

27th February 2026

DOWAT



THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

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Welcome back to school after the half-term break. It is hard to believe we have already reached the midway point of the academic year. This is a short half term of only five weeks, and we have a great deal planned. Despite the shorter timeframe, our staff and pupils have returned with great energy, and we are focused on making the most of every opportunity during this busy spring period.

During half term we marked the beginning of Lent, a significant time for our community of faith. During these forty days, we invite the children to reflect on their relationship with God and one another. In school, we are focusing on how small, intentional acts of kindness and service can make a big difference. Lent is a journey of the heart, and we hope that by practicing prayer and charity together, our pupils will gain a deeper understanding of the values that define our Catholic school.

Our OPAL initiative continues to be a highlight of the school day. While the children have been getting muddier and there can be minor scrapes, the benefits of OPAL are clear. Through active, child-led play, the pupils are building immense resilience and learning to solve problems independently. We are seeing brilliant examples of teamwork and conflict resolution as they negotiate their games, all while practicing empathy and kindness.

To give you a better insight into how this works, please join us for our OPAL Parent Afternoon on **Friday 13th March from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm**. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the children in action and understand why we value this approach so highly. We look forward to seeing you there.

'Let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us.' **Pope Leo XIV**

God bless, Mrs Linnane

Upcoming Events

March

- 3rd -Y2 Pizza Express Trip
- 4th – 2.30pm Coffee meeting with
School Family Worker
- 5th – Y6 British Schools Museum
Trip
- 6th – 9am Stations of the Cross
- 5th –World Book Day: Adjective
Parade & Giant Book Swap
- 13th – Enrichment morning
- 13th – 1.30-3pm OPAL Family Fun
afternoon (Rec-Y6)

**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 - Fraser
- Year 1 - Anastacia
- Year 2 – All of Year 2
- Year 3 - Harry
- Year 4 – Ruby
- Year 5 - Anika
- Year 6 - Millie

Nursery

The children have been learning all about dinosaurs. We first found a dino footprint, measured it using our shoes then looked in non-fiction books to try and work out what dinosaur it may have been. Then the children made their own books about dinosaurs, they thought about the features of their dinosaurs and used some great describing words.



Reception

Reception children sowed seeds and planted garlic. We are looking forward to watching them grow.



Year 1

In Year 1 we are enjoying our art lessons. We are painting this half term and this week we have been experimenting using primary colours to make secondary colours. We have also been thinking about the new start we want to make in Lent and how it can be hard sometimes to choose to do good.



Year 2

In our Art lesson this week we recapped our knowledge of the primary and secondary colours.

We then spent some time mixing the primary colours to make secondary colours and then seeing what colours we could make mixing those. We had great fun!



World Book Day!

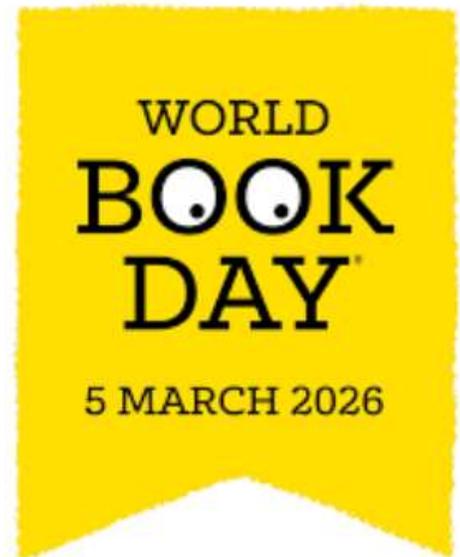
Please see the email (shared on Monday 9th Feb) with full details of how we will be celebrating World Book Day at school this year.

World Book Day is on **Thursday 5th March 2026** and to celebrate words we are completing an 'adjective parade'. For this to take place we are **inviting all children to come to school dressed as an adjective!** E.g. Bright clothes for 'bright' or a frizzy hairstyle for 'confused'.

We are also inviting anyone to **donate a book** – we are looking for age appropriate, good quality books which can be recommended and given to others. We will then have a giant book swap!

With your support, this will be a fun day for all and we may learn some new vocabulary, discover new authors and genres too!

*** Please note children in Year 6 are on a school trip on World Book Day so will not take part in dressing up. Please ensure Year 6 children come to school in smart school uniform. On Friday 6th March Year 6 can bring in a book to carry out their Book Swap***



NEW for parents: Lunch & Learn webinars & Communication Workshop

We are pleased to share a series of lunchtime webinars running up until the end of this academic year for parents who would like to learn more about supporting their child's learning and wellbeing. Please take a look at the detail in the flyer as there are some fantastic sessions being run by a range of professionals. The sessions are easy to book onto by clicking [here](#).

On **Monday 16th March at 9am**, John Cane, a speech and language specialist will be running a **parent workshop in person** at school to support families in how to support language development in children for parents of children up to 8 years old. Language skills are a strong predictor of future success both academically and socially. Join our Speech and Language Therapist for a talk about the best ways you can support your child to develop their communication. You will get practical tips for developing communication and there will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions. Please complete [this Google form](#) to confirm you attendance.

A flyer for "DOWA+ LUNCH & LEARN" webinars. The title is in large, colorful letters. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: "Join us for our series of lunchtime webinars, open to parents of children with SEND and all other parents who would like to learn more about supporting their child's learning and wellbeing. Each session offers practical guidance, key-take-aways, and a chance to build confidence in understanding your child's needs. Please see the dates of each session below and use the sign-up link to register." Below this is a link: "Click Here: Lunch Webinar Sign Up Sheet". The flyer features a grid of nine sessions, each with a date, time, topic, and presenter.

Date	Day	Time	Topic	Presenter
23 FEB	MONDAY	12-1PM	Supporting Language Development	Parents of children up to age 8 Run by John Cane
09 MAR	MONDAY	12-1PM	Online Safety	All parents of all ages Run by Wynne Papadakis
16 MAR	MONDAY	12-1PM	SEND Journey	Parents of children with SEND Run by Karen Morgan
13 APR	MONDAY	12-1PM	Sleep Strategies	All parents of all ages Run by Wynne Papadakis
27 APR	MONDAY	12-1PM	Parenting Children with Challenging Behaviours	Parents of children aged 2-12 Run by Wynne Papadakis
18 MAY	MONDAY	12-1PM	Primary to Secondary Transition	All parents of all ages Run by Tristram Horder
01 JUN	MONDAY	12-1PM	Parental Engagement in the Teen Years	Parents of children aged 11-16 Run by Fatima Palani
22 JUN	MONDAY	12-1PM	Dysregulation at Home	Parents of children with SEND Run by Fatima Palani
06 JUL	MONDAY	12-1PM	School Readiness	All parents of all ages Run by Wynne Papadakis

Stations of the Cross

On **Friday 6th March**, we will be praying the Stations of the Cross with Fr Norbert.

Parents are warmly invited to join us for the first station at **9:00am at the school gates**, where our pupil leadership team will begin the day by leading us in prayer and reflection as we journey together through this important Lenten season. We look forward to sharing this special time of prayer with you.



You are invited...

A colorful graphic for an OPAL Family Fun event. It features a large white sign with a wooden border. The sign contains the following text: "To Parents and Carers, You are invited to our OPAL Family Fun event on Friday 13th March from 1.30-3pm You will get to join the fun of OPAL play with your child. We look forward to seeing you there." The sign is surrounded by illustrations of children in outdoor gear, including hats and backpacks, some holding binoculars. There are also several colorful tents (red, yellow, blue, green) and evergreen trees in the background. A logo for "Programme Opal in progress" is visible on the right side of the sign. A small illustration of a child sitting by a campfire is at the bottom right.

To Parents and Carers,
You are invited to our OPAL Family
Fun event on Friday 13th March from
1.30-3pm You will get to join the fun of OPAL
play with your child. We look forward to
seeing you there.

In a **change** to previous communications, we will now be **starting this OPAL Family event at 1.30pm**. We are going to be joined by our OPAL Mentor who is going to hold a parent talk from 1.30pm before the play session begins at 2pm.

Please be aware this is for children in Reception-Y6 and if you need to bring a younger sibling they must stay with you at all times and are not allowed on Tree Tops or the climbing frame (siblings only).

Parents Coffee Meeting

On the **4th March @ 2.30pm** we will be holding another Coffee Meeting for parents. All parents are welcome to attend, to chat with other parents and meet our School Family Worker. Please come along!



World Book Day School Lunch

On **Thursday 5th March**, school lunch will be World Book Day themed! If you would like your child(ren) to have school lunch on this day, please take a look at the [School Grid](#) and select their lunch choice.

HCL
NOURISH · EDUCATE · INSPIRE

World Book Day

MAIN MENU
Storytime Sausage & Mash with Gravy (Pork or Plant Sausage (Ve) (Free From*))
or
Bookworm Green Pesto Spaghetti with Herby Garlic Bread (v)

SERVED WITH
Page-Turning Peas and Chapter Carrots

DESSERT
Readers Rice Crispy Squares or Wordy Watermelon Wedge
(Jacket Potato & Cold Options available where applicable)

5TH OF MARCH

f in X @hclcatering www.hcl.co.uk

Menus are subject to change due to supplier stock availability. * Free from the key 14 allergens and plant based/vegan

The poster is set against a dark blue space background with stars, planets, and a rocket. On the left, there's an illustration of a boy reading a book. The HCL logo is in the top left corner. The menu items are listed in the center, and the date '5TH OF MARCH' is in a green box at the bottom right. Social media icons and contact information are at the very bottom.

Clubs for this half term

Please see a summary below of the school organised and external clubs that are running next 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"> Multi-sports club Y1,Y2 & Y3 Times Table Rockstars Club – Yr 3 & 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chess Club – for Y2-Y6 Contact Zahra Jaufarally @ Kings and Queens Chess Club admin@kingsandqueenschess.co.uk 07900 048446 or sign up here
Weds		Tetra Sports Football Club for all KS2 – details here or https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/
Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jigsaw Puzzle & Card Games club Rec, Y1 & Y2 Homework Club – Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone Cooks for Y1-Y6 Contact Louise Penn on 07946 303 213 or louise@everyonecooks.co.uk (see below)
Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musicals Club - Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6 	

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



For Neurodivergent Children, Young People
Their Siblings and Parents/Carers

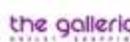
MARCH 2026 ACTIVITIES



Date	Sessions	Time	Venue
2nd,16th 30th	Mon Dungeons & Dragons 18-25 (contact for details)	12.30 3.00	The Zone@The Galleria
3rd	Tue Connect Primary age	4.30 6.00	The Zone@The Galleria
4th,11th 18th,25th	Fri Early Years Stay & Play	12.30 2.00	The Zone@The Galleria
5th,12th 19th,26th	Thu Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed Age 4+	10.30 12.00	Potential to Grow Garden
5th	Thur Teen Group 12 Plus	5.00 6.30	The Hub@The Galleria
6th,20th 27th	Fri Parent /Carer Wellbeing	12.30 2.00	The Zone@The Galleria
7th,21st 28th	Sat Family Football	4.00 5.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
9th,23rd	Mon Dungeons & Dragons 12 + (contact for details)	12.30 3.00	The Zone@The Galleria
12th,26th	Thur Trampoline Age 5+	5.30 6.30	Goaling Sports Centre
13th	Fri Youth Group 16 Plus	6.30 8.00	The Hub@The Galleria
14th	Sat Basketball/Archery	4.00 5.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
19th	Thur Connect Teens yr7 plus	5.00 6.30	The Zone@The Galleria
27th	Fri Skateboarding Age 9+	5.30 6.30	Pioneer Club St Albans
28th	Sat Potential Tracks Train Club 10+	12.00 2.00	The Hub@The Galleria

To book visit : potentialkids.org.uk/events
 For further information email: info@potentialkids.org







Dates for the Diary

March

3rd –Y2 Pizza Express Trip

4th – **2.30pm** Coffee meeting with School Family Worker, all families welcome

5th – Y6 British Schools Museum Trip

6th – **9am** Parents welcome for the 1st Station of the Cross

5th –World Book Day: Adjective Parade (dress up) & Giant Book Swap

13th – Enrichment morning

13th – **1.30-3pm** OPAL Family Fun afternoon (Rec-Y6)

16th – **9-10am** Parent workshop focused on Communication

18th – **2.30pm** Parent Metacognition presentation (led by Inclusion Ambassadors)

24th – Y5 Dance Festival

25th – **1.30-2.30pm** Y3 & Y4 Easter Play

25th – **2.30pm** Parent Inclusion Forum

