

13th March 2026

DoWAT



THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

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As we progress through this season of Lent, Holy Family remains a school that is constantly striving to improve and move forward. Last week, we welcomed our School Effectiveness Adviser for a visit focused on writing and metacognition. I am delighted to share that it is clear our work on metacognition, teaching children to think about their own learning processes, is having a positive impact on pupil outcomes. To help you support this at home, our Inclusion Ambassadors are hosting a parent workshop next **Wednesday 18th at 2.30pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how we empower our pupils to become independent learners, and we hope to see many of you there.

This Wednesday, I had the privilege of joining my fellow head teacher colleagues to meet the new Archbishop of Westminster, the Most Reverend Richard Ross. He shared his inspiring vision for Catholic education across our diocese and celebrated an uplifting Mass at Our Lady's Church alongside many of the deanery clergy. It was a powerful reminder of the wider community we belong to. Closer to home, we have re-shared our behaviour curriculum and policies with you this week. Our goal is to ensure every family has a clear understanding of our values-based curriculum and the consistent way we support and teach positive behaviour within our school.

Our pupils have been busy exploring the world beyond the classroom. Recently, Year 2 visited Pizza Express to craft their own pizzas as part of their Design and Technology learning, while Year 6 travelled to the British Museum in Hitchin to deepen their historical understanding. We also celebrated a fantastic World Book Day last Thursday; it was a joy to see the children participating in the book swap and heading home with new stories to enjoy. The school continues to be busy. Today Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a K'nex workshop, fostering engineering skills, creativity, and teamwork. We also held our termly enrichment morning for all pupils with a science theme to mark Science Week, alongside an OPAL parent afternoon where many of you joined us to experience our amazing outdoor play offer. Holy Family is certainly bustling with activity, inspiring our pupils and providing a vast range of enriching experiences.

Spiritually, we continue our Lenten journey with reverence. Last Friday, Father Norbert led each class in the Stations of the Cross, and Father James has been visiting to hear confessions with our Key Stage 2 pupils. I encourage you to keep up to date with everything happening in school by following our official page on Facebook at [holyfamilywgc](https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilywgc).

'Nothing ever becomes real till it is experienced.' John Keats

God bless,
Mrs Linnane

Upcoming Events

March

16th – 9-10am Parent Communication workshop

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

24th – Y5 Dance Festival @ Campus West

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

25th – 2.30pm Parent Inclusion Forum

27th - End of term – school finishes at 1.15pm

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 – will be awarded next week due to enrichment and OPAL events today

Year 3

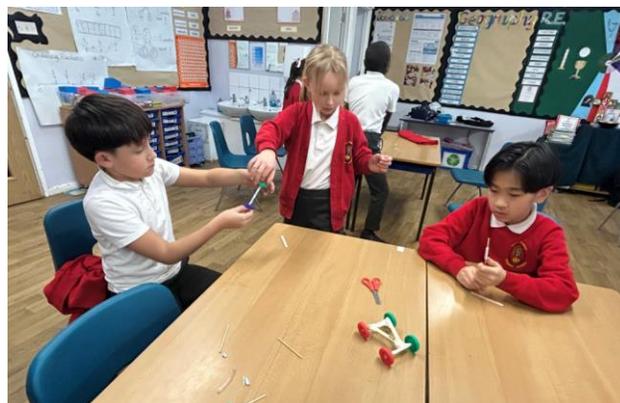
We have had a wonderful start to our Spring 2 term. In our LOTS lesson, we took our maths learning outdoors. We were looking at pictograms. We firstly looked at a few examples of pictograms to understand how they work and to understand how to use symbols and make a key. Once we established this, we then went outside to forage for 4 different items: sticks under 15cm, sticks over 15cm, green leaves and feathers. The children got a chance to practice their measuring skills to and sort/classify items. They had 5 minutes to find as many of these items as possible. Then we gathered together where Miss Pickering demonstrated how to then turn our data into a pictogram. Then in small groups, we presented our data to the rest of the class. We have celebrated World Book Day in Year 3 too. We had a great time doing the book swap, doing our costume parade and reading our new books with our buddies in nursery.



Year 4

In Year 4 we have been concentrating on improving our times tables knowledge and learning how to multiply 2 and 3 digit numbers. It has been fantastic to see children growing more confident and improving their multiplication scores - keep up all the great work!

In science this term, we are investigating how sound is made and vibrations. In English we are now planning a story based on our text *'Leon and the Place Between'*. Our DT topic was to make different designs of model cars and test them to see which is best. The children have been enjoying their ukulele lessons every week and have been busy practicing songs and learning lines for our Easter play called *The Easter Times* which we look forward to performing before Easter.



Year 5

In year 5, we have continued to produce some amazing work. In English we have been writing our suspenseful scenes, using a range of techniques to build tension. In maths, we have been building on our understanding of calculating fractions using equipment, resources and representations. In Science, we have been enjoying learning about the life cycles of different groups of living things. We enjoyed World Book Day and came dressed up as a wide range of adjectives. We loved choosing a book in the Big Book Swap and spent time with our Year 1 reading buddies. Our station of the cross gave us time to reflect on the true meaning of Lent and how this culminated in Jesus dying on the cross, yet still taking time to care about the feelings of others. We are doing a great job of practising our dance ready for the upcoming Year 5 Dance Festival.



Year 6

Year 6 had a fantastic visit to the British Schools Museum where we experienced what school life was like during World War II. We took part in an immersive workshop exploring the experiences of evacuee children and stepped back in time to join a traditional classroom lesson. We followed strict classroom rules, handled artefacts and even practised a playground drill outside, just as children would have done during wartime Britain. It was a memorable and engaging visit that helped bring our history learning about WWII to life.





Metacognition Presentation

Our Inclusion Ambassadors are excited to welcome all parents to our Metacognition Presentation on **18th March @ 2.30pm** - please come along to learn more!

METACOGNITION PRESENTATION

Presented by: Inclusion ambassadors

Alice H, Alice S, Alfred, David, Marnie, Nadine

Date: 18th March 2026

Time: 2:30pm

Location: Holy Family School

Hello! Us again! Remember when we (the inclusion ambassadors) asked you (parents) if you knew what metacognition meant. Well, if you said no then you can join us to learn about metacognition and how we reinforce it at school. Or maybe you said yes, you can come along too to learn even more. We would love to see you there!

DON'T MISS OUT!



Saint John Henry Newman Update - Catholic Schools Inspection

Please take a moment to read the below update that Mr Carrasco-Morley (Headteacher, SJHN) has shared with us following the success of SJHN's recent Catholic Schools Inspection.

Dear families,

I am delighted to share some very positive news with you.

Following a recent Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection, the school has been awarded Grade 1 (Outstanding) judgements across all areas. The report recognises our school as a beacon of Catholic education, praising a community where faith, learning and life are united and joyfully lived.

Inspectors highlighted the strength of our Catholic life, the quality of religious education and the central place of prayer and worship in school life. They also recognised the inclusive and caring nature of our community, where pupils feel known, valued and supported to flourish.

These highlights include:

- 'The school is a beacon of Catholic education, where faith, learning and life are united in joyful witness to the lived-out Gospel.'
- 'The school's Catholic identity and mission are deeply embedded and joyfully lived by all members of the community.'
- 'This is an inclusive community that values the dignity of every person and ensures that staff and pupils feel valued, well known and loved.'
- 'Prayer and liturgy are at the heart of the school's ethos and mission, fostering reverence, belonging and personal growth.'
- 'There is an exceptional commitment to Catholic social teaching by the whole community, inspiring pupils to live out their faith through social justice, charitable action and service to others.'
- 'Leaders demonstrate a profound understanding of the mission of Catholic education, placing this at the heart of the school's life and strategic decision making.'

The full report can be found on our [website](#).

This recognition reflects the dedication of our staff, the leadership and service shown by our pupils, and the strong partnership we share with families, parishes and local primary schools.

Best wishes,

Mr D Carrasco-Morley

Headteacher

Communication Workshop

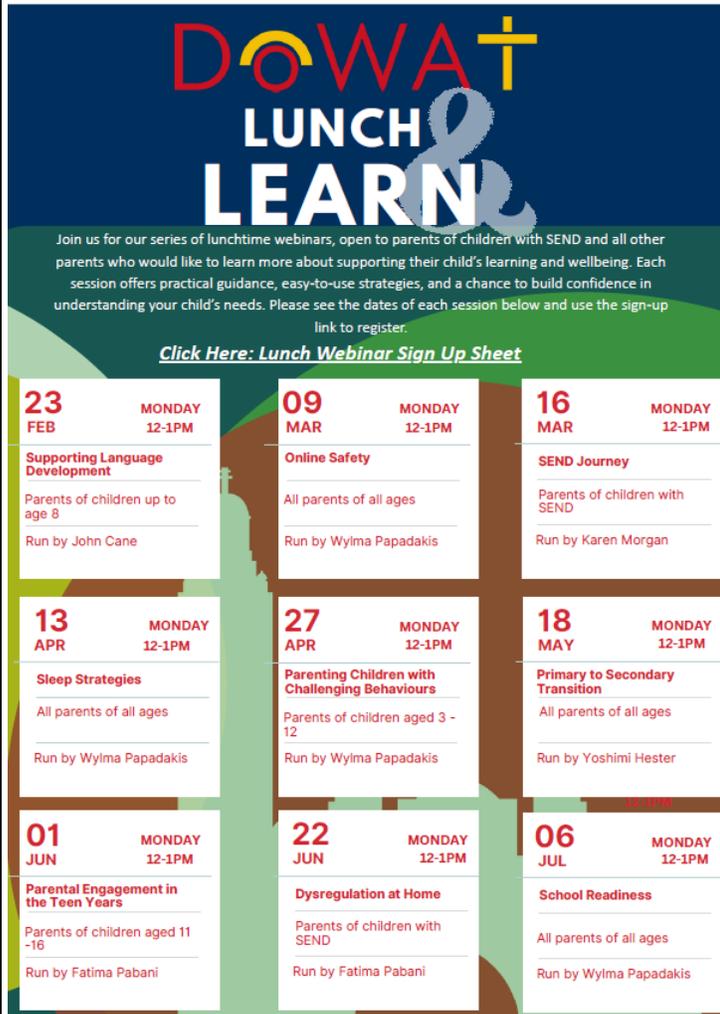
On **Monday 16th March at 9am**, John Cane, a speech and language specialist will be running a **parent workshop in person** at school to support families in how to support language development in children for parents of children up to 8 years old.

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.

There is still time to sign up to this event! Please complete [this Google form](#) to confirm your attendance.

Lunch & Learn Webinars

DOWAT's series of parent lunchtime webinars are underway and will continue 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 below flyer as there are some fantastic sessions being run by a range of professionals. **The sessions are easy to book onto by clicking [here](#).**



DOWAT
LUNCH & LEARN

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, easy-to-use strategies, 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.

Click Here: [Lunch Webinar Sign Up Sheet](#)

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 Wylma 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 Wylma Papadakis	27 APR MONDAY 12-1PM Parenting Children with Challenging Behaviours Parents of children aged 3 - 12 Run by Wylma Papadakis	18 MAY MONDAY 12-1PM Primary to Secondary Transition All parents of all ages Run by Yoshimi Hester
01 JUN MONDAY 12-1PM Parental Engagement in the Teen Years Parents of children aged 11 -16 Run by Fatima Pabani	22 JUN MONDAY 12-1PM Dysregulation at Home Parents of children with SEND Run by Fatima Pabani	06 JUL MONDAY 12-1PM School Readiness All parents of all ages Run by Wylma Papadakis

Clubs for this half term

Please see a summary below of the school organised 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 	<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

Dates for the Diary

March

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

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

24th – Y5 Dance Festival @ Campus West

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

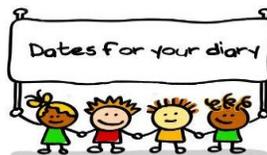
25th – **2.30pm** Parent Inclusion Forum

27th - End of term – school finishes at **1.15pm**

April

13th – INSET Day

14th – Children return to school



Flyers/info from our local community which may be of interest

The below webinar comes highly recommended – James Aston has previously held superb talks with our Y5&6 classes. Please [register here](#) to join on Wednesday evening

Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

Expert by Experience Webinar
Wednesday 18th March
19.30-20.30 - [Register Here](#)

James Aston has presented to some of the staff and children at the schools involved in the PINS project and he always receives a lot of positive feedback.

You can find out more about James [here](#).

Herts Parent Carer Involvement
www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk

EASTER FUN POTENTIAL KIDS

Sessions for neurodivergent children, young people and their siblings

BOOKINGS:
potentialkids.org.uk/events

Further event details can be found on our website

Happy Easter

Promoting social inclusion, new friendships, physical activity, life skills, learning and social skills

the galleria

EMBRACING NEURODIVERSITY
Autism-ADHD-Dyslexia-Dyspraxia-Tourettes
www.potentialkids.org.uk

The King's Award for Voluntary Service