

9th January 2026

DOWAT



THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

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admin@hollyfamily.herts.sch.uk



Welcome back to a new term at Holy Family. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break and it is good to see that the children have returned refreshed and ready for a new term of learning and discovery.

On Monday, our staff attended the DOWAT Academy Inset Day. Around 650 teachers from across the Trust came together to work collaboratively on shared priorities. It was a really useful day, focused on strengthening practice, sharing ideas, and making sure we are working together to give all children the best opportunities possible. We are grateful to be part of a Trust where staff can learn from one another and develop consistently across schools.

We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs Roycroft to Year 1 this week. The children have been delighted to see her return, and we are very glad to have her back in school. In addition, we warmly welcome Mrs Palfrey, who has joined us as a new Teaching Assistant. We know she will be a great support to both children and staff, and we look forward to working with her.

As families are already aware, we continue to remember our previous Headteacher, Ms Stevens, in our prayers. The Holy Family School Mass will be offered for her on 21st January, and all are welcome to attend. May she rest in peace.

Looking ahead, parent consultations will take place in the last week of this half term. These meetings are an important opportunity to talk about your child's progress, attitude to learning, and next steps. We encourage all parents and to attend, as working together makes a real difference. Your support at home, combined with our work in school, helps every child to thrive.

Finally, a reminder about parking on Crookhams: please do not park on the grass verges, and please be considerate of local residents and other families. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

'Hope opens new horizons, making up capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable.' Pope Francis.

God bless, Mrs Linnane

Upcoming Events

January

11th – Civic Service @ Our Lady's Church
12th – Year 5 Swimming - collect children from lagoon @ 3.15pm
21st – 2pm The Holy Family School Mass – families welcome

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

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

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

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



Stars of the week

Rec - Ariana
Year 1 - Jacob
Year 2 - Harper
Year 3 - Bessie
Year 4 - Eva
Year 5 - Aoife
Year 6 - Filip

Year 3

We have had a great start back in year 3. It is lovely to welcome back everyone to school and hear about their adventures over the Christmas holidays. In LOTC, we carried out a litter pick. We kept a tally of the materials that we collected. We used our findings in computing to create a pie chart/bar chart. This is a great opportunity for children to collect first hand data and use it in our computing lesson, also using our maths skills.



Year 4

Last term, Year 4 enjoyed learning about the Roman invasion and answering the question is it ever right to take someone else's land? We learned about the Roman army and their different battle formations such as wedge or tortoise and even had a go ourselves! The children enjoyed the story of *Starbird* in our English lessons and are writing their own animal adventure story. In maths, Year 4 have been learning about decimal numbers and how to find the perimeter of a shape. In science, we learned about electrical circuits. The children are looking forward to starting Ukulele lessons this term!



Year 5

It has been wonderful to welcome Year 5 back to a new year and a new term. We ended last term with some real highlights: our Advent service at the Holy Family Church, our wonderful carol concert and our class party. We also completed our art topic with some amazing tile prints. We have started off the new term in a great way with the children being focussed and working hard. We have started our new English topic on persuasion and have started learning about the importance of the oceans in geography. You could ask the children about the oceans song that we listened to - to help us remember the names of our oceans. We are looking forward to creating games in computing.



Year 6

LOTG – DT Structures

We began planning our playground structures by closely examining the equipment we already have in our school playground. We discussed what we like, what could be improved, and what dream equipment we would love to add. When designing our structures, we had to consider two important things: that they would be fun to use and safe for everyone.



Netball - PE lesson

In our netball PE lesson, we practised the chest pass. We focused on using two hands, stepping forward, and aiming accurately to pass the ball to a teammate.



Nursery spaces available

We currently have places available in our Nursery class for children who have turned 3. We offer both part-time and full-time places, with a minimum requirement of 15 hrs per week.

We provide a **welcoming and nurturing environment** where children can **learn and explore through play**.

We accept childcare vouchers and 30-hour eligibility codes

We are also now accepting applications if you are planning for your child to start nursery in September 2026.

For more information on all applications, please contact the school office: 01707 375518 / admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk



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

THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for **'HELP'** and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to **'KEEP STILL'** and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

Clubs for next half term

Please see a summary below of the school and external clubs that are running this half term:

	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"> Table Tennis Club – Yr 5 & 6 (12th Jan – 9th Feb) Times Table Rockstars Club – Yr 3 & 4 (12th Jan – 9th Feb) 	<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"> Multi-sports club Y1,Y2 & Y3 (13th Jan – 10th Feb) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish dancing for Y1-Y6 (see flyer overleaf) Contact Aislinn on 07716 306 909 or aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk Chess Club – for Y2-Y6 Contact Zahra Jaufarally @ Kings and Queens Chess Club admin@kingsandqueenschess.co.uk 07900 048446 or sign up here
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"> Play Club – Reception & Yr 1 (15th Jan – 12th Feb) Homework Club – Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6 (15th Jan – 12th Feb) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone Cooks for Y1-Y6 Contact Louise Penn on 07946 303 213 or louise@everyonecooks.co.uk (see following page)
Fri		

Dates for the Diary

January

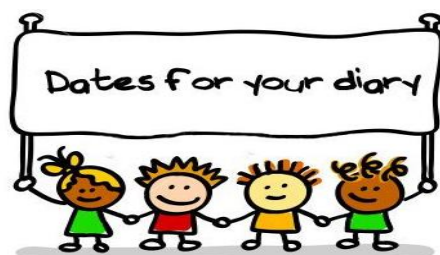
11th – 3pm Civic Service at Our Lady's Church

12th – Y5 Swimming starts (each Monday until Monday 2nd Feb)

21st – 2pm The Holy Family School Mass – parents/families welcome

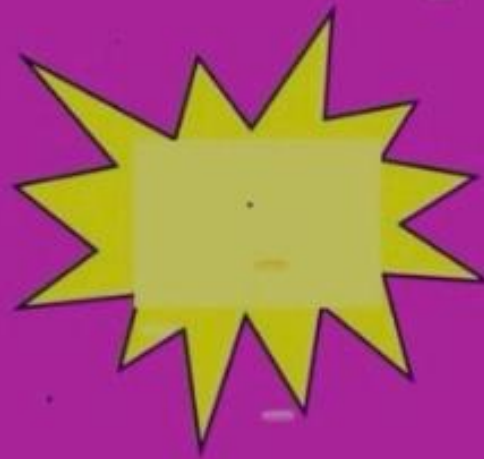
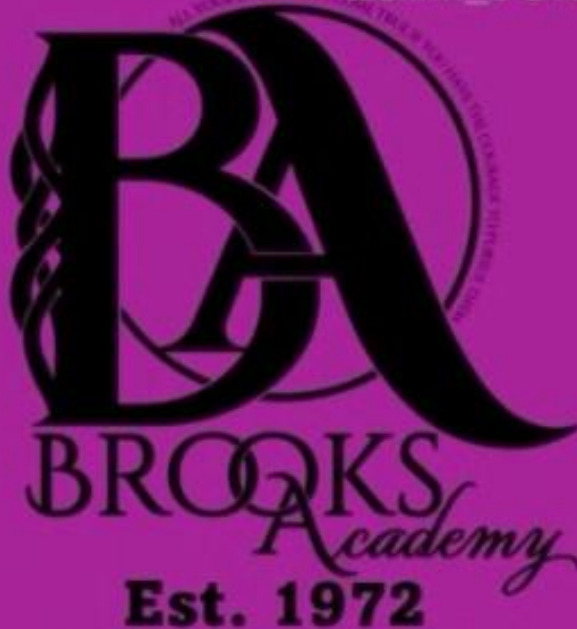
February

3rd – Y3 trip to Celtic Harmony



To register your child for Irish Dancing Club please contact Brooks Academy ASAP using the details below...

Any questions please contact Aislinn on 07716306909 or
aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk



Irish Dance Classes for boys and girls aged 4 upwards!

**Classes from 13th Jan -
24th Mar**



Why join the Brooks Academy?

- We are a family run school, where we pride ourselves on nurturing our students from raw beginners through to World Globe Holders!
- All of our teachers are registered with CLRG, hold enhanced DBS' and PLI
- We teach for FUN as well as for competitions
- We are a fully inclusive school

**£72 per child paid in advance to;
A C Stevens
20-25-25
53502686**

