant lessons about Egypt and Poland (including a tasting session) taught by our parent visitors, which we are very grateful for. Linked to that, was our learning about maps. We explored Google Maps and had a go at searching for different countries to finally focus on our local area by creating maps of our school playground and adding different features to our maps.



Year 1

In Year 1 we loved our trip to Frinton on Sea!



Year 2

In our DT lessons over the last few weeks, we have been learning about the main different food groups and talking about why it is important to have a healthy and balanced diet. In our lesson today, we learnt about the different pieces of equipment we could use to help us prepare some different ingredients that we could use when making a wrap. We used a box grater, knives, chopping boards, spoons and scissors.



Football final result

We are so proud of our football team's great team spirit and achievements this season – well done!



Gardening Club

Great work from our budding gardeners and Mrs Jewell for the first harvest of potatoes from our school garden!



Hot weather reminder



It is going to be 30 degrees on Monday, please prepare your child for the hot weather by ensuring they have a **sun hat and full water bottle** with them in school. **Sun cream** must be applied at home before coming into school.

60th Anniversary Celebrations



Come along to our Parent Coffee Morning

We warmly invite you to a Parent Coffee Morning with our School Family Worker on **2nd July at 9-10am**

where you can enjoy a relaxed chat and receive helpful advice on how to support your child through the transition into a new school year.



Clubs

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

	Organised by school <i>3.15-4.15pm</i> <i>No charge</i> <i>Booked via Arbor & queries to school office</i>	Organised by external providers <i>Check sign up details, times</i> <i>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

JULY 2025 ACTIVITIES

SESSIONS FOR NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE AND SIBLINGS

Date	Sessions	Time
3rd Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
3rd Thu	Fun Rings Gosling 6+	17.30-18.30
4th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
4th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-2.00
4th Fri	Skateboarding Pioneer Club Age 9+yrs	17.30-18.30
5th Sat	Free Family Football Drop-In Birchwood	16.00-17.00
10th Thur	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
11th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
11th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
11th Fri	Youth Group 16 +	18.30-20.30
17th Thur	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
17th Thur	Fun Rings Gosling 6+	17.30-18.30
18th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
18th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
19th Sat	Kayaking Lea Valley white water centre 8+	10.30-11.45

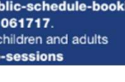
POTENTIAL KIDS

BOOKINGS at potentialkids.org.uk/events

PK Hub & Garden



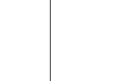
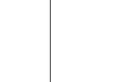
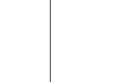
Therapeutic Gardening
1:1 & Group Sessions.
Volunteers Needed



OUR OFFER

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

Communication,
Learning & Social
Support for All



For further information on any of our Activities or Educational Services please email us at info@potentialkids.org

the gallery

CCN



COMMUNITY

Herfordshire Community Foundation

HERTS BALANCE & RIDE

LEARN TO BALANCE AND RIDE AND DEVELOPING BETTER BIKE CONTROL COURSES (JULY AND AUGUST 2025)



One of the best skills children can learn, opening up opportunities for fun, independence, activity and health for a lifetime.

LEARN TO BALANCE AND RIDE (L2BR)

- For children typically aged between 3.5 and 11
- 85% + of children are normally riding after 2 sessions
- 1 Instructor to max 5 children
- Balance bike and lightweight pedal bike for each child included in price
- 1 hour sessions

DEVELOPING BETTER BIKE CONTROL (DBBC)

- Follow-on course for new or inexperienced riders
- Covers key skills of starting, stopping, turning, looking, riding close to others, gears and signalling
- 1 Instructor to max 5 children
- Bike provided if required (extra £5.00)
- 1 hour sessions

£36 for two sessions.
£23 for one session.

Full course details at: www.hertsbalance.uk/course-descriptions

Dates: Monday July 21st and Tuesday July 22nd
Venue: Tudor Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9ER

Thursday July 24th and Friday July 25th
Venue: The Ridgeway Academy, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2AF

Monday July 28th and Tuesday July 29th
Venue: Cassiobury Junior School, Watford, WD17 3PD

Thursday July 31st and Friday August 1st
Venue: Roundwood Primary School, Harpenden, AL5 3AD

Saturday August 23rd and Sunday August 24th
Venue: The Ridgeway Academy, Welwyn Garden City. AL7 2AF

For more information and to book, go to www.hertsbalance.uk/public-schedule-booking
email phil@hertsbalance.uk or call Phil on 07941 061717.
Private L2BR, DBBC and Bikeability sessions are available for children and adults and families. Details at www.hertsbalance.uk/private-sessions



JULY 2025 Newsletter

FACE delivers online support via zoom for parents across the UK
Talks are 90 minutes long, £24 each or FREE with a school membership code
Book Online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk on the PARENTS page



Schools can purchase a
FACE School Annual Membership
which means **ALL parents** and **ALL staff**
get unlimited **FREE** access to **ALL** 16 parent talks

Thursday
31st July
19:00 - 20:00
FREE



Supporting Healthy Screen Use

Screens are here to stay.
Identifying the issues and step by step guide to reduce the negative impact.

Monday
21st July
10:00 - 11:30
£24
recording available



Supporting a Child with ADHD
Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Monday
28th July
10:00 - 11:30
£24
recording available



Facing Defiance

Specific strategy to help parents manage defiant and challenging behaviour, especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA conditions, 5 to 12 years old.

Tuesday
29th July
10:00 - 11:30
£24
recording available



Anxiety Based School Avoidance

Understanding and supporting children who are anxious about school.
Steps you can take to help them back into the classroom.

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk



July Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	1 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	1 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	8 July 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	14 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	15 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Autism Improving Communication	22 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	22 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am

CARERS WEEK - YOUNG CARERS

Caring about Equality

- Could someone in your family be a young carer?
- A young carer cares for a **family member** who, due to illness, disability, a mental health condition or an addiction, **cannot cope without their support**.
- We are proud of our young carers and the care they provide. However, a young carer **may miss out** on extra support offered and opportunities in their education, careers and personal lives due to their caring role.
- You can get them further support by contacting the Young Carers Service at Carers in Hertfordshire.



THINK

REFER

SUPPORT



email: young.carers@carersinherts.org.uk



Visit: www.carersinherts.org.uk/young-carers

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 4* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with *Pikachu*, *Donkey Kong* and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *'The Super Mario Bros. Movie'* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of *Daily Star* and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including *IGN*, *TechRadar*, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Dates for the Diary

July

1st – 2.30pm Y1 Class liturgy

1st – 10.30am - 11.30am Y3 Class liturgy

2nd – 1pm EYFS Teddy Bear's Picnic

2nd - Y5 Whole class Olympics @ Gosling 9.15-11.30am

5th – Party in the Park

10th – 9.30am Welcome morning new nursery/reception parents

10th – Moving up day

Y6 children visiting their secondary schools

11th- HFFA cake sale

16th – 1.30pm Y6 Production

17th – 1.15pm Leavers' Mass

17th – 2.30pm Leavers Assembly

18th – School finishes for summer holidays at 1.15pm

