

29th September 2025

DoWAT



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



It has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled back into the rhythm of school life. Classrooms are full of energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm, and it is a pleasure to witness the wonderful learning that is taking place across all year groups. Already, pupils are showing great determination in their work and are supporting each other in their learning journeys.

A highlight of the start of term was our welcome Mass, where so many members of our school community came together. It was lovely to gather in prayer and thanksgiving, and especially good to welcome Fr James Boyle, assistant priest at Holy Family Church. We look forward to seeing much more of him in school in the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you also to the parents who attended our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. It was encouraging to see so many families supporting their children's education in this way. For those unable to attend, the information shared can be found on the class pages of our school website.

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their Bikeability training last week, learning valuable skills to keep them safe and confident on the road. Our Year 5 pupils have begun their swimming lessons, a key part of their curriculum, and we look forward to seeing their progress over the term.

This half term, we are once again delighted to offer a wide range of clubs and activities for children. Many of these are free, and they provide excellent opportunities for pupils to discover new interests, build friendships, and develop skills beyond the classroom. Please do keep an eye on your emails for updates on what is available.

As we continue this new school year together, let us hold onto the words of St Paul: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."*

God bless
Mrs Linnane

Upcoming Events

September

30th – 1.30pm EYFS Welcome Service

October

10th – Y6 trip to Aylesford

10th – Wear yellow for YMMHD

17th – 9.15am Harvest Mass

22nd-23rd - Parent consultation
evenings

24th - INSET day

27th-31st – Half term holiday

**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

Year 1 Natalia

Year 2 Poppy

Year 3 Lennie

Year 4 Archie

Year 5 Lola

Year 6 Amber

Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about the Egyptians. They took part in an Egyptian Workshop on Thursday. The children took part in a range of activities during the morning which included: making perfume, using clay to create Canopic Jars and Scarab jewellery, learning the art of Mummification and even turning Soapstone into sculptures. In the afternoon, Year 3 were transported back in time to the Egyptian court where groups of children performed dances, plays and narrated stories to their King and Queen as well enjoying a feast!



Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy start to the year! In English we have read the story Arthur and the Golden Rope. The children are now designing their own graphic novel to show Arthur's next mission. In maths we have been learning some helpful strategies to use to help us when adding. In RE we have focused on the story of Abraham and children enjoyed using drama to retell the story of God's covenant with Abraham. We have been investigating teeth in science and children really enjoyed the model we used for demonstrating the human digestive system! Children have been improving their football skills during PE over the last few weeks and practicing skills such as dribbling and passing the ball.



Year 5

It has been wonderful to welcome back year 5 to our new classroom. We have been really busy enjoying our learning. Here are some of the highlights so far! In English, we enjoyed our whole school book the Tree and The River by Aaron Becker and have written some amazing stories and poems based on this book. In maths, we have been using our equipment to make mathematical models to help us to understand and solve a range of problems. In RE, we have worked in groups to create posters to share our understanding of the Covenants that have been made with God in the Bible. We are enjoying exploring and learning how to create quizzes in computing. We have also been enjoying our learning outside the classroom.



Year 6

In forest school, we have been classifying natural materials to link with our science work on living things. We sorted leaves, seeds, and sticks into groups and compared them to non-living objects like stones. This helped us practise using classification keys and understand how scientists





Preparing for Holy Communion

As noted in the latest [WGC Parish Newsletter](#), Registration of children for First Confession and First Holy Communion will be at Our Lady's Church on **Wednesday 15th October at 6pm**. Parents/carers are asked to come with the children (at least in Year 3). The meeting will last 45 minutes.

Certificate of Catholic Practice for Secondary School transfer

Parents/carers together with their child are asked to make an appointment to meet Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's Church for him to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice for Secondary School transfer. He will be available:

- Monday 29th September 5.00 - 6.30pm
- Tuesday 30th September 4.00 - 6.00pm
- Monday 13th October 4.00 - 6.00pm
- Tuesday 14th October 4.00 - 6.00pm
- Monday 20th October 4.00 - 6.00pm

There is a blue parish form at the back of each church. This should be filled in and brought to the meeting. Please wait in church until called. To make an appointment, please ring Jacqui, our Parish Administrator, on 01707 323234. If you do not understand the system or if English is not your first language, Fr. Norbert is happy to help. However, he will not be able to sign the certificates before/after Mass.

Burger day on Thursday!

School lunch will be burger themed on Thursday! If your child(ren) would like a school lunch on this day please make their selection via the School Grid. Contact the office if you have any queries.



Clubs

Please find below a summary of the clubs which will be running this half term

	Organised by school 3.15-4.15pm No charge Booked via Arbor & queries to school office	Organised by external providers Check sign up details, times and prices for each club
Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table Tennis Club – Yr 5 & 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tetra Sports Football Club for Yr 1 & 2 – details here or https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/
Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book club – Y4 & 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music club KS2 (book and pay through Arbor)
Weds		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tetra Sports Football Club for all KS2 – details here or https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/
Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Card games Club – KS1 Maths Reasoning/Problem solving – Yr 5 & 6 Arts and Crafts club – Nursery, Reception, Y1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music club KS1 (book and pay through Arbor) Everyone Cooks for Y1-Y6 Contact Louise Penn on 07946 303 213 or louise@everyonecooks.co.uk
Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board games – KS2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish dancing for Y1-Y6 Contact Aislinn on 07716 306 909 or aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk Beginning Friday 26th Sept

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

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

OCTOBER 2025 ACTIVITIES

SESSIONS FOR NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE AND SIBLINGS

Date	Sessions	Time
2nd Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
2nd Thu	Trampolining -Gosling sports centre 5+	17.30-18.30
3rd Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	11.00-12.30
4th Sat	Free Family Football Drop-In Birchwood	16.00-17.00
10th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
10th Fri	Youth Group 16 +	18.30-20.30
11th Sat	Soft Archery 8+ Birchwood	16.00-17.00
16th Thur	Trampolining -Gosling sports centre 5+	17.30-18.30
17th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	11.00-12.30
18th Sat	Basketball 8+ Birchwood	16.00-17.00
21st Tue	Roller skating Campus West	18.00-19.30
23rd Thur	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
24th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	11.00-12.30
24th Fri	Skateboarding Pioneer Club Age 9+yrs	17.30-18.30
25th Sat	Free Family Football Drop-In Birchwood	16.00-17.00
25th Sat	Train Club PK Hub Age 12+	12.00-14.00

POTENTIAL
KIDS

BOOKINGS at
potentialkids.org.uk/events

PK Hub & Garden



Danecroft Stables



Pony Days
(holidays only)



Visit us here



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

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COMMUNITY
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Hertfordshire
Community
Foundation
Feeling Good About It

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 24.09.2025

Dates for the Diary

September

30th – 1.30pm EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Welcome Service

October

10th – Y6 trip to Aylesford

10th – Wear yellow for Young Minds Mental Health Day

17th – 9.15am Harvest Mass

22nd & 23rd – 3.30-6.30pm Parent consultation evenings

24th – INSET day

27th-31st – Half term holidays

November

3rd – Return to school

12th – 2.30pm Year 5 class mass

